

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 15th October 2007 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:- Chairman Mr E Webb
 Vice Chairman Mrs C Byatt
 Councillors Professor A Milton, Mrs M Peyton, Mr L Ginger, Dr N Strudwick
 District Councillors Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
 Parish Clerk Mrs Y Albery
 Parishioners 2 present

1.0 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mr P Neale and County Councillor Mrs L Oliver.

2.0 Approval of minutes

Before the previous minutes could be signed, and after some discussion with Councillor Strudwick, it was agreed to add the following to Paragraph 8.0. *'Councillor Strudwick gave a short report from the Minutes of the Village Hall Committee Meeting on Aug.21/07'*. Councillors now agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were a true record and the Chairman (Mr E Webb) signed them accordingly including one for the Main Notice Board.

3.0 Matters arising

3.1 PPP3 Kissing Gates.

The kissing gates have been ordered and the Parish Council will need to arrange collection. If details are given, Councillor Peyton will collect.

3.2 Meldreth Road Footpath

Mr Vacher of Highways Dept. has inspected the footway and will make the worst areas safe and the footway will be put forward next year for complete re-surfacing. Discussion took place with regard to horse riders using the footway and as to the legality of this. Councillor Peyton stated that if the description of the horse could be relayed to her she would be able to identify the rider and speak to them.

3.3 Affordable Homes

A communication has been received from Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association concerning the Affordable Homes Project. Amendments previously requested by the Parish Council have now been put to the Planners and the Highways Dept. A formal planning application will follow. The legal work regarding the purchase of the site will begin shortly and a bid for funding for building the houses will be made by end of October.

4.0 New Correspondence

A communication has been received from Councillor Oliver confirming that the bus option is moving forward and consultation will take place with other parishes along the proposed route.

A letter has been received from the Clerk tendering her resignation due to personal reasons. It was decided to hand-deliver a fly-sheet through all villagers doors advising them of this vacancy. It was also suggested by District Councillor McCraith that Parish Clerks in surrounding villages should be approached and if someone was interested and had the capacity for extra hours, this might be a way forward.

Instead of replying to the letter of resignation, the Vice-Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, presented the Clerk with a much appreciated bouquet of flowers.

5.0 Planning

There was concern over the apparent non compliance with the set conditions in the recent planning application relating to 154 Bridge Street. It was felt the conditions relating to disposal of sewage were not being adhered to and Councillor Cathcart will look into the matter.

Councillor Ginger spoke about the Eternit Landfill Project. The Enforcement Team led by Mr Andrew Greenwood is taking the issue of drivers using the wrong route very seriously and is taking action against anyone flouting the rules.

6.0 Finance

Cheques already signed

On 26th July 2007 Cheque No. 100555 for £265.00 to SCDC Planning Dept. for Village Hall planning application.

On 22nd September 2007 Cheque No. 100560 for £1800.00 to Mr VT Skuce for material etc. for rebuilding of Village Hall wall.

8.0 Village Hall

8.1 Village Hall Report

Councillor Strudwick now gave a short report on the recent meeting of the Management Committee:-

- The Village Hall Committee has agreed to give £400.00 toward the cost of rebuilding the boundary wall.
- The Village BBQ made a profit of approximately £600.
- The Quiz Night had to be cancelled due to lack of support.
- Mr K Green will be contacted regarding the possibility of providing some assistance with future advertising.

8.2 Boundary Wall

Mr Skuce of South Cambs. Landscape Services has spoken to the neighbour regarding the wall. It was suggested by Councillor Peyton that Mr Skuce be asked to provide a root barrier on the side of the neighbour's garden to avoid any future problems of root intrusion. The councillors decided that the cast iron post should be put into store at this time.

9.0 Comments from the Public

.A complaint was made by a member of the public concerning noxious smoke being caused by waste being burnt at Meldform. Although the Environmental Department had been contacted, there was no help forthcoming. **District Councillor Cathcart** stated that he will get someone out to investigate the situation.

10.0 Any Other Business

After receiving a recent e-mail concerning possible development on green belt land to the North of Cambridge, **Councillor Strudwick** asked the District Councillors for their views on the likely impact on our area. The answer was that it was unlikely to affect the local area but we should keep an eye on developments.

Councillor Peyton said that there was a great deal of rubbish being dumped in Bassingbourn and Kneesworth and these were large items. She also pointed out that the anti skid road surface at the A1198/Whaddon gap junction was breaking up. The Clerk will report this to the appropriate department.

Councillor Byatt stated that rubbish was being dumped on Byway 22 and asked whether there is a formal Fly-Tipping officer who could be contacted.

The tethered pony reported at the last meeting has now gone and the owner is seeking suitable grazing for it.

Chairman Webb stated that Mr Green is looking into removing some of the elm trees on his land adjoining the Church. Members of the Parish Council felt that there may be Tree Preservation Orders on these trees and **District Councillor Cathcart** will try and establish what the true situation is.

There was general consensus among councillors that the SCDC Contact Centre was not performing very well. Calls are not being returned as requested and the answering service is poor. A suggestion was made that as many people as possible should write to the Chief Executive with their complaints.

There being no other business the meeting was now closed.

The date of the next meeting will be 19th November at 7.30 pm.