

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 24 April 2006 in the Village Hall

Present- Chairman	Mr E Webb
Vice Chairman	Mrs C Byatt
Councillors	Mr P Neale, Mrs M Peyton, Prof. A Milton, Dr. N Strudwick
District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart
Parish Clerk	Mrs Y Albery
Parishioners	7 Present

1.0 Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Linda Oliver, Councillor Lee Ginger, also District Councillor David McGraith who had said that he would be late to the meeting.

2.0 Approval of previous minutes

All councillors present 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 Parking at Ridgeway Close. There was no further progress as District Councillor McGraith had not arrived at the meeting.

3.2 Proposed election changes. There were two issues to be discussed, a) having a full election every four years or b) electing a third of the seats every three years out of four (called 'election by thirds'. The council felt that scheme a) would make the Council more political and scheme b) more expensive.

A vote was taken among the Councillors and two voted for a) and one voted for b) with three abstentions. Councillors felt that village issues were more important for our independence than allowing politics to take over. The final decision was, that we should retain the status quo.

3.3 Village Hall Boundary Wall. It had been agreed with the owner of the adjoining property that the tree in question would be removed at his expense. Once the tree has been removed, the Parish Council will decide whether to repair or rebuild the wall. Safety fencing is available if the wall demonstrates instability or looks likely to be a danger.

4.0 Correspondence

ROSPA will be conducting their safety checks on the playground equipment in May.

Cambridge County Council has issued display posters for the concessionary bus fares. These notices have been placed on the notice boards and also distributed to various houses.

Information has been received from **CALC** relating to possible grants toward the running costs of street lighting.

5.0 As County Councillor Oliver was unable to attend the meeting, she had sent an e-mail message to confirm that the proposed footway in Meldreth Road would definitely be going ahead to completion. However at this point, a member of the public stated that when speaking to workmen who were measuring at the site, a person stated that as Highways were short of money, we would not be getting a full run of footway. The Clerk will take this matter up with the Highways Department.

6.0 Planning

S/0659/06/PNT for 02/UK LTD. A 12.5 mtr. high Telecom mast on the Old North Road, Bassingbourn

Minstral Court, Old North Road, District Councillor Cathcart stated that the Planning Application for a conservatory has been looked at. SCDC are aware that the conservatory has not been authorised. He will report back again but in the meantime the Clerk will give the relevant papers to the Chairman who will draft a new letter to SCDC.

7.0 Finance

Cheque No 100501 - £115.50 – to CALC for 2006/07 subscriptions.

The Clerk asked the Councillors if they wished Mr Chilvers to continue as our internal auditor for this year. The Councillors agreed unanimously. The Councillors also agreed that the Clerk should have a cost of living rise from the current £7.99 ph. to £8.23 ph from April 1st 2006.

Finance Cont..

The Parish Council has received the quotation for insurance of the Parish property and liabilities for 2006/07. The Chairman has reviewed the figures and has suggested that as the Village Hall is currently insured for £153,000, this should be raised to £200,000.

All Councillors agreed and the Clerk will inform the insurance company.

8.0 Website

Councillor Strudwick felt that everything is going well but a few more things need to be added and it was agreed that the website should be released to the public in two weeks or so.

9.0 Village Hall Management Report.

Chairman of the Committee gave his report which included that the new lighting for the exterior of the Village Hall would be starting on Friday next. The connection to the main sewer was progressing and paperwork had been submitted to Anglia Water. The new electric hand driers were now working. The revised draft of the Village Hall Constitution had now been finished and had been circulated to all Councillors. It is hoped that it will be ratified at the AGM on 15th May. The minutes of Management meetings will be posted on the notice boards.

The meeting was now opened to the public.

10.0 Comments from the Public

A member of the public asked if a short clip of video of last years Morris dancing could be shown on the Website. Councillor Strudwick said that this was possible.

Another enquiry was made as to when the grass cutting of the Village verges would be starting as the grass was now getting very long. The Chairman said that as our grass cutting allowance had been reduced, there would only be four cuts this year. However an early May cut could be made.

The meeting recommenced.

11.0 Any Other Business

Councillor Peyton mentioned that the ivy on the tree by the recreation ground needs attention. She also suggested that dog walkers could take a plastic bag with them and pick up any small items of litter that they might find. The recent litter pick had been very successful as several black bin bags had been filled. The village looks better for it. Under **Neighbourhood Watch** she mentioned that two men had been seen in Bridge Street offering cheap tarmac paths and drives and were later seen in Meldreth Road offering double glazing. Their vehicle registration had been noted. There has been a 'break-in' in Church Street and several items were taken. If parishioners see anything or anyone, acting suspiciously, they should not hesitate to contact the police.

Councillor Byatt stated that a group discussion had taken place relating to the first formal part of the Clerk's Certificate of Achievement. The next meeting will take place on May 16th.

Councillor Milton stated that he was glad that the Clerk was now on electronic mail.

Chairman Webb stated that the village sign has been inspected and the deficiencies will be corrected.

Mr Pinner and Mr O'Conner have been informed of the intention to put bollards in front of the village hall to which they have no objection. The Chairman will look to purchase the bollards which will be stored until needed.

District Councillor McGraith now arrived at the meeting and was asked about parking at Ridgeway Close but had no more information to give, but agreed that more parking space was needed.

The date of the next meeting is 15th May 2005 at 7.00pm in the village hall, to be followed by the Annual General Meeting at 8.00pm.

The meeting was closed at 9.00pm.