

NEWBOLD PACEY AND ASHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 7th May 2014

PRESENT: Councillors: S Bolton (Chair), J Cooper, A Marshall
M Boardman, F Kishor
District Councillors: R Wright
County Councillor: D Kendall
Clerk : P Routly
and 6 members of the public

1. Apologies for absences

Cllr Johnston and Cllr Pate.

2. Approval of minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 1st May 2013 were unanimously accepted as a true record of proceedings.

3. Chairman's report

The Chairman circulated the following report :-

This is now my seventh report to you as your Chairman. Your council have had various issues to deal with over the last 12 months; I will try and outline these in the following summaries.

Planning applications.

Usually the majority of work of your council's time has been centred around the issues to do with planning applications, this means we try to make a valued response on your behalf to planning applications. We had (17) this year as apposed to (14) the year before, which is about the normal level of previous years. Some of the applications are very straight forward and easy to deal with, others are much more complex and time consuming. They also can affect our communities in so many ways now and in the future, so it is very important to be vigilant.

The Flint Hall developments have been and still are of great concern to your councillors, this year (5) of the (17) were to do with the 'Flint Hall' alone. We your Councillors have been very consistent on all matters concerning Flint Hall, but I and the rest of the Councillors feel others have not, hence the continuing problems.

Flooding.

This is an issue that is of great concern to many of the villagers. Just to give you a brief discretion of what have happened since this time last year: -

There are (2) main areas where the flooding occurs, the area around 'The Green' and outside the entrance to 'Crabtree' allotments. I believe the silt is still laying in the bottom of the pipework and goes hard, which means it is blocking off part of the drains pipework and why it is still causing a problem.

To help resolve this problem it was suggested to Mr William Carroll (owner of most of 'Crabtree' allotments), to dig a trench at the top of the field (under the Goss) to act as a bund (filter), this has been done and I believe does help the situation, but does not resolve it.

The Clerk, Councillor Wright and myself tried to obtain suggested plans of how to get over these problems from land drainage companies with out a great deal of success. I did however manage to obtain some ideas and an estimated price from 'Farm Services' of approximately £17,000 in November, which is way out of our parish council's league. Having thought long and hard how we can progress this forward I decided to write to our County Councillor Danny Kendall, he agreed to setting up a meeting with Michael Green the Floods Officer for the County Council, Paul Rimen the Drainage Engineer, Flood Risk & Water Management Officer for the County Council, Patch Bryne the Locality Officer,(South Team) for the County Council, District Councillor David Johnston and myself on the 2nd April at 4.0pm. The reason for the lateness of the meeting was that the clocks had changed and at this time it would give us all time to survey the issues. I am afraid the only people present at this meeting was Danny, Paul, David and myself, however Paul has come up with some suggested plans for a way forward and I trust that Councillor Kendall will pursue this further on our behalf.

Bus Stop.

Last year we had been assured by our County Council, that there is to be a new bus stop point (with sign on post) positioned just as you come into Newbold Pacey from Wellesbourne and before the bends and 'White Oaks'. We were told it is likely to be carried out at some point during this last year.

As I am sure you are aware the County Council have said that they have **NO** money to carry out this project this year.

Our District Councillor Roger Wright has offered to supply and lay the paving slabs required for this free of charge, but dependent on the County Council's designated location and approval, which we are still awaiting to date. (Note:- See report back to Clerk on latest developments at this meeting)

Broadband Champion.

Our parishes 'Broadband Champion is Garry Such of 'Hinton Cottage, Ashorne, he has agreed to take on this roll of co-ordinating issues on this project.

**(This Project is still ongoing and for further details contact:-
garry@gmsarchitecture.co.uk)**

Welcome Packs.

The village welcome packs are handed out to new residents to our communities, to which I would like to thank Councillor Judy Cooper and the "Welcome Pack Committee" for their work over the last year, in distributing the pack to all new residents within our parish council's area.

This last year your Parish Council have paid for the printing new updated copies of the 'Welcome Packs' which also include a copy of the 'Walks around Wellesbourne and surrounding villages' guide.

We also have put the welcome pack online on Our Parish Council website.

