

Allington Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the village hall
Wednesday 13 November 2013

Present: Councillor Taylor Councillor McKinlay
 Councillor Bosworth Councillor Hubbard
 Councillor Cant
 Sharon Milne (clerk)

Also present: Theresa Tanner – VHMC Chairman
 1 Villager – Mr Ashby

1. **Chairman's remarks**

- 1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked those present for attending. Asked whether there was anything specific that they wished to raise Mr Ashby stated he had an idea how to commemorate the centenary of the start of the first world war and the 70th anniversary of the D-day landings, next year. He suggested that Flanders Poppy seeds are sewn on the side of the roads which approach the village and other specific places around the village. Flanders Poppy seeds are readily available and low in cost. Councillors thought this would be a lovely idea. The clerk would look into it. **(Action point: clerk)**

2. **Apologies**

- 2.1 Cllrs Cragg sent his apologies he had a family matter to attend to. Councillor Jackson was absent.
- 2.2 County Councillor Paul Wood sent his apologies.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

- 3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Minutes of the AGM held on 11 September 2013**

- 4.1 The last minutes omitted to state that Councillor Bosworth had also helped to restore the Gonerby Lane bus shelter. Thanks are to go to him for his efforts.
- 4.2 Otherwise the minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5 **Correspondence received since the meeting held on 11 September 13**

- 5.1 The clerk reported on some of the correspondence received and sent:
- a) Letter and response to Highways re: Marston Lane and school safety zone
 - b) Best Kept Village results

- c) Email from History Society – updating digitisation of photos and deeds
- d) Email from Re-volt informing P/Councils of windfarm proposal at Temple Hill
- e) Letter re: uses of Community cleaner grant – ie To enhance the parish which must include litter picking
- f) Letter revising Conservation Area (amendment)
- g) Email re: how precept is calculated – drop in session at Guildhall Friday 22/11
- h) SK Planning questionnaire
- i) Email re: SSZ, extended zone

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

6 Representations made to the Parish Council since the agenda has been set

6.1 Two issues had been raised from villagers since the agenda was set:

6.2 First there was an issue about chicken litter which was being brought from the poultry units on Gonerby Lane and delivered to a field along Bottesford Lane. The litter was being transported by tractors with open trailers. It was noted in the Environmental Report, submitted at the time of the application for the poultry units (S10/2884), that poultry litter would be “removed from the units at the end of each 41 week cycle and be transported in covered lorries to the power station at Thetford”. In the past week some litter was being spilt on village roads and creating a mess and an odour. The clerk was asked to raise the issue with the Enforcement officer of the Planning department. **(Action point: clerk).**

6.3 Secondly, a villager had raised concerns about how the footpath to the properties in Gonerby Lane was being altered. The clerk confirmed that she had spoken to the Highway officer dealing with this matter and nothing had been settled as to how this path should be done. The Highway officer was awaiting a site meeting with the contractor to decide the best way to move forward.

7 Objectives for the forthcoming year

7.1 The agreed objectives for the forthcoming year are as follows:

- a) To make safe the pavement from the property South Lodge to the church
- b) To create a list of poor road conditions within the village in order to keep Highways updated on roads and paths that need attention
- c) To liaise with Allington News to try and get the Call Connect bus service better advertised.

The clerk and Councillors were actioning these points.

7.2 The clerk reported that the Call Connect service was increasing its service in the run up to Christmas but unfortunately this information had been received too late for the next Allington News edition. However, the clerk had posted details on the Parish Council's noticeboard.

8 Christmas Tree festival

8.1 Cllr Taylor had attended two meetings recently about the church's Christmas Tree festival. The Playing field committee would be getting a 5-6' tree when the large one

for the village green is collected. Cllrs Taylor and Hubbard agreed to decorate the tree on the afternoon of Friday 29th November. Any other volunteers are welcome. The tree should be removed from the church by 8th December. **(Action point: HT & AH)**

9 School safety zone and other road safety provision

9.1 There have been no objections to the amended consultation to extend the zone along to Blacksmith's Cottage on Side Street. The next stage in the process is to get the zone installed. However, it is not likely to happen over the winter months as the road requires paintwork.

9.2 The clerk had tried to get some information regarding the costs and procedure necessary to install reactive speed signs. There would be a cost to the parish for the purchase and any installation would have to have a power source eg a lamppost. She would get more information and report back to Councillors. **(Action point: clerk)**

10 Playing field matters

10.1 Cllr McKinlay reported back from the recent Playing field committee meeting.

10.2 Wicksteed have just finished installing the two trim trails at the field. A few children had already been on them and first reports are that they are going down very well! The clerk awaits the invoice for full payment. An article will be put into the next edition of Allington News to inform villagers about the equipment. **(Action point: clerk)**

10.3 The clerk said that a licence had been drawn up by the landowner's agent to allow the Parish to turn the copse at the far end of the field into a nature / conservation area. The licence was currently with the landowner and it will be sent through to the clerk shortly. Meanwhile the trees that have been donated for this venture will be temporarily 'heeled' in until the legalities are signed.

10.4 Bad weather had prevented the painting of the old play equipment in the children's play area and the surrounding fence. Cllr McKinlay stated that Cllr Cragg had agreed to text around a few people and paint bits, as and when the better weather allowed. **(Action point: DC)**

10.5 The Bonfire event on 5th November was a huge success again this year. The money had been received and banked by the clerk and a profit of £1850 was made.

10.6 Cllr Jackson was arranging for the hedge around the playing field to be cut back before the springtime. **(Action point: GJ)**

11 Planning matters

11.1 Applications received and determined since the last Parish Council meeting on 11 September 2013:

- Approval – Rose Barn, Sedgebrook Road – erection of car port to side of existing detached garage
- Approval – 48 Park Road – extend front entrance and erect detached garage/playroom
- Refusal – Berberene, Main Street – construction detached double garage

- Application – Single storey porch, The Orchard, Lowfields Lane

12 Financial matters

12.1 The clerk reported on the income and outgoings since the last meeting on 11 September 2013:

Income

- Bank interest – £3.42
- Lark in the Park income - £2002.20 (including £500 float refund)
- Bonfire night float - £700
- Bonfire night income - £1972.05
- VAT reclaim - £1665.63
- Caretaker's grant - £328.12

Total £ 6671.42

Expenditure

- PE Hempstead (MUGA) - £129.98
- Midland Skip Hire (Party in the Park) - £108.00
- PAYE = £133.20
- PE Hempstead - £2232
- Opus Energy - £13.90
- Playsafety - £78.00
- Float for Bonfire night - £700
- Donation to LIVES for Bonfire night - £100
- Internal auditor thanks - £11.44
- Shot blasting play equipment - £300.00

Total £ 3806.52

Plus Clerk and Caretaker's salaries

12.2 Councillors unanimously approved the payments retrospectively.

12.3 The clerk stated that she would send the proposed budget for 2014/15 around to Councillors for consideration for the January meeting when the band D figure is received from SKDC. (Action point: clerk)

13 Any other business for future meetings

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

- a) The seeding of poppies around the village.

14 Date of next meeting

14.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 8 January 2014 at 7.30pm.

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