

Allington Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the village hall
Wednesday 11 November 2015

Present: Councillor Jackson Councillor Bosworth
 Councillor Ashby Councillor Plummer
 Councillor Sharp Councillor Carter
 Sharon Milne (clerk)

Also present: County Councillor Paul Wood
 District Councillor Pam Bosworth
 Will Allen, proprietor of Allington Stores
 3 villagers

1. **Chairman's remarks**

1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked those present for attending. County Councillor Wood spoke about the published plans from Highways for next year. Gonerby Lane, Park Road, Park Avenue and Lambert Road are all listed for work to be carried out. He also talked about the budgetary cuts that would be made which does not bode well for some of the discretionary services that the County Council currently offer.

2. **Apologies**

2.1 Cllr Cant sent her apologies, she was working away.

2.2 Cathy Green, VHMC Chairman, also sent her apologies.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Minutes of the annual meeting held on 9 September 2015**

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

5. **Correspondence received since the meeting held on 9 September 2015**

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

a) Information about the Transparency Code any purchases to comply

- b) Information about Community Grant Scheme
- c) Contact with LCC re: kerb stone at small Green being damaged and state of Park Road jitty
- d) Best Kept Village information
- e) Sewstern Lane Level crossing correspondence
- f) Electricity contract renewal
- g) Notice of bi-election and poster for a District Councillor in Belvoir Ward
- h) Correspondence regarding missing road name for Lambert Road
- i) LCC consultation on School Admissions 2017
- j) RoSPA inspection report by pdf
- k) Report on LIVES
- l) Village Services and Facilities Survey 2015
- m) SKDC precept information

5.2 Regarding point (e) the clerk reminded Councillors about the proposal by Network Rail to downgrade Sewstern Lane and allow restricted access to vehicular traffic with locked gates at either end of the lane. The proposal is that Lincolnshire County Council would still have ownership of the lane, but the farmers either side of the lane would be responsible for the upkeep of road surface. They would have a key for access for farm vehicles. Keys would also be provided for authorised users like the utilities companies and emergency vehicles. A camera would be used at the A52 end of the lane to record vehicles offending against the order and the details would be passed to BTP. The clerk will write to Network Rail to confirm that it is content with this proposal. **(Action point: clerk)**

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

6.1 There were no representations made to the Council after the agenda had been set.

7 Objectives for the forthcoming year

7.1 The clerk reminded Councillors of the two key objectives for the Parish Council this year:

- To continue with the work to look at the preservation and renovation of the village cross
- To continue with the development of the Community Wood

7.2 These issues are ongoing. New objectives will be considered next year.

8 Village Shop

8.1 Will Allen was welcomed to the meeting. He had recently become the new proprietor of Allington Stores. Will spoke about his ideas to refurbish and regenerate the store and his application to Lincolnshire County Council to be considered for a Rural Gain Grant. The grant is awarded to businesses. The scheme is about providing access to essential services to reduce the need for people to travel. If successful the grant would give a 50% refund on purchases made to develop the store, to a ceiling of £10k.

8.2 The Parish Council decided unanimously to support Will in his application to LCC. The clerk would write a letter of support for his application. **(Action point: clerk)**

8 Best Kept Village

- 8.1 The Parish Council were delighted to have heard that the village had won Lincolnshire's Best Kept Village. A cheque for £50 had been awarded to the Parish Council by the organisers CPRE in association with Community Lincs.
- 8.2 The County Council will provide two signs for the village free of charge for this achievement. The clerk had made enquiries regarding the cost of a third sign being supplied so that all three roads that enter the village have a sign. She had been advised that an additional sign would cost around £150 – Councillors unanimously agreed to this additional cost.
- 8.3 The clerk would contact the department dealing with the ordering of the signs to ask them for options available. It may be an idea to have the text on the signs to read, "Best Kept Village 2009 and 2015" as there are already a "Twinned with Tuffé" and "Best Kept Village 2009". underneath the village name. The clerk would seek advice. **(Action point: clerk)**

