

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOLYWELL-CUM-NEEDINGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 6TH MAY 2012 AT 7.30PM AT MILLFIELDS

PRESENT:

Cllr C Border
Cllr J Carter
Cllr G Fisher
Cllr R Fountain
Cllr A Holloway
Cllr R Inman
Cllr E MacPherson
Cllr I Neve
Cllr J Neish
Cllr C Norman
Cllr C Pearce
Cllr A Whyte
Cllr M Williamson (until item 16)

Miss J Bowd (Parish Clerk)
Mrs H Sirot-Smith (Assistant to Parish Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE:

2 members of the public, PCSO G Price and Cllr R Carter.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

1.1 To elect a Chairman for 2014/15

As outgoing chairman Cllr Williamson expressed his thanks to the Clerk, Assistant Clerk and the councillors for all their hard work and commitment.

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Jon Neish be elected as the new Chairman. All in favour. (Proposed – Cllr Williamson, seconded Cllr Pearce)

1.2 To receive Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

RESOLVED:

Cllr Neish signed the declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. APOLOGIES

None.

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

3.1 To elect a Vice – Chairman for 2014/15

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Pearce be accepted as Vice Chairman (8 votes to 5). All in favour.

4. PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES.

4.1 To elect members to the Parish Council Committees 2014/15

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Williamson replace Cllr Pearce's places on the committee. Cllr Fountain would replace Cllr Williamson on Leisure Facilities. The rest of the council would remain in existing committees. All in favour.

5. PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES.

5.1 To nominate Parish Council Representatives to outside bodies for 2014/15

RESOLVED:

All representatives to remain the same. It was noted that the position of school governor is still vacant.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Personal.

Cllr G Fisher – item 17.1 - request to fell Cherry tree on playing field – resident making request.

Cllr R Fountain – item 31.2 & 18.3 – Premises working party report & wording for signage at VH car park - member of the VHT

Cllr E Macpherson – item 13.2 & 18.3 – Premises working party report & wording for signage at VH car park – member of the VHT

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2014 be signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record. All in favour.

8. PUBLIC FORUM.

Resident from Conger Lane spoke about her concerns over the recent obstructions to the highway (Back Lane) outside the old vicarage. As no pavement and pedestrians use the road, there should be clear visibility and no blocking of access to vehicles passing through.

Resident states that although original bollards have been removed there remains metal posts as well as several large humps on the verge preventing vehicles from having wide enough access.

The new drive also extends into public highway and placed a metal post box where they meet.

Cllr Neish advised that the resident has been contacted by CCC Highways department and that he has 14 days from 29th April to remove obstructions from verges and restore the highway to its original state. Cllr Neish confirmed that council would keep matter under review and act accordingly.

Mr G Britton reported that boats are frequently being moored along riverbank outside Ferry Boat Inn.

9. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

Cllr R Carter reported that elections due on 22nd May. Major restructure at HDC within senior management. New Managing Director in the post. Review of all services has been carried out. Looking at joining up services with South Cambs. He advised that Morrison development has been approved. (Clerk reported that on HDC website not having been updated – still says pending) Money being invested in 21 bus routes to improve links with Busway, and into the community transport service. He noted that planning application for 28 High Street had been turned down. Not approved as 'not suitable for the environment'.

10. POLICING

10.1. To receive a Police Report

Crime reported

Local police Report

Jan - May 2014 – 1 case of anti-social behaviour in Harris Crescent, 4 cases of theft from property, 2 break-ins but nothing stolen.

E-cops

31st March – 7th April – 8 break-ins within Hunts area. (6 in St Ives area)

12.1 Consultation - 8th April 2014.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Consultation Committee be noted.

12.2 Planning & Finance - 8th April 2014.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning & Finance Committee be noted.

13. PREMISES WORKING PARTY

13.1. To note the minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 2014.

The minutes of the Premises Working Party were noted.

Cllrs Fountain and Macpherson declared a personal interest in Item 13.2. members of the VHT

13.2. To approve the draft recommendations report 2014.

Cllr Macpherson raised a number of concerns over the points made stating she considered them a criticism of the management committee. Cllr Fountain expressed the opinion that if Parish Council were to take over responsibility for running of the Village Hall, it would have cost implications. He would like to see overview of predicted costs.

