

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs V. Hartley, Clerk to the Council,
Beech House, 17 Dean's Row,
Gayton, Northampton NN7 3HA

tel[01604 858360] email:blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com

Minutes of the Meeting 4th March 2013

Held in the upstairs room of Blisworth Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr Mrs P Masterman
Cllr Mr C Jeffery
Cllr Mrs J Hawkins
Cllr Mr D Dalton
Cllr Mrs K Gray
Cllr Mrs D Burgoyne
Cllr Mr S Billing
Cllr Mrs M Field

Chairman
Vice - Chairman

Cllr Mr S Clarke

SNC Cllr

7 members of the public

158. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – THE FOLLOWING APOLOGIES WERE RECEIVED AND APPROVED :

Cllr Mr T Bartlett, Cllr Mr C Gardner

159. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – members were asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have had in any items under consideration at this meeting. None was declared.

160. RESOLUTION TO SIGN & APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING DATED 4th February 2013 and 11th February 2013

- that the minutes were approved was proposed by Cllr Hawkins and seconded by Cllr Billing.

161. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES - none

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162. MATTERS ARISING – not covered by agenda

- I. Flooding of Towcester Road – update – Cllr Field reported that as promised NCC Highways had carried out the work of putting in two new drains and altering the camber. She was fairly confident that the work was sufficient to alleviate the problem although it was pointed out that the rain had eased up recently.

163. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

SNC Cllr Clarke reported:

- 0% increase in Council Tax by SNC
- Planning issues reported in Planning section of minutes

164. PLANNING

- Village Confines – discussion over boundary – Cllr Jeffery had requested an A3 size plan showing the Village Confines but there is a mapping license required before it can be issued. He will pursue this further and keep the item on the agenda.
- Cllr Jeffery reported that Cllr McKeown has offered to join the planning sub-group. There were no objections to this from other councillors
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i) Applications since previous meeting for circulation:

S/2013/0076/FUL – Demolish existing garage and erect new detached single garage, 5 Towcester Road – the plans for this application were circulated and the PC had no objections to it. **Clerk** to send comments to SNC.

S/2013/0208 – 28 Stoke Road – to replace 2 storey extension with a 1 and 2 storey extension and re-thatch – plans still not received by Clerk.

ii) Recent Applications:**a) S/2013/0016/FUL**

Erection of 2 dwellings and detached garages (Plot 1 to be retained in occupation for benefit of adjacent vineyard/agricultural activities)
Painters Cottage, Stoke Road – refused. Cllr Clarke reported that it was regarded as unwarranted development outside village confines, no justification for agricultural dwelling and it contravened Planning Policy Framework. Also there was no ecological assessment carried out.

b) S/2012/1057/FUL / – land adjacent to Willow House, Towcester Road, Blisworth – detached dwelling with single garage – pending.**c) S/2009/1143/FUL – at land next to Willow House – pending, see last meeting held on 11.2.13 for details on response by PC**

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Cllr Clarke reported that when the planning application was submitted in 2009 the plans included the replacement garage for Willow House. When the decision notice was filed after approval this included the replacement garage, however the actual approved plans excluded it and this is what the PC correctly reviewed at the meeting on 11th Feb. The replacement garage has now been removed from the original approval notice and from the current application for a time extension.

- d) S/2012/1536/EXT – extension to time limit on S/2009/0961/OUT Residential development for 27 houses and estate Road and associated works (outline). Location : Land at Chapel Lane Farm, Chapel Lane, Blisworth.
Cllr Clarke reported that the SNC Monitoring Officer had recently visited the site had found there had been some activity but not necessarily demonstrating the commencement of development.
- e) S/2012/7020 – this application for retrospective caravan storage lost its appeal on 21st January. The Chairman had reported that there are still several caravans on the site. She asked Cllr Clarke whether she could assume that once they are moved at the start of the on-coming season they will not be allowed back again? His response was that as the appeal was lost there should no longer be any caravans present so enforcement action may result.

165. LOCAL MATTERS

- i) Footpaths – It was reported that RD3 had recently been ploughed and was impassable. This had been reported to Rights of Way – Alan Wrigby who would allow a few more days for re-instatement by the farmer.
- ii) Lighting – report of any street lights in need of attention – PL 36 has been reported.
The Clerk reported that she had forwarded the complaint from a villager concerning the absence/removal of the street light at the bottom of Buttmead and the corner of Stoke Road. No response to this had been forthcoming so she had contacted E-on. Frustratingly E-on stated that they were awaiting a request for a replacement light, at a cost of between £400 and £800. (normal procedure is that a quote is submitted for the PC). It was agreed that as soon as a quotation is submitted by E-on the Clerk will ask for immediate action by E-on to replace it.
- iii) Play Area –
- Update on Lottery Grant Application and play park fencing , Safety Inspection report. Cllr Dalton reported that the grant for £4472 had come through and would be in the bank on 8.3.13. The cost of the fence is £4472 ex VAT. It was agreed that a cheque should be raised tonight for a deposit of £536.70 (10%) payable to Colourfence. Cllr Dalton will liaise with the company.
 - Wicksteed Leisure had carried out the inspection of the play area and submitted a report. There were no high risk issues raised, but

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there was some medium risk which included erosion of the ground surface under the spinning objects and painting of the slide for a total cost of £1240 ex VAT.

- After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk request that this work should be carried out.

- iv) Traffic Issues – update from walkabout with NCC, Helen Howard, Cllr Masterman and Cllr Jeffery, the following had been confirmed by Helen Howard:

I have spoken to our engineers about the camber of the footway at the bottom of the Stoke Rd and it is very difficult to resolve this issue without creating other problems. We cannot excavate close to the adjacent property as this may undermine any foundations (if there are any!) and if we build it up then the drop kerb will be even steeper making the situation worse.

Some patching works was carried out on the Gayton Road up to the Mill in December, there are no other works planned at present but should you identify any pot holes please do report them through to Street Doctor.

I believe work has been carried out on the drainage on Northampton Road this week, repairing a blocked pipe and installing extra gullies near the canal on the Towcester Road.

I have spoken with colleagues who are involved with rights of way and they have confirmed that if a footway is created on Courteenhall Estates land then this will not revert to a formal right of way as it will be a permissive route where consent has been given by the land owner for people to use it. If you want more information about this then please feel free to contact Anne Holton 01604 364346.

I can confirm that the direction sign for the junction has been ordered and maintenance area aware that they need not replace the old one which has been knocked down. Unfortunately the pedestrians in carriageway warning sign will be ordered in April.

I have spoken with Jim our Parking Officer and he is going to consider double yellow lines at the junction of Greenside with Stoke Road and on the bend by the school as part of his current review.

These issues were discussed and there were two points raised: that yellow lines at the junction of Greenside/Stoke Road may cause more problems than they solve. A request was made some time ago to have bollards installed.

The camber of the footpath at the Stoke Road/High Street junction is adjoining a boundary wall and not the actual house wall so would it be possible to do some exploratory work to see if it is possible to lower the footpath?

The **Chairman** will make contact with Helen Howard with these comments so these issues could this be looked at again? Helen Howard and David Allen SNC Transport Officer have been invited to the Annual Assembly. Helen Howard has accepted the invitation and will be available to answer questions for a short time. David Allen has passed the invitation to work colleagues.

- v) Parish Plan Progress

Beryl Andrews read the following to the meeting: (this is a summary)

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Cllr Clarke and David Allen, Transport Officer for SNC had attended the last meeting and arrangements are proceeding and finance is in place for signs at the entrances to the village of 'Northamptonshire Best Village 2012'. The contractors for the Chapel Hill development will be asked to fund the sign on the Gayton Road.

A sub-group has been formed to progress the Information Board for the Old Churchyard. It will include a 3 D plan of the site, showing the main features, graves and its history. The wildlife areas will be identified together with lists of plants and birds seen with some illustrations.

Following the Wildlife in Churchyards Award given to Blisworth last year for our churchyards being hospitable to wildlife, there is an abundance of snowdrops following the division of bulbs in the green. Jubilee saplings from the Woodland Trust have been over-wintered in the Wakelins farm and some have been planted in the churchyards to form two hedgerows consisting of hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel and some Rowans have been potted for future use. The rest of the saplings are to be planted tomorrow. The scouts have made some lovely bird boxes. Thank you to all the helpers and volunteers.

vi) Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – volunteers needed

Cllr Burgoyne suggested that some direct requests were made for volunteers to re-instate the scheme. Each councillor will try to come up with suggestions.

A 'Meet the Commissioner' event is being held in the Grosvenor Centre on 16th March which Cllr Burgoyne will try to attend.

vii) Village sign project

The Chairman reported that the WI were concerned that proposals for it are being abandoned and there had been specific donations made towards it. It was agreed that decisions must be made about fund raising groups, possibly voting on a website and suggestions could be made at the Annual Assembly. Cllr Hawkins suggested using the existing Heritage Interpretation board plinths for the sign to reduce the cost and offered to do a design. One design has previously been suggested by another village artist.

viii) Formation of an 'Inspection Record' (similar to Bugbrooke PC) to aid with upkeep of PC street furniture etc – the Bugbrooke document was circulated for comments.

166. COMMUNICATIONS

A) Correspondence – outgoing and ingoing

Out:

- i) Owner of 19 Courteenhall Road - re overhanging conifers –the Clerk reported that she had spoken to the owner further to her receipt of the correspondence. The owner had said she would put her opinion in writing and come to this meeting but neither had transpired. **Clerk** to write again asking for proof of ownership and point out that there is a duty of care towards pedestrians in the vicinity of the hedge.
- ii) NCC - Request for grit bin in Church Lane (email). A request was made for a further bin in Courteenhall Road at the entrance to RD2. There had been one at this site about 4 years ago. **Clerk** to action.

In:

- iii) NCALC Update
- iv) SNC – Parish Council Newsletter

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- v) Community Speed Watch – the charge of £450 for training has been removed but it was still felt to be a lot of effort with little evidence of a reduction in speed.
- vi) Care and Repair – helping people to remain independent in their homes – Cllr Gray will read this and hand it over to Jane Percival for C&E.
- vii) NCALC – Going Green – making the most out of community buildings – events to be held 19.3.13. at Litchborough 11am – 1pm – this was given to the Village Hall Committee
- viii) SNC – successful bid to improve air quality - £100,000 to be spent in Towcester.
- ix) Community Enhancement Gangs
- x) Duty of Care controlled waste transfer note (kept on file) signed and returned to AH Contracts – also information on contract for emptying dog bins (£3.97per 5 bins once a week).
- Pond Bank by the steps going over the graveyard wall
 - Stoke Road by the entrance to the allotments
 - Courteenhall Road in the hedge opposite Windmill Ave and Connegar Leys
 - Playing Field by the football club car park
 - By Eastfield Play Park.
- xi) Email from Helen Howard further to walkabout on 15th Feb – see Traffic Issues above
- xii) Street Lights – requesting repair/replacement of street light at corner of Buttmead and Stoke Road – see Street Lights item above

B) Discussion over formation of PC ‘Facebook’ page – Cllr McKeown had raised this item and felt it would be a good way to engage and communicate the young people in the village. It would be a means of voting for different issues. She would be willing to run the site and would not put anything on which had not had prior agreement with the PC. On this basis the Parish Council thought it would be a good idea and it was agreed that Cllr McKeown go ahead with the arrangement.

167. FINANCE

Payments – for approval

Name	Details	Amount £	VAT	Total	Chq
Nand P Garden Services	Maintenance	469.00	93.80	562.80	2122
V Hartley	Salary for Jan	318.40	-	318.40	2123
HMRC	Tax for above	79.60	-	79.60	2124
Anglian Water	Allotment water	114.69	-	114.69	2125
E-on	Supplies	722.71	136.61	859.32	2126
AH Contracts	Dog bins	99.25	19.85	119.10	2128
V Hartley	Expenses	197.41		197.41	2129
Spinney Nurseries	Tree guards/canes	32.40	5.40	27.00	2130

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	Colourfence	Deposit for fencing	536.70		536.70	2131
	Shire Lumsden	Printing	90.00		90.00	2132

Monies received : £100 from dna utilities

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS –

- Decision over recommendations from Wicksteed Play area Inspection report – total cost £1240.31 – it was agreed that the repairs should be ordered – **Clerk** to action – see above Play Area item.
- PAYE Arrangements for Clerk in next financial year due to ‘Real Time’ HMRC regulations coming in – update – cost now - £15.00 per month, Clerk had met with Barbara Osborne and she is setting up the arrangements.
- Suggestions for projects to use ‘windfall’ part of the precept request for 2013/14 – Cllr Jeffery reported that the PC is not able to lease the land along Stoke Road from Courteenhall Estates. It was felt important that the windfall be spent on the village as a whole, and not the village sign. Resurfacing of the village hall car park is a possibility. A suggestion box could be used at the Annual Assembly.
- Survey of village priorities regarding donations and fund raising
- The PC discussed whether the **NCALC Auditing service** should be used. The Clerk had ascertained that the PC is not registered with the service at a cost of £175.00 per annum for the current financial year, the advantage being that the external audit may proceed more smoothly. After discussion it was agreed that the PC would use a volunteer from the community.

168. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND COUNCILLORS’ COMMENTS

Cllr Burgoyne asked whether the Clerk had obtained more information from SNC on the Sun Moon and Stars. She had spoken to SNC but as yet there is nothing to report.

Cllr Clarke cannot attend the Annual Meeting and sent his apologies.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT and FUTURE MEETINGS – Change of date for April meeting to 2nd April not 9th as previously arranged.

Another meeting will be fixed in the next couple of weeks for the Chapel Hill development for 27 houses with the developers.

Also finalisation fliers to go out for Annual Parish Assembly

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