9 Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

- 9.1 Cllr Ashby stated that some of the Neighbourhood Watch signs on the lamps around the village were faded and broken. Although it wasn't known how active the scheme currently is it was thought that it would be beneficial to look into purchasing a number of new signs around the village. Cllr Bosworth said that he would undertake a survey of the signs to ascertain how many may need replacing. **(Action point: AB)**

10 Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

- 10.1 Councillors reviewed the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations that govern the Parish Council. There was discussion and clarification about what expenditure needs full Parish Council approval and what can be authorised by the Chairman in agreement with the Clerk.
- 10.2 All payments are always brought to the Parish Council's attention by the Clerk at each Parish Council meeting to Councillors are always aware of the Council's financial business.
- 10.3 The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations remain unaltered.

11 LIVES First Responders

- 11.1 The clerk read a statement from Sharon Andrews, Chairman of the LIVES First Responders, announcing that the group will cease. Sharon Andrews states that for many valid reasons Allington LIVES Responders have decided to stop. The LIVES group have purchased a fixed point defibrillator for the Village Hall and will, once it is in place, stop responding.
- 11.2 Sharon Andrews stated that the reality is that many new paramedics have been employed by the East Midlands Ambulance Service and so the group has not had any calls in the

village all year, and on the occasion that they have been called to outside the village the Responders have been stood down by the paramedic who had already arrived.

- 11.3 She says that despite training and qualifying, the Responders all feel that their skills are no longer utilised. Looking forward the group are going to be involved with some community training for the defibrillator and will publish their departure in Allington News alongside the fixed point defibrillator article.
- 11.4 Councillors were all saddened to hear that the group will cease but equally fully understood the reasons for coming to their conclusion. The clerk will contact Sharon Andrews to thank her and all Responders for what they have done over the years. **(Action point: clerk)**

12 Village hall matters

- 13.1 The Chairman reported that he had attended the last Village Hall Management Committee meeting. He reminded Councillors that the Village Hall had also been successful in their bid for a grant from WREN of £10k for major refurbishment. The committee had discussed modernising the kitchen. A fuller feedback on Village Hall matters would be presented at a future meeting.
- 12.2 The clerk reported that a payment for electrical services at the village hall would be paid from the ringfenced fund shortly.

13 Highway matters

- 13.1 Cllr Carter updated the meeting about the wheelie bin stickers that he had produced. Unfortunately the material and ink used did not appear to be weather-proof and different materials would need to be used. Two different designs were offered for consideration for printing. One design had a 30mph warning sign, the other did not specifically give the 30mph symbol but cautioned drivers about road safety. It was decided that the design not specifically limiting speed to 30mph would be produced. Cllr Carter would look at getting stickers printed. **(Action point: SC)**
- 13.2 Cllr Bosworth had noticed that the sign for Lambert Road had gone missing. It was thought it may have been struck by the tractor doing the hedge trimming. A new road sign would be requested for the road. **(Action point: AB)**
- 13.3 Cllr Bosworth informed the Council that he had recently reported to Highways the missing white lines in the middle of the road to Sedgebrook and also that there was a dislodged kerb stone in Park Road. It is hoped that these issues will be rectified soon.

14 Playing field matters

- 14.1 Cllr Carter reported back from the recent Playing Field Advisory Group meeting.
- 14.2 The Bonfire Night celebrations had been successful again this year despite the bonfire being burnt out the evening before by arson. The community rallied and managed to build

another bonfire to ensure that the evening was not marred. Thanks to everybody's efforts with this. The evening itself was well attended and it made a good profit but as yet the final figure is not known.

