

# Allington Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the village hall  
Wednesday 12 September 2007

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

Also present: 10 parishioners

## 1. **Chairman's remarks**

1.1 A minute's silence was held in memory of Jill Cutting, a friend and Parish Councillor. She will be sadly missed.

1.2 The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked those present for attending. The following points were raised:

- a) Mrs Woodcock from Allington Gardens wished to present a survey of Allington Garden residents regarding the proposed footpath. (See minute 8.1)
- b) Mr Withington wished to learn more about the proposed wind farm at Thackson Well Farm (See minute 8.2)
- c) Mr Vincent gave details of his future plans for civil weddings held at the Old Manor House. (See minute 1.3)

1.3 Mr Vincent gave a brief background as to why he sought permission to hold civil weddings at his home, The Manor House. He explained that his original intention was to hold only a few small wedding ceremonies each year. However, as time has gone by, a number of weddings have escalated in size and some have included marquees in the grounds, these larger weddings have inevitably brought more guests and more cars and he was aware that a formal complaint regarding car parking in Bottesford Road had been lodged with SKDC. With this in mind, and other factors, Mr Vincent stated that he has decided that he will honour the remaining two larger weddings planned for this year, but would ensure that future bookings would not be marquee events and the guests would be limited to a small number.

1.4 The Chairman thanked Mr Vincent for attending the meeting and outlining his plans.

## 2. **Apologies**

2.1 District Councillor Kaberry-Brown sent her apologies.

## 3. **Declarations of Interest**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

#### **4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 July 2007**

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

#### **5 Matters Arising**

- 5.1 The bench (minute 7.6 11/7/07, referred) has still not been installed at the Playing Field. Dan Cragg has agreed to install it, but has been especially busy recently.

#### **6 Correspondence received since the meeting held on 11 July 2007**

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

- a) Letter from John Cutting
- b) Letter and reply, clerk to Anglian Water re: drainage system
- c) Letter from Mr North re: footpath in Peach Lane
- d) Survey from residents re: footpath in Peach Lane
- e) Letter from VHMC re: funds needed for repair of ceiling (see minute 6.2)
- f) Information re: Rural Fizz fund
- g) Mobile Police unit due **8 November**
- h) RoSPA report for Playing Field
- i) Allocation of Sites for the LDF – response from clerk
- j) Gypsy & Traveller Possible Site Options consultation

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

- 6.2 Regarding the VHMC's request for funding for the ceiling (point (e)). Money has already been allocated for the village hall in this current budget. The Village Hall Management Committee has earmarked this for the replacement of doors to save heating costs. Unfortunately no more funds are available in the budget this year for village hall improvements. The Chairman of the VHMC said she would relay this to the rest of the committee.

#### **7 Playing Field matters**

- 7.1 Cllr McKinlay reported back on the current funding application to SKDC. A bid had been put in, thanks to John Slater's hard work, for £70k and Allington is now formally adopted into the Play Strategy Scheme. The deadline for bid applications has now passed and Allington's application is looking very positive. It is hoped that Lottery Funding may be available from June 2008. This funding, if successful, will provide the multi-surface play area at the Playing Field. £6,000 needs to be contributed by the Playing Field Committee and fundraising is underway to reach that target. Thanks to Cllr McKinlay and John Slater for the efforts they have made so far.

- 7.2 To qualify for funding, title deeds are needed to prove that the Playing Field belongs to the Parish Council. The clerk handed over to Cllr McKinlay an original copy of a legal agreement, regarding the leasing of the Field, which clearly states that the Playing Field is owned by the Parish Council. It was

agreed that the Playing Field should be formally registered with HM Land Registry. **(Action point: clerk)**

- 7.3 Dog fouling at the field is still a problem and dog owners should be reminded to use the avenues around the field to exercise their dogs.
- 7.4 The annual fundraising event 'Lark in the Park' will be on 15 September at 6pm onwards.
- 7.5 A Secretary is still needed for the Playing Field Committee anyone wishing to undertake this role should contact a member of the Committee.

