

Allington Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the village hall
Wednesday 12 November 2008

Present: Councillor Hubbard Councillor McKinlay
 Councillor Connors Councillor Bosworth
 Sharon Milne (clerk)

Also present: None

1. **Chairman's remarks**

1.1 The Vice Chairman opened the meeting in the Chairman's absence and thanked those for attending and thanked the Highways division for the work done resurfacing Main Street and part of Foston Lane.

2. **Apologies**

2.1 Apologies were received from Cllrs Jackson and Cant as they were both working and Cllr Taylor who had another commitment.

2.2 Theresa Tanner also sent her apologies.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2008**

4.1 The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Vice Chairman.

5 **Matters arising**

5.1 Cllr Hubbard said that he needs 7 pantiles and one 16" ridge tile for the toilet block repairs and he hopes to do the work soon. (minute 6.2 refers). **(Action point: AH)**

5.2 The clerk reported that there were now wheelie bins at the field so the caretaker's bags could no longer be ripped open overnight by the foxes (minute 5.5 refers). Thanks to District Councillor Kaberry-Brown for her help getting this problem resolved.

5.3 The clerk reported that she had looked on the 'London 2012' website to find out more information about the Olympic torch (minute 5.7 refers). It would seem that decisions about where the torch will go and how communities can get involved won't be decided until 2011.

6 Correspondence received since the meeting held on 10 September 08

6.1 The clerk reported on some of the correspondence received and sent:

- a) Letter from the Parochial Church Council – it does not object to slabs being stored within the church grounds
- b) Mobile police station visiting – 13th November
- c) Letter to Highway re: weight restrictions & Gonerby Lane
- d) Letter thanking Cllr Kaberry-Brown for her help with wheelie bins at the field
- e) Email inviting the Parish Council for a 15 min case study
- f) Letter from SKDC asking for the Parish Council to consider keeping the precept low
- g) Letter re: Improving energy efficiency in homes
- h) Marking sheet from Best Kept Village competition

This and all other correspondence will be circulated to Councillors in the box as usual.

7 Village Caretaker

7.1 The clerk confirmed that the new village caretaker, Laura Warby from Sedgebrook, had started work. She took up the role on 1st October and will work for 4 hours a week. The clerk confirmed that she would be paid monthly in arrears as the previous caretaker had been. The role of caretaking the new MUGA would be done by another villager.

8 Lighting on the Green

8.1 The clerk confirmed that there would be a small Victorian style lamp and connection pillar for lighting the Christmas tree on The Green shortly.

8.2 E-on would be supplying the lamp, Christmas lighting pillar and make the necessary connections. A local builder would be laying the ducting for this as soon as possible.

8.3 It is hoped that the work would all be completed by the end of the month.

9 Playing field matters

9.1 Cllr Connors reported back on Bonfire night. The event was very successful raising £1124.10. Again the event was well organised and the Council to thanked all those involved.

9.2 Cllr McKinlay reported that the Playing Field committee had had discussions regarding the organisation of the use of the MUGA. The committee have decided to put an article in the Allington News asking for volunteers who may be prepared to organise specific sports, like tennis. Hopefully there will be volunteers in place by the springtime when more people will be wanting to use the facilities. Ideas were also forthcoming from the GYFC members along the lines of how they organise their games area.

9.3 Cllr McKinlay stated that she had been through the recent RoSPA report for the children's play area. There is nothing on the report which demands immediate action. The medium and low risk recommendations will be followed up. GYFC said that some of their parents may be willing to paint equipment.

9.4 The lighting of the Christmas tree on the Green will be on Sunday 7 December.

10 Planning matters

10.1 Applications received and determined since the last Parish council meeting on 10 September 08:

- Application and refusal – demolition of existing bungalow and erection of replacement bungalow, 3 Sedgebrook Road
- Approval – single storey extension, Ilex Cottage, Main Street
- Application – internal structural alterations to kitchen and storeroom, Red House Farm, The Green
- Application – internal alterations, replacement windows and doors and raising of garage roof, Corner House, The Green
- Certificate of Lawful use or development – erection of conservatory, 5 Manor Paddock
- Approval – excavation of new fishing lakes including pathways, provision of fishing points & general landscaping, at Willowtops Farm (Arena UK)

10.2 It seems that there is new legislation afoot which will require planning permission to be sought for laying non-permeable surfaces in excess of 5m². There has been no formal notification from the planning department on this matter yet. As and when the information is available the clerk will inform councillors.

11 Financial matters

11.1 The clerk reported on the income and outgoings since the last meeting on 10 September 08.

Income

- VAT reclaim (Apr – Aug 08) – £11,266.42
- Precept (part 2) - £7,500
- Caretaker's grant - £297.96
- Easter event profit - £77.36
- Sponsored walk - £446.00
- Worm charming event - £93.01
- Party in the Park - £684.57
- Bonfire night - £1124.10
- Bank interest - £38.58

Total £ 21,528.00

Expenditure

- RoSPA inspection - £70.50
- British Gas (electric) - £5.33
- Hempsteads - £1,880
- Netball posts - £310.79

Total £ 2,266.62

Plus Caretaker's salary

11.2 Councillors unanimously approved the payments retrospectively.

11.3 The clerk provided a draft budget for Councillors' consideration. A sum was included to make the necessary repairs or replacement for the bus shelter on Gonerby Lane. After discussion Councillors felt that the precept request for 2009/10 should remain at the current amount, subject to any unforeseen change in circumstances. The precept request is required by SKDC by mid January and the final amount requested will be finalised at the next Parish Council meeting on 14 January. **(Action point: clerk)**

12 Any other business

12.1 A letter of thanks will be written to Mr & Mrs Asquith at the shop thanking them for the bulbs which were planted on the Green this autumn. Thanks too for the school children for planting them. **(Action point: clerk)**

12.2 Local farmers have been clearing the dykes which have been getting very full with the excessive amounts of rain recently. Whilst this work is going on the roads may be muddy.

12.3 Some local residents in the Park Road area are experiencing poor water pressure specifically between 7.10 – 8.00am during weekdays. This has been the case for a number of weeks despite Anglian Water engineers trying to find the fault. The clerk will write to Anglian Water expressing villagers' concerns. **(Action point: clerk)**

12.4 The appeal by Infinery against the decision to refuse permission for a 10 turbine windfarm at Thackson's Well farm has been heard. A decision is expected in the next few weeks.

12.5 Cllr Connors reported that she had visited a resident in one of the council properties who has been experiencing problems with the property's hot water system. The clerk would contact SKDC to see what could be done to help this villager's predicament. **(Action point: clerk)**

13 Date of next meeting

13.1 The next meeting will be on Wednesday 14 January 09 at 7.30pm.

Signed: ----- (Chairman). Date: -----