

Allington Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the village hall
Wednesday 10 November 2010

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

Also present: Theresa Tanner

Before the meeting started the Chairman asked whether there was anything in particular that members of the public in attendance wished to raise:

Mrs Tanner said that the Government had indicated that the first week in June 2012 would be a period of celebration throughout the country to commemorate the Queen's diamond jubilee. Although this was still a long way off she felt it would be a good opportunity for the village to celebrate this. Councillors agreed that something should be considered for this time. This matter could be discussed again at a future whole village meeting.

1. **Chairman's remarks**

1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

2. **Apologies**

2.1 Apologies were received from Cllr McKinlay who was abroad and Cllrs Cant and Jackson, they were working. Cllr Jackson asked the clerk to explain that he had been unable to attend recent meetings due to difficulties in the haulage industry and it is difficult for him to predict his movements. He stated that he hopes to attend meetings again soon but in the meantime he will monitor all emails and 'chip in' where appropriate.

2.2 District Cllr Kaberry-Brown also sent her apologies. She had been in Stamford all day with SKDC meetings.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2010**

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

5 **Correspondence received since the meeting held on 8 September 10**

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

1. Letter and application for LCC's Community Wildlife Grant
2. Letter from Grantham & District Neighbourhood Watch Assoc re: funding
3. BKV 2010 results – Tattershall Thorpe won 'Past Winners group' with Ingham runner up
4. Letter from Brown's solicitor re: Chestnut farm jitty
5. Email comments from resident about the height of hedging alongside Lambert Road
6. Email enquiry as to how to download PC minutes
7. Letter and response re: provision of Community Cleaners.
8. Letter re: towns and parishes conference – Stamford 23/11/10
9. Lincolnshire playing field assoc AGM notice – 17/11/10
10. Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment & questionnaire
11. RoSPA report
12. Grantham North Rural Neighbourhood Panel Meeting minutes

- 5.2 Re: point 5, the clerk will contact the landowner and pass on the comments.
- 5.3 Re: point 10, the clerk would respond to the Flood Risk Assessment giving details of the flooding of the cottages in Sedgebrook Road in July 2007 and the continual flooding under the railway bridge at Sedgebrook. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 5.4 Re: point 12, Councillors are very grateful to Mr North for attending the Rural Neighbourhood meetings and agreed that his expenses should be met accordingly. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 5.5 This and all other correspondence will be circulated to Councillors in the box as usual.

6 LIVES - update

- 6.1 The clerk reported the following on behalf of Sharon Andrews (LIVES co-ordinator).
1. LIVES have 5 new recruits who will have their training in Jan/Feb 2011, and go live soon after.
 2. Three of the current responders are going to train to the next level, for no cost, so that will enable the group to cover first aid at events for a donation and raise funds that way eg. bonfire night etc.
 3. There have been several callouts over the past few weeks, but the defibrillator remains unused (a good thing!)
 4. Their next meeting will be on November 26th, when there will be training by 3 recognised LIVES trainers
 5. The group has been operational now for almost 6 months, so are going to review how things are going and implement some changes to ensure a comprehensive level of cover for the village. The 5 new recruits will aide this process and make the cover more robust.
- 6.2 Councillors thanked LIVES for their continued good work.

7 Peach Lane

- 7.1 The clerk reported that the office at Allington Gardens had asked whether the Parish Council would consider cutting the hedge along the right hand side to a manageable level. The hedge had grown to a height which is difficult to maintain.

7.2 Since this request the clerk has established that the hedge belongs to the land owner of the field whose boundary is on Peach Lane. The clerk will contact the landowner and pass on this request. **(Action point: clerk)**

7.3 Cllr Taylor had also received a request from an Allington Gardens resident that Peach Lane's surface needed attention in places. The clerk will report this to Highways with other reports of poor road surfaces within the village. **(Action point: clerk)**

8 Chestnut Farm

8.1 It has been confirmed by the agent Brown & Co that Chestnut Farm has been sold, subject to contract.

8.2 The clerk reported on recent correspondence which had been sent to and from the agent regarding the ownership of the strip of land which runs down the length of the boundary between Chestnut Farm and the property Conifers. This included a letter from Brown's solicitors confirming that this piece of land is registered to the vendors at the Land Registry.

8.3 Despite being shown on a number of maps over the years the pathway between Chestnut Farm and Conifers is not noted on the 'Definitive Map' which is the legal map held by the County Council. Councillors discussed, at length, the question of whether the Parish Council should formally pursue an order to modify the Definitive Map with a view to re-instating this pathway. After taking all matters into consideration it was decided that a modification order should not be pursued. The clerk will inform the vendor's solicitors. **(Action point: clerk)**

9 St James' churchyard access

9.1 In order to get their mowing equipment to the old churchyard Hempstead & Sons would like to clear the entrance in the corner of the churchyard, next to St James' Bungalow, back to its original state. The other two entrances, from Bottom Street and The Green are for pedestrians only.

