

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHETSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Held at the Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone
15th October 2009

Present: -- Mr. S.R. Webb in the Chair
Mrs. J.C.Songhurst
Mr. A.C. Tanner
Mr. M.E.Jackson
Mr. M.C.Burley
Mr. S.Mosquera
Clerk in attendance

Mr. M.R.Bounds
Mr. J. Kenney
Mr. P.Cox
Mr. L.M.Phillimore
Mr. J. Dunkley
BDC Mrs.J.Forey

83. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from: – Mr. K.Coles – another meeting, Mr. D.Garratt - another function, Mrs. A.M.Tyler – another meeting, LCC Mr. D.Jennings – another meeting.
RESOLVED: To accept apologies received.

84. CHAIRS REPORT AND REMARKS

The Vice Chairmen, Mr. S.R.Webb welcomed members to the meeting.

85. DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

None.

86. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting dated 17th September 2009, as circulated be approved, and signed by the Chairman.

87. TO RECEIVE MINUTES

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 17th September be received.

88. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a) Public Speaking Protocol – None received.

b) The meeting was suspended to allow members to make representation about any item not on the agenda (old parishioners time).

i) The limited access to the fields at the end of Vicarage Lane was raised. This had been enjoyed for many years and was now closed off. It was a loss of a well used amenity. It was requested that an article be placed in the Duckpaddle asking for resident's views. It had been closed off due to issues with livestock being disturbed by users and their dogs. It was not a public footpath or right of way. The landowner could be contacted for views on allowing access, if the public responded to the article to be placed in the Duckpaddle.

ii) There was a car displayed for sale on the corner of the Nook / King Street which was a hazard to road users. This was an enforcement matter. The Clerk was asked to pass on the details to the relevant authority.

iii) No update had been received from LCC Cllr Mr. B.Garner regarding the M1 widening scheme.

iv) An old sign was reported discarded in the brook. The brook was being cleaned of debris, as per the work schedule tabled this evening.

v) Motorbikes were speeding along Springwell Lane. Number plates could not be taken as they were too fast to be caught. The Clerk was asked to pass on the details to the Police and BDC ASB team to see if anything can be done to track the offenders down.

89. REPORTS FROM COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

No written reports had been submitted. LCC Cllr Mr.D.Jennings letter on the Bus service was in the correspondence section. The following verbal reports were given: BDC Cllr. Mr. A.Tanner had attended the Parish Seminar. It had been well attended.

BDC Cllr Mrs. J.Forey reported a matter that she had dealt with on Coales Avenue related to ASB. The Clerk updated council on his understanding of the matter. It was being handled by BDC ASB Officer Mr. Steve Parker. The Clerk would get the area litter picked which was done on a cyclic basis.

RESOLVED: That any verbal reports given be received.

90. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Mrs. A.M.Tyler had tabled a report from the Community Forum she attended. RESOLVED: That the written report given be received.

91. ALCOHOL BAN UPDATE

The Clerk has attached the two responses from the “beat bobbies”. PC Nick Taylor had said he would support any application for a local ban for the Brook Street, Bridgeway, Warwick Road, and the Dicken including the three arches, our Dicken car park and the village green. He would have to get LPU Blaby Inspector Brown to support this also.

A discussion was held regarding the issues nationally including the ASB issues in Barwell so well publicised in the news. The recent Duckpaddle story of ASB in the cemetery all showed that the problems were not going away. The issue was how to deal with them. The District Council only offered day time support and the Police were seen to be “wanting a crime in action” or “known guilty parties” before you could get an immediate response to the problems in the village seen. After discussion, it was RESOLVED to invite Acting Chief Constable Eyres to the next Full Council meeting to ask how this Parish Council could act responsibly and solve the ASB issues we had as a village. We would be looking to lead the way in a new initiative as to how best to work with the existing agencies and make Whetstone a better place to live.

A further discussion was held about the previously discussed alternative provision such as Parish Warden. RESOLVED: That Mr. M.E.Jackson look into costs of alternative provision and enquire to Mansfield District Council about their Street Warden scheme.