- 14.3 The Fundraising group had put on another successful Comedy Night at the Village Hall. It was a good evening. Thanks to go to all those that made the event so successful.
- 14.4 The Playing Field Advisory Group had decided that the goal posts in the MUGA would be difficult to refurbish and new goals were needed. If new goal were agreed the old ones could then be utilised on the field. Cllr Carter stated that suitable goals had been sourced and it was agreed, unanimously, to purchase new goals as soon as possible. The cost of these goals would be £492.00 including nets and delivery - clerk would order them. It was suggested that the new goals be secured in place with chains and padlocks. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 14.5 The MUGA, although in fairly good condition, will need attention at some point soon. The Playing Field Advisory Group will make enquiries about replacement costs so that future budgeting can take this into consideration.
- 14.6 Cllr Carter stated that there had been reports of rodents in one of the portacabins. Cllr Bosworth volunteered to seek advice about the best ways of dealing with these pests. **(Action point: AB)**
- 14.7 Yet again Pete Fox had done a wonderful job renovating and repairing the village benches. He and Cllr Bosworth had also done repair work to the toilets and also removed some of the tree cages from the avenue of trees in the Playing Field. All Councillors thanked them both for their efforts. The clerk would write to Pete Fox to thank him formally. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 14.8 There is concern about stray balls that occasionally come over the top of the MUGA fencing, bearing in mind the close proximity of the children's play area. It was agreed that the MUGA should be netted to contain the balls within the games area. **(Action point: PFAG)**
- 14.9 There was no further progress to report regarding fencing around the children's play area. This matter is ongoing. It had been decided that the QEII plaque would be integrated into the new fencing when it is done.
- 14.10 The Playing Field Advisory Group had concerns that there is no practical way to monitor security issues or misuse of the facilities. One option would be to use WiFi CCTV. Professional advice would be sought on this matter. **(Action point: PFAG)**
- 14.11 The three fixed goalpost have been removed from the field and the holes filled in with topsoil. Many thanks to Martin Jackson for his help with this and for the use of his tractor.
- 14.12 Cllr Carter reported that GYFC have added a second marked pitch on the field which runs perpendicular to the existing one. This allows for better use of the field.
- 14.13 More bulbs have been planted at the community wood. These should begin to show in the New Year. Thanks to Cllr Jackson for organising this.

14.14 There has been a clean-up at the community wood and effort has been made to remove the black polythene from around the bases of the mature tree trunks. Thanks to everyone involved.

14.15 Future playing field projects include:

- plans to extend the usable area of the car park
- further tidying of the community wood on Saturday 28 November at 10am. This has been organised by the Community Wood Warden.
- improving the appearance of the portacabins. Cladding around the portacabins and to shroud the electricity meter box would be cost prohibitive. Other alternatives would be considered.

16 Planning matters

16.1 Applications received and determined since the last Parish Council meeting on 9 September 2015:

- Approval – 2 Lambert Road – two storey side extension
- Approval – South Lodge – demolition of conservatory and single storey extension
- Refusal – Plumtree House – single storey rear extension
- Refusal - Whirlwind Renewables – 8 wind turbines, Sewstern Lane
- Application – Conifers, Sedgebrook Road - Single storey side and rear extensions, two-storey front side and rear extension and a two-storey garage
- Application – Arena UK, Gonerby Lane - Change of use of land and erection of 6 tourist log cabins, 11 caravan/camping plots and change of use of domestic garden

16.2 The application for 10 x 110m high wind turbines at Fulbeck is not yet determined..

17 Financial matters

17.1 The clerk reported on the income and outgoings since the last meeting on 9 September 2015:

Income

Bank interest – £2.13
Community Cleaner grant - £348.40

Total £350.53

Outgoings

Opus energy – £17.76
P E Hempstead - £762.00
Playsafety - £103.20
HMRC - £299.40
DPM Land Service (Comm) £720.00
P Fox £61.61
A Bosworth - £54.57
G Jackson (bulbs) – 148.79
Midland Skip Hire - £181.00

Total £2348.33

Plus Clerk and Caretaker's salaries.

17.2 The clerk informed Councillors that the 2016/17 precept requirement is required by SKDC by 22 January 2016. The clerk would work on the budget for the next financial year and email information around to Councillors shortly so that they can consider the matter before the next Parish Council meeting in the New Year., **(Action point: clerk)**

18 Any other business for future meetings

18.1 The following would be on the agenda at the January meeting:

- Doctor's Surgery in Allington. The clerk would write to the Practice Manager to ask whether there are any plans to alter for the village hall service they provide.
- Precept requirement for 2016/17
- Community Shelter
- Village Cross

19 Date of next meeting

19.1 The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 13 January 2016.

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