Footpaths in our Parish

As I am sure you all know, I helped in the setting up of a small footpath working party of (7) people some (5) years ago. We as a group have designated paths to look after, then in addition to this we from time to time during the last twelve months have cleared badly

overgrown paths of brambles, nettles etc (Like Bridleway SD326 from Woozeley Bridge to Southam Lane and the footpath above the 'Holloway').

We have also been able to obtain and install (4) new metal and (1) wooden kissing gates on various footpaths in our parish boundary, also installed several yellow topped posts and way markers.

If there is anyone else in our communities that would like to take part in helping look after our footpaths and bridleways. Please do contact me for further information.

Lastly I and the rest of your Parish Councillors would like to thank all of the helpers with this project for their hard work and help in preserving our communities.

Grants.

There were annual grants given to the following establishments: - Ashorne Village Hall and Newbold Pacey Churchyard.

Also we have secured a £2,000 grant for work on flood prevention works.

Other issues.

There have been various very important issues that have and are being discussed at Parish, District and County level that will affect us all in the future. These are: -

The draft core strategy (Which I believe our District Councillors will update us on this evening), the official naming of the close to 'Hilary Close' (this is ongoing and is likely to be erected in the forthcoming weeks), Neighbourhood plan, and District designated traveller sites.

Councillor Roger Wright.

Roger has decided to stand down as one of our District Councillors at the forthcoming election on 22nd May.

Roger has served our communities for a number of years (I believe it is for the last 22 years). He has always given very constructive help and guidance to this Council over many matters, especially planning issues, which I and this council are extremely grateful for and we will very much miss this input in the future.

I on behalf of you all would like to thank Roger for his help and wish him and his wife Pat an enjoyable retirement.

I would like to thank all my fellow councillors, parish, district and county for their support and help during the last 12 months.

Lastly I am sure my fellow councillors would like to thank Pam (our clerk) and her husband Steve for all their help and support they have given this Council during the last year.

Cllr's approved the report unanimously. Cllr Bolton invited a response and took questions.

Cllr Kishor stated that the dog fouling and parking issues had been admitted form Cllr Boltons report..

4. Finance

i. Presentation of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014

The Clerk made the following report:

The balance carried forward from last year was £7169

Total receipts for the year including £10028 including donations for the Walking Guide amounting to £3400.

Total payments for the year amounted to £7657, including £2470 for the footpath maps, resulting in an excess of receipts over of payments of £2371.

The end of year reserves amount to a total of £9540 with £3660 allocated to the general fund, £1200 to the election fund, £750 to the clock fund, £930 to the walking guide (which was unspent) and £3000 to the future project fund.

The accounts will be subject to internal and external audit in the coming weeks.

I will request the accounts are approved and the Statement of Accounts is signed in the main Parish Council Meeting.

5. Village Hall Committee Report

Chris Thornton made the following report:-

In 2013 the “new village hall,” which was built partly with a grant from the Parish Council, reached its 30th birthday .

During the last year the 10 members of the committee have been raising funds for the upkeep and refurbishment of the 30 year old building and devising and running activities for the community. We are delighted to have recruited two new members to aid these endeavours

We have held 9 committee meetings, 3 walks followed by lunch, a musical “Winter Warmer “evening, garden and car park working parties, a 30th birthday tea party, a ghost hunt on Halloween, an Easter egg hunt, sausage and cider evening and a village New year breakfast and there have been 20 whist drives

We have instituted a monthly Wednesday coffee morning and a monthly Monday lunch both of which are open to all.

The hall was used on 152 occasions in 2013 which is 20 more than in 2012. We are lucky to have regular bookings from The Parish Council (7) Table Tennis club (43) which now involves some members from the Wellesbourne Club who come to practise, the WI (13) which includes 2 bookings for the County quiz and the PCC (2) The Cricket Club have done a number of car washes and a delicious bacon roll breakfast. In addition we are a polling centre and receive income for no effort whenever there is an election. During the year there have been 37 private bookings for activities as diverse as flower arranging, training for Bowen practitioners, Afghan hounds society AGM, funeral teas, milestone birthday parties and for ramblers to use our car park and toilets. Our chairs, tables and plates have been lent for the village fete, teas at garden opening, private family parties and to the new landlord at the pub for the village Christmas lunch.