9.2 Councillors agreed that this work should be done.

9.3 It was also noted that the laurels planted at Ashes farm were encroaching onto the jitty off of Side Street. The clerk would write to the Ashes Farm and ask whether they would cut them back. **(Action point: clerk)**

10 Bus Shelter (Gonerby Lane) refurbishment / replacement

10.1 The Council were not able to discuss this matter properly in the absence of Cllr Cant who had been looking into this matter. This item would be carried forward to the next meeting for Cllr Cant's feedback. **(Action point: MC, clerk)**

11 Community Wildlife Grant

11.1 Cllr Taylor had, since the last meeting, looked into LCC's Community Wildlife Grant and concluded that it would be worthwhile seeking funding to complete the avenue of

trees around the playing field. Accordingly the clerk had made an application. The Parish Council would be informed whether its application had been successful by the end of the November.

12 Update on complaint to Energy Ombudsman

- 12.1** There was nothing further to report regarding the dispute with British Gas which is currently with the Energy Ombudsman. Ombudsman officials were still looking into the matter. It is hoped that a response will be known by the next meeting in January.

13 Community Lead Plan

- 13.1** The clerk reported on behalf of Cllr Cant. The next meeting of the steering group for the Community Lead Plan would be on 22nd November. It had not been possible to hold the meeting earlier due to Cllr Cant's work commitments. This matter will be on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting in January. **(Action point: MC, clerk)**
- 13.2** Councillors said that whilst they appreciated that Cllr Cant had been very busy with her work commitments recently they were keen to hear the findings of the plan's survey as it would influence the future spending plans of the Parish Council.

14 High speed broadband

- 14.1** Villagers were encouraged to register a vote for getting high speed internet into the village. If there is an adequate demand then BT may consider upgrading the service. To register a vote go to: www.techradar.com/new/internet/bt-launches-survey-to-find-bbre-optic-hotspots-720732

15 School Safety Zone

- 15.1** The Parish Council had not heard anymore about the installation of a school safety zone. The clerk would write and remind Highways division that the Parish Council is still very keen to get one as soon as possible. **(Action point: clerk)**

16 Jazz on the Green

- 16.1** Cllr Taylor had been speaking to some villagers and they had had the idea of having a jazz band perform on the Green for a village celebration – possibly for the Queen's diamond jubilee. Everyone agreed that it was a good idea.

17 Playing field matters

- 17.1** Initial feedback was that Bonfire night had again been very successful, despite the wet weather! A final figure of profit raised had yet to be calculated. Congratulations to the organisers again.
- 17.2** The priority work at the children's play area has been completed. The swings have been refurbished and painted and the whole play area surface had been renovated and repaired. Over the past year around £4800 has been spent on improving the

playing field, car park and play area and this sum does not include the monthly maintenance of the all-weather pitch (MUGA) and general maintenance of the field itself. Work is also about to start on replacement doors and windows for the toilet block which will be a further improvement.

- 17.3** The clerk reported that she had not heard anymore from the Football Coaching Company following the letter stating that they were no longer permitted to use the field. Councillors asked the clerk to send a reminder invoice for the outstanding sum due from the company. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 17.4** The clerk reported that Cllr McKinlay had sought advice and been gathering examples of hire contract agreements in use by other organisations and playing field providers. Cllr McKinlay, the clerk and a representative from the Playing field Committee would get together shortly to draw up a hire contract for all users of the playing field. **(Action point: MM & clerk)**
- 17.5** Councillors agreed that the portacabins were in a poor state and that some remedial work needs to be done to improve their appearance. This matter would be referred to the Playing field committee for consideration. **(Action point: PFC & clerk)**

18 Planning matters

- 18.1** Applications received and determined since the last Parish council meeting on 8 September 2010:
- Application – erection of Granny Annex, Wellington House, Bottom Street
 - Application – removal of Acacia tree, The Small House, Side Street

19 Financial matters

- 19.1** The clerk reported on the income and outgoings since the last meeting on 8 September 2010.

Income

- Precept (part 2) - £7500
- Community Cleaner's grant - £308.36
- PFC donation for car park hire – £10
- Bank interest - £2.91

Total £ 7821.27

Expenditure

- Clement Keys (Audit fees) - £158.63
- Hempstead (muga maintenance) - £123.38
- Hempsteads Grass cutting 2010 season – £2009.25
- Playsafely Ltd – £74.03
- Record RSS - £3096.00

Total £ 5461.29

Plus Caretakers' salaries and HMRC payment.

19.2 Councillors unanimously approved the payments retrospectively.

19.3 There was a discussion on the draft 2011/12 budget recently submitted to all Councillors by the clerk. It was proposed and agreed unanimously that the precept request for 2011/12 should not increase and remain at £15k for the 4th year running. The clerk would inform SKDC. **(Action point: clerk)**

19.4 The clerk reported that the audit for 09/10 had formally closed and the statutory notice had been posted on the noticeboard.

20 Any other business for future meetings

20.1 The agenda for the next Parish Council meeting will include:

- a) Feedback regarding the 'Community Lead Plan'.
- b) feedback from the Energy Ombudsman.
- c) feedback from the Community Wildlife Grant.

20.2 A villager has been liaising with the County Council regarding "Green Lane" (the left track at the Bottesford Lane crossroads). County Council officials have been and inspected the track and agreed that it is very rutty and are looking to consider some remedial works there. If more is known before the next Parish Council meeting this will be on the agenda.

20.3 It was hoped that District Councillor Kaberry-Brown would be able to attend the next meeting in January to feedback any information she had gleaned from SKDC officials regarding dog waste disposal.

21 Date of next meeting

21.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 12 January 2011 at 7.30pm.

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