## **8 Highway matters**

- 8.1 Mrs Woodcock from Allington Gardens presented a survey of Allington Garden residents regarding the proposed footpath in Peach Lane. 187 residents were surveyed of which 12 were in favour of a footpath and 175 against. By and large residents preferred to keep the lane as it is. The survey will be passed to LCC Highways for their information. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 8.2 Cllrs Taylor and Hubbard reported back on a meeting, which had been arranged by Long Bennington Parish Council, regarding the Wind Farm proposal at Thackson Well Farm. At this meeting it was decided that each group in attendance would look at different topics associated with a wind farm. The group from Allington was asked to look at the environmental aspects. The information gather would be shared at another meeting scheduled for 30 September.
- 8.3 Cllr Taylor asked that anyone who wished to be involved with this project to stay behind after the Parish Council meeting when a meeting time and place would be decided.
- 8.4 Royal Haskoning, the company dealing with the Scoping Report, will be holding an exhibition about the proposed Wind Farm in the village hall on 10 October.

## **9 Planning matters**

- 9.1 Applications received and determined since the last Parish council meeting on 11 July 07:
  - Approval – replacement garage, 1 Manor Paddock
  - Approval – Erection of dwelling Plot 7, Berts Way
  - Approval – removal of section of boundary wall and replace with metal frame fence
  - Application – Change of use from agricultural to garden, 16-26 Park Road
  - Application – Extension to garage, Darrington House, Lambert Road
- 9.2 Cllr Cant updated the Council on the affordable homes development in Bert's Way. The properties are nearing completion and Muir Housing group will formally hand them over to SKDC in October 2007. There are six properties in total 3x2 bedroom and 3x3 bedroom. Three will be rented accommodation and the others part rent part mortgage. Anyone wishing be considered for housing in the new development should contact SKDC's housing department as soon as

possible. A note from Cllr Cant, giving a fuller update will be circulated in the correspondence box. Thanks to Cllr Cant for the information.

- 9.3 The new Community Shelter for The Green has been ordered and will be installed in the autumn.

## 10 Financial matters

- 10.1 The clerk reported on the income and outgoings since the last meeting on 11 July 07:

### Income

- Bank interest - £70.16
- Precept (part 2) - £6,500.00

**Total £ 6570.16**

### Expenditure

- Wine for External Auditor - £18.97
- Community shelter deposit - £1442.31
- Audit fees - £158.62
- RoSPA inspection - £70.50
- Float for Party in the Park - £300

**Total £ 1990.40**

Plus Caretaker's salary

- 10.2 Councillors unanimously approved the payments retrospectively.
- 10.3 The clerk reported that the audit for 06/07 had been closed by the External Auditors and there was a notice displayed on the notice board accordingly.
- 10.4 The Auditor's report had 4 advisory points to note:
- Risk assessment not been adopted or discussed by the Council. It should be updated and adopted at least annually
  - Fidelity Guarantee insurance is inadequate. The Council should consider increasing the figure to at least the balances plus one half of the precept – ie around £15k.
  - A letter of engagement should be obtained from the internal auditor stating his independence and outline the tasks he will undertake
  - All internal and external audit reports should be minuted, even if there are no issues to discuss it is good practice to note this and review the internal audit with regards to its effectiveness annually.
- 10.5 The clerk reported that she had made enquiries with Allianz Cornhill for a quote to increase the fidelity guarantee and she was informed that to increase the Fidelity Guarantee to £10k would cost £36.96pa so £15k would be

approximately half again ie £55.44. As this sum has not been budgeted for it was agreed by all Councillors that the Fidelity Guarantee would not be increased at this time but this would be reviewed when the insurance is due for renewal.

- 10.6** The Councillors thanked the clerk for her work on the audit.
- 10.7** The clerk asked whether there was anything specific that should be considered for the 2008/09 budget. It was thought that the playing field should have an allocation of money for maintenance and also the Village Hall should be supported. The budget for next year will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting in November.

**11 Any other business**

- 11.1** It was noted that the road signs about the A1 improvements works were now saying work would be completed in "Spring 08" instead of November 07.
- 11.2** The willow tree at Chestnut farm would be removed as it was affecting the service pipes in Bottom Street.
- 11.3** It was asked that notices not be placed on the railings at the village cross.

**12 Date of next meeting**

- 12.1** The next meeting will be on Wednesday 14 November 07 at a new time of 7.30pm.

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