Cllr Williamson responded on behalf of the premises working party that there was no intention to upset or criticise members of the management committee. The recommendations note that changes need to be made in the terms of the constitution when the lease expired, and a new way of managing the Village Hall agreed. Cllr Inman spoke in support of the recommendations. Cllr Fisher agreed with him.

RESOLVED:

That serve notice of the VHT to terminate agreement as of 31st March 2015 and give vacant possession. All in favour. (Proposed – Cllr Macpherson; seconded – Cllr Inman)

13.3. To approve the issue of a solicitor's letter in line with recommendations.

RESOLVED:

That council approved the issue of a solicitor's letter to terminate agreement as approved in recommendations. All in favour. (Proposed – Cllr Macpherson; seconded – Cllr Holloway)

14. FINANCE & RISK.

14.1. To approve accounts for Payment as at 6th May 2014.

RESOLVED:

That the accounts for payment total of **£10,343.48** be approved. All in favour.

14.2. To agree the following payments within the clerk's delegated powers:

(i) SLCC Regional conference £82.80

RESOLVED:

That the amount be approved. All in favour.

14.3. To receive and note the Budget Report as at 26th April 2012.

RESOLVED:

That the budget report be noted. All in favour.

14.4. To note the Bank Reconciliation as at 31st March 2012.

RESOLVED:

That the bank reconciliation be noted. All in favour. (Proposed – Cllr Neish)

14.5. To note the RoSPA play area report – 4th April 2014.

Clerk advised that overall the report is fine other than it again highlights the toggle entrapment at the top of the slide. In has also included the new Teen Shelter which is not part of the Play Equipment.

14.6. To approve additional bank account for investment purposes.

Clerk recommended that the Public Sector Reserves be transferred to another bank with the aim of spreading risk and securing the long-term future. Nationwide provides the most secure provider for Savings Account.

RESOLVED:

That the re-investment be approved. (60/40 ratio of existing parish council funds) All in favour. (Proposed – Cllr Neish, seconded – Cllr Holloway) *signatures for:- Cllr Neish, Cllr Holloway, J Bowd (Clerk)*

15. END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS

15.1. To approve accounts for the Year ending 31st March 2014

RESOLVED:

That the accounts be approved. All in favour. (Proposed – Cllr Holloway, seconded – Cllr MacPherson)

15.2. To approve Statement of Accounts on Annual Return for year ending 2014.

RESOLVED:

That the Statement of Accounts be approved. All in favour.

15.3. To complete and approve Annual Governance Statement for year ending 31st March 2014.

RESOLVED:

The Chairman signed the Statement after the council approved all points.

15.4. To approve text for Annual Return.

RESOLVED:

That the text be approved. Chairman suggested that comment be made in box 4 although there is no requirement to do so as under 15% variance. All in favour.

16. PLANNING

16.1. To note the following applications that has been refused:

(i) Application ref 1400230LBC: Proposed dwelling by conversion of existing outbuildings -28 High Street, Needingworth.
Noted.

16.2. To note the following applications that has been approved:

(i) Application H/5002/14/CC : Extension to existing car park with new perimeter fence following demolition of boiler house and swimming pool - Holywell Primary School.
Noted.

17. ENVIRONMENT.

Cllr Fisher declared a prejudicial interest in the following item and left the room.

17.1. To consider request from resident to fell Cheery Tree '1879' located on Overcote Playing field.

The comment on the Tree Survey report was noted. Council was advised that resident was proposing to chop the tree down himself. There was concern that this would set a precedent for residents to look to fell more Parish council trees. Cllr Border expressed her concerns for future such actions.

That permission be granted and request made for the stump to be ground. (Proposed – Cllr Macpherson, seconded – Cllr Carter/Holloway) 8 in favour 5 against.
Cllr Fisher returned to the room.

17.2. To approve request for use of Millfields for Fun Run by Holywell School Association.

Clerk advised of route and date.

RESOLVED:

That request be approved. All in favour.

17.3. To note resident's actions in pruning tree Overcote Playing Field and agree any actions.

It was reported that several residents had been seen attempting to cut back trees which are growing on council property, but overhanging their properties. They had been advised that they needed permission from the parish council before doing this. Recommended that residents of Park View be sent a letter outlining law relating to tree cutting if not on their property.

Mr Britton advised that should see what effect different types of 'tree surgery' have on different tree species.

Concerns were expressed that if such ad-hoc tree works then made tree unsafe, council will still be liable if any one hurt if on its property.

RESOLVED:

Clerk to get tree surgeon to inspect and advise. She will report back to next council meeting.

Environment committee will consider whether to send letter out to residents advising of legal position over trees. All in favour.

17.4. To approve actions regarding tree at War Memorial site.

Clerk advised that long term residents had been spoken too and that none could note when or why the tree was planted.

Cllr Neish read out email sent in by one resident in opposition of tree being removed. No other responses had been received.

RESOLVED:

That tree be felled and replaced by memorial garden. 10 in favour. 1 abstention. (Proposed – Cllr Neish, seconded – Cllr Whyte)

18. VILLAGE HALL.

18.1. To receive a report from the representative of the Village Hall Trust.

No report as Cllr Williamson had left the meeting.

18.2. To receive a verbal report on plans for Music Festival 2014.

Cllr Holloway still awaiting final confirmation from Police over their organisation at event. Cllr Macpherson advised that she is still looking for people to volunteer to help at the event.

18.3. To approve wording and new signage for car park, Overcote Lane.

Cllr Fountain gave recommended wording for sign: 'PRIVATE PARKING. For Users of The Village Hall Only. By Order Of The Parish Council.'

RESOLVED:

That no sign will be installed. (Proposed – Cllr Holloway, seconded – Cllr Pearce) 3 in favour, 4 against, 1 abstention.

Matter to be brought back to Leisure Facilities committee to establish PC policy on parking on the site. All in favour.

19. RIVERBANK

19.1 To receive a report on the riverbank Holywell Front.

Report from Clerk was noted. She advised still awaiting definitive answer from Environment Agency. One quote received for repair work. Awaiting response from another company approached. Discussions over how bank should be repaired and how it may prevent boats from mooring there. Suggested planting of reeds to stop bank from being further eroded. Boats would churn up mud though.

20. HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT

To consider proposed lay-out of new 30 mph scheme Pound Hill and approve any amendments. County council has allocated £10,000 for cost. PC have to pay 1% of total cost. It is likely to take 6 months.

Many liked the visual impact of the option with gate, village sign and speed sign.

RESOLVED:

That the option with gate, village and speed sign with 'sharks teeth' lines painted on the road. With 30mph sign painted on the road (Proposed – Cllr Holloway, seconded – Cllr Carter)

21. CORRESPONDENCE:-

To receive correspondence and agree any actions:-

21.1. To note St Ives and District RSC minutes of 11th March 2013.

Noted.

21.2. To note the meeting of the CFT Working group 2nd June and appoint a representative.

Noted.

21.3. To note the Pre-application publicity of the Proposed A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon improvement scheme.

Clerk advised that member of A14 consultation team coming to have informal meeting with St Ives Town council on Friday 9th May at 10am. Any representatives of PC welcome to attend.

Noted.

21.4. To note the 1.32% increase to electricity tariff by Opus energy as from 1st April 2014.

Noted.

21.5. To note that the application to list the Shop/Post office as an Assets of Community Value has been successful.

Noted.

21.6. To consider request from Needingworth Colts to continue training at Millfields until 30th June.

All in favour of refusing permission to request.

22. ITEMS FOR REPORT ONLY.

- Cllr Macpherson commented on cars using school car park one Saturday. She also offered an old bin for use at Millfields.
- Cllr Border reported that concrete bins in cemetery are still being used by visitors for floral remains. Wants council to consider what can be done to stop problem. Consider at Environment Committee.
- Cllr Holloway has been asked by Holywell residents how many of their street-lights are due to be changed. Clerk advised under current plans as they are PC owned.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 10.15 pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE