



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 9TH NOVEMBER 2015 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

Present: Andrew Marchant
Simon Bagnall
David Oxley
Mandy Parker
Jan Pledger
Peter Sapsed

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.35pm.

1. To Receive Any Apologies for Absence

PCSO Amanda Higham.
Cllr Bagnall arrived at item 6 with apologies for lateness.

2. To Receive any Personal or prejudicial Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda

None.

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th September 2015

Following no changes and a unanimous vote that the minutes were correct, it was RESOLVED that the minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th September 2015 were a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

4. Adjournment for PCSO Update

PCSO Amanda Higham requested a report but it didn't arrive in time. The clerk will circulate it when it has been completed.

5. Adjournment for Public Comments

None present.

6. To discuss any Planning Applications and Decisions Notices Received

There were no new planning applications. The decision on Willow Cottage to refuse planning permission on the grounds that it was not in keeping with the village aspect was discussed. The Parish Council did not have any objections or comments to the plans and were surprised that planning was not granted. With no comments or objections raised, it was difficult to determine what more the Parish Council could have done to support or object to future applications. The Parish Council agreed that if there was an appeal, further comments and a more detailed response would be considered.

7. Finance

7.1 A report detailing the summary of funds was presented. It shows that the Parish Council spent a fraction more than we meant to on the Playing Field repairs and improvements but only by a small percentage. The budget didn't go over more than was expected either and the Finance Report was accepted.

7.2 To Approve the Payments for November and December

There were the standard payments, plus the wreath for Remembrance and the food/drinks expenses for the Playing Field Open Morning. It was RESOLVED to approve the payments for November and December, cheque signing was deferred to the end of the meeting.

7.3 Budget The training could be cut to £90. VAT is due to be claimed again, the Clerk will arrange. The Parish Council agreed to keep the Precept the same and to run the same amount of budget for 2016. Clerk will produce a new Budget for 2016 to show both bank accounts.



7.4 Precept for January 2016 It was unanimously agreed to keep the precept at £3,800 and RESOLVED to complete the Precept Paperwork for a request of £3,800 for 2016/17.

7.5 Document Backup A back up of the correspondence was passed to the Chairman

8. Highway

The Chairman thanked Cllr Sapsed for cutting back the hedges in the village.

It was agreed that there was no need for a mirror on the bridge now the hedges had been cut. It was agreed that there was a narrowing on that corner and that two cars cannot safely pass. The verges have encroached onto the very narrow corner on the bridge. The Clerk to write to Highways requesting clearing of the verges.

Mill Road is now a restricted byway which means no motorised vehicles can use it. There has been a carriage post inserted on the turning by Coltsfoot Farm and those with rights of access have a key. The track has been kept open from the other end and money has previously been spent on maintaining the path. It is understood that the defined footpath has been redrawn and going back some 20 years, it was originally a byway. There has been work undertaken to open up more right of way and this path has been reestablished.

Cllr Parker reported further fly tipping on the Quarry Road. A sofa and fridge were dumped there and now more sofas have been tipped there. It's between the Quarry Road and the next road junction towards Anstey. It is on highways land adjacent to Mike Johnsons. Clerk to report and speak to Environmental Health regarding collection.

There is concern that water is again pouring out opposite the Pearces. The water is again bubbling up from the same place as before and running down the hill and collecting on the corner by the Playing Field. It is a major concern in bad weather that the water will freeze. The Clerk will contact Highways again on this matter.

It was reported that the gully and ditch need clearing by the brook at the bridge by the access gate, clerk to report.

9. Playing Field & Skateboard

The Playing Field improvement are completed and the Open Morning was a great success. New Shackles for the train are on order as it was reported that jewellery could catch on them. The Chairman thanked all involved in the repairs.

10. Village Hall Clock

The parts have been ordered and the repair will be completed. Cllr Oxley /Pledger to check when the repair will be completed.

11. Village Asset Registration

The Council have a duty to register any asset within 8 weeks of them presented to them. The Chairman felt that if that was adequate time there was no need to act now. It was agreed that at present it would be difficult for the village to raise funds to purchase an asset that went on sale in the village. It was agreed that this would be monitored.

12. Defibrillator – Phone Box

The phone box isn't currently being used and is listed. It needs maintaining and the Parish Council can adopt it for £1. A local resident suggested a defibrillator in the village and some residents were identified as likely to undertake defibrillator training. Cllr Oxley was in favour of this and had previously requested consideration of the item. Funds were available for this from the Capital Account. The details circulated by the clerk were discussed at the meeting and it was agreed to put an article in the Newsletter to gauge the village response to this idea. The Clerk is to research the usage of defibrillators to date.



13. To Receive Correspondence Sent and Received.

The report of correspondence sent and received was accepted. Notices were taken down off the noticeboard and the Clerk put up a polite notice to ask for notices to remain up until they were out of date. Susan Depauw is from 1 Moatside.

14. Any Other Business

- 14.1 Dog Fouling** – Clerk has written a piece for the newsletter and e-mail to include a request that those that pickup to please take their bag to a bin or take it home, not leave it in the hedge. Sticky notices to be ordered. The Hertfordshire local bylaw states must pick up after your dog from a footpath, including a footpath that is across a field.
- 14.2** A wreath was ordered for Remembrance Day and Jenny laid it for the village.
- 14.3** The School noticeboard needs repairing and it was agreed that Cllr Bagnall and Marchant would get the sizing and the Clerk will arrange one to be made from Oak at Stagestruck.
- 14.4** There has been a book library created in the school upstairs. Since the mobile library service discontinued, the Herts Library Service are supporting these type of initiatives. At the last HAPTC meeting, the Chairman reported that they are trying to support book swaps and other initiatives. The Clerk will contact the School Secretary and find out about the community library. It was noted that Buntingford library is due for an upgrade.
- 14.5** It was noted from the Town and Parish Councils' Conference last week that anyone digging out verges or washing signs should have Health and Safety Training and any future work needed assessing.
- 14.6** A great Halloween Evening was had at The Blind Fiddler.

15. Date of Next Meeting: 18th January 2016 at 7.30 at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed _____

Date: _____