The services to be looked at above were already being funded by the parishioners and these needed to be improved. This would be asked of the Police at the next Full Council Meeting. Provision of the above services could be shared with other neighbouring parishes. This was noted.

92. SECTION 106 MONIES FOR DICKEN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE AND DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS UPDATE

The clerk had attached the last emails he had received from BDC Mr. Ian Jones, and updated the meeting with an email received today. This was to confirm that it was being processed.BDC Cllr. Mr. K.Coles was copied on all correspondence. Any update would be passed on by the Clerk.

93. FINANCE – RECEIVE PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND CONFIRM BALANCE SHEET

a) RESOLVED: The accounts paid up to the end of September 2009 be confirmed and that the bank reconciliation statement dated 3th September 2009 be signed by the Chairman on behalf of Council.

b) The Clerk presented the external auditors report and reported there were no actions as it is unqualified i.e. clean. RESOLVED: To accept the external auditors report.

c) The Clerk presented the Machinery Replacement Schedule and requested that the tractor as presented (previously resolved) be purchased together with the flail arm which was in the schedule to purchase in two years time. RESOLVED: That the Flail, as justified, be purchased with the tractor as per the quotation presented.

d) The Clerk presented the NALC Salary increases notification. RESOLVED: To receive the rates for staff for 2009/10

e) The Clerk presented the NALC Car allowance rates 2009/10. RESOLVED: To receive the Car Allowance rates 2009/10

94. CASUAL VACANCY

The Clerk informed the meeting that we received the notice from BDC Monitoring Officer that there were no requests for an election to be held. Therefore co-option is now available. RESOLVED: Members consider suitable candidates and make them aware of the vacancy.

95. CLERKS REPORT LEE

The Ground Staff Work Schedule was received.

The Clerk reported on the following: A member of staff had suffered a second family bereavement and was currently off work. It was hoped they would return to work week commencing 26th October 2009. The Chairman asked the Clerk to pass on the Councils deepest sympathies.

The new plinths in the cemetery were completed. The Oliver Park Shrubs were to be cutback next month. The LCC Highways Inspector for the area had mentioned Oliver Park footpath as a designated maintained footpath. This was maintained by the Parish Council annually with the breedon gravel at a cost of £800 per year. RESOLVED: The Clerk to enquire on the LCC re ownership and ongoing maintenance costs.

The Rural Enabler email reply regarding the survey was read out. It was discussed as to what further action was required. RESOLVED: To not request a survey be carried out.

A tree in the churchyard was to be removed as it was dying. The Clerk would inform the church. The Memorial Hall Flower boxes had been removed as they were rotten. They were not being replaced. The Clerk suggested a move to a grant application for the Memorial Hall for transparency and fairness for services provided. This was discussed. RESOLVED: That the Memorial Hall be asked to move to a grant application.

The Allotment Association room hire was discussed. RESOLVED: That the Allotment Association move to a grant application.

The Clerk reported that a car had gone through the Dicken Car Park railings earlier today. The Police were aware.

The Clerk asked that the November Full Council meeting be moved as he had a family members hospital appointment which would make him unavailable. This was discussed and RESOLVED to move the meeting to Thursday 12th November 2009 at 7.30 p.m. start. The Clerk thanked Members.

The Clerk reminded members about Mary Sault's retirement celebration.

96. CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED: The list be received and noted.

- a) BDC - Parish Engagement questionnaire – RESOLVED: Individual responses be sent.
- b) BDC - Annual Report 2009 – 2 copies in office were in the offices.
- c) LCC - Reply re Burnham Drive Hail and Ride – No update – This was being handled by LCC Cllr. Mr. B.Garner.
- d) LCC - Service 45 reduction in service notification – This was noted.

RESOLVED: The letters be received

97. APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER MEETINGS

a) BDC Civic Service - 1st November 2009. RESOLVED: This be passed to the Chairman.

b) Stepping Stones Sence and Soar Green Wedge Forum – 29th October 2009.

RESOLVED: This was noted.

With there being no further business, the chair closed the meeting at 9.30 p.m.