

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held in the

VILLAGE HALL

at 7.30 p.m. on

MONDAY 12th. APRIL 2010

Those Present:

Chairman: Mr. C. Gardner
Vice Chairman:
Councillors: Mrs. M. Field; Mr. A. Andrews; Mrs. J. Andrews;
Mr. H. Wilkins; Mr. D. Dalton; M. Hawkins;
Mrs. J. Hawkins;
By invitation: Mr. B. Ingram (NCC); Mr. S. Clarke (SNC);
Gillian Spencer (SNC); Neil Craft (Bromford Housing Group).
Members of the Public: 5
In attendance: Tony Lack, Parish Clerk

Apologies:

Mrs. P. Masterman; Mr. S. Dunk; Mr. A. Hargreaves;
Mrs. Sally Townsend (SNC); Tara Cooksammy (Police);

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The Minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were taken as read, approved by the Council as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising and Carry Forward Items

Affordable Housing – The Chairman introduced Gillian Spencer (SNC) and Neil Craft (Bromford Housing Group) to the meeting who then gave an update on the proposed provision of affordable housing. Mr. Craft outlined the Bromford proposal for an extension to Ladyfield consisting of six dwellings, four flats plus one two bed house and one three bed house, all of which will be for rent. An Architect has been engaged to draw up plans for submission to SNC for Planning Approval programmed for the end of April with a proposed start date in September 2010 and completion in June 2011. The proposed access for site traffic would be along the allotment road. This was questioned by the Parish Council as being too narrow for HGV's and the congestion and health and safety issues it would cause to existing users of the road namely allotment holders, members and guests of the Football Club and parents and children using the MUGA. It was agreed this would be impractical and the site traffic would route through Ladyfield. Mr. Craft also mentioned the intention of including gates to the rear of the dwellings accessing onto the allotment road. Again this was considered undesirable by the Parish Council and Mr. Craft agreed to omit them from the plans.

The Parish Council asked what additional provision is to be made to provide the remaining number of affordable dwellings needed according to the needs survey. Mrs. Spencer replied

saying that additional provision will be made within the development at Chapel Lane details of which have yet to be finalised but would include the 40% (10 or 11) affordable dwellings in accordance with the SNC Interim Housing Policy criteria. The Parish Council pointed out this still left some fourteen dwellings short of the thirty four identified in the needs survey. Mrs Spencer stated that landowners have been identified and would be approached with regard to filling the gap. The question of rents was raised and Mr. Craft