Sadly during the year the Fairtrade coffee mornings on the first Saturday of the month ceased to be held as a result of falling attendance.

Apart from regular outgoings some of our income has provided a non-slip surface on the kitchen floor which is a vast improvement when we are catering and new mugs which have been very well received. The regular monthly cleaning visit has kept the hall looking spick and span.

Outside, the roses purchased to commemorate the Queen's jubilee with money from the now defunct Horticultural Society have continued to grow and flower and we have replaced the fascia boards and are replacing the ridge tiles and the main fire door in the hall

At the 30th birthday party of the hut last October we asked for ideas for refurbishment of the building and events and activities which people would like to see taking place in the village. We have taken forward two of the suggestions already with the monthly lunch on the first Monday in the month and pilates classes on Monday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Further suggestions are currently under consideration.

A subcommittee of the Management Committee is considering the suggestions for refurbishment and the "wish list" and the results of their deliberations will inform our planning and fund-raising

The year 2014 brings to mind the events of 100 years ago and the commemorations which will be taking place throughout Europe of the legacy of The Great War. We have planted poppies along the front of the hall. But poppies are ephemeral.

A memory of the Great war for us in Ashorne was the "old" hut which came to us in May 1920 having seen service during that war and given to the village by Mrs Bouch .

We are aiming, with the help of income from bookings, fundraising and the grant from the Parish Council, to have a refurbished, successful village hall as a lasting legacy.

6. PCC report

Pricilla Cook made a short report stating that donation for the upkeep of the churchyard was much appreciated. Due to the sad loss of Mr Tarver new arrangements had to be made for its up keep. In terms of the overall Church the finances were not in good shape, and there was a possibility that within the next decade the church may have to close, which would mean the churchyard up keep would pass to the Parish Council.

7. County Councillor's report

Clr Kendall stated at County level more budget cuts were having to be made, but did not think there would be a significant local impact . The Fire and Rescue services were consulting on budget cuts, but there would not be an impact on Wellesbourne. There would be £2.5m investment on safer routes to school.

8. District Councillor's report

Cllr Johnston could not attend but file the following report:-

Core Strategy delays

As reported in the press the District Council Cabinet has decided to recommend that the site at Gaydon / Lighthorne Heath to be adopted by the Council at a Special Meeting on Monday. I think that this gives no benefit to this area. I believe traffic problems will become worse as our roads are used by commuters still, and no commitment to improve the buildings at Kinton School have been made. I believe that the proposal for Long Marston which includes a Western Relief Road for Stratford would have provided some relief to the traffic generated from South Stratford avoiding the Clopton Bridge.

Walking Guide

The Guide has been distributed within the whole area and to many local businesses. I have very few left and will need more to top up businesses before the May Bank Holiday. 40 copies of the unfolded guides have been laminated by Cadman Printers, and are ready to collect. I have asked for an invoice to be prepared. The quotation for 25 copies was for £32 plus VAT. After discussion with Cllr Bolton it was agreed that 40 copies were required. I am expecting an invoice for around £51.20 plus VAT. I would be grateful if the Council would give authority for this invoice to be paid.

Interest has been expressed in producing a cycling guide. I am bringing together a different group in July to take this forward.

Cllr Wright gave an update on the Core Strategy, stating the whole council meeting was next Monday but the cabinet was favouring Gaydon-Lighthorne. He said there may be a high court challenge on the process in particular from FORSE. The number of council members elected next year in all out elections would reduce from 56 to 33. There would only be one for Newbold Pacey and Ashorne , but he hoped both Wellesbourne ward members would co-operate. Finally he stated this was his last meeting as District Cllr as he was standing down, he said it was an extreme privilege to represent a Parish he had been brought up in.

The parish council all thank Roger for his advice , hard work and support over the last 22 years and made a small presentation of a gift and card from Council members and the Clerk.

9. Matters of interest

None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council immediately followed this meeting.