

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 17th July 2006 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:- Chairman Mr E Webb
 Councillors Mrs M Peyton, Mrs C Byatt, Dr. N Strudwick
 District Councillors Mr N Cathcart and Mr D McCraith
 County Councillor Mrs L Oliver
 Parish Clerk Mrs Y Albery
 Parishioners 3 Present

1.0 Apologies for absence received from Councillors P Neale, L Ginger, A Milton.

2.0 Approval of previous minutes

All councillors agreed that the minutes of the last meeting were correct and the Chairman (Mr E Webb) signed them accordingly including one copy for the Main Notice Board.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Village Hall Boundary Wall

Three quotes have been received and a fourth is being revised.

- 1) 'South Cambs. Landscape' for a sum of £3478 including VAT
- 2) 'Lander and Lindsay' for the sum of £7340 ex.VAT
- 3) 'Butler Bros.' for the sum of £3990 exVAT
- 4) Quote from 'E.C Crow' is awaiting revision.

It is suggested that a meeting is held with Mr O'Connor to discuss the quotes when the last one is available.

3.2 Affordable Homes

The Bedford Pilgrims have not yet obtained finance but is still hopeful that funds will be made available. The Parish Council has had a meeting with Laura Razzell of ACRE who is examining the current position on affordable homes. She has sent an e-mail stating the conditions of entitlement and will also be in contact with Paul Barham of Bedford Pilgrims to find out the current situation. Discussion took place among the Councillors as to whether an alternative site was worth looking for. It was agreed to wait for the outcome of Laura Razzell's investigation before making any decision on this in view of the work already undertaken.

3.3 ROSPA Report

Apart from the removal of the monkey frame from the Play Area, other comments were of a minor nature.

3.4 Listing of all Correspondence in the Minutes.

There was much discussion on this subject and it was felt that if any correspondence was listed then it must include every item. The Parish Council were divided on the merits of the proposal for listing all correspondence. When the question was put to the District and County Councillors as to the procedure at other councils, it was stated that no common procedure could be established. At least one council which has achieved 'Quality Status', does not list the correspondence in the minutes.

4.0 New Correspondence

Letter from SCDC Re; Footway lighting. Maintenance of the two street lights at Ridgeway Close would cost £17.62 per lamp and energy charge would be £15.35 per lamp. Total cost of the two lamps would be £65.22 for the year 2006/07.

5.0 Planning

S/0838/06/F 64 Bridge Street, for Mr and Mrs Smee. For an extension (Permission granted)

S/0859/06/F College Farm, for Mr and Mrs Elbourn. (Permission refused).

S/1274/06/LB) 94 Meldreth Road, for Mr and Mrs T Walker. Permission applied for

S/1275/06/F) demolition of single storey bedroom and conservatory replaced by bedroom with en-suite bathroom with sunroom.

S/1237/06/F Withdrawal of application for telecoms. tower at Old North Road, for O2 (UK)

A suggestion was made by a Parish Councillor that when planning applications are received, they should be e-mailed to each Councillor. This was not adopted.

6.0 Finance

Cheque No. 100509, £94.00 to ROSPA for playground inspection.

Cheque No. 100510, £528.75 to Anglian Water Services Ltd. for sewer connection.

Cheque for £280.56 received from Parish Plan Steering Group as loan repayment.

6.1 Purchase of Picnic Table. The Councillors agreed to the purchase of a picnic table made from recycled plastic for the Picnic Area. The price will be £389.00 +VAT.

7.0 Village Hall Management Report

All the paperwork for the sewer connection is now in place, and we are awaiting a start date. The proposed plans for the Village Hall are now at the stage where they can go for planning approval. Grants and loans will need to be sought. A list of jobs has been created for the Village Hall handyman to take on.

Mr E Webb will take over as acting Chairman in the absence of Dr Strudwick.

8.0 Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the members of the Public present.

9.0 Any other Business

Councillor Peyton stated that a parishioner from Littlington was knocked off her bicycle by a white van whilst cycling on the byway (Byway 22) at the bottom of Bridge Street. The bridge over the stream at the bottom of Bridge Street is collapsing at the edges. County Councillor Oliver will speak to Mr Tabbitt of Highways to see if remedial action can be taken.

Councillor Strudwick asked why the Councillors were being ‘summoned’ to the meeting instead of being invited as before. The Clerk stated that this was the correct terminology as defined in the Certificate of Achievement Course which she is currently undertaking.

Councillor Ginger will be responsible for updating information on the Village Website in Councillor Strudwick’s absence.

Councillor Byatt stated that rubbish has been left on the bridleway on the right hand side.

A question was asked as to how many of the bungalows are still in Council ownership. District Councillor Cathcart will enquire.

District Councillor Cathcart spoke about the Local Plan and said that it is possible that some people would have objections to Whaddon's position in the Plan, but this was unlikely.

County Councillor Oliver said that the Guided Bus Scheme from St. Ives to Cambridge is likely to receive the 'go ahead' and would include a Cycleway.

Chairman Webb stated that the Parish Councillors needed to have a meeting to discuss the recommendations of the Parish Plan. It has been difficult to bring all the Councillors together at this time of year for such a meeting.

There followed discussion regarding the poor attendance record of some of the Councillors. Councillor Byatt suggested that at the end of each Council year, each individual Councillor's attendance record should be noted in the minutes. After more discussion it was decided that the Chairman would contact all Councillors on this matter.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

The date of the next meeting is 18th September at 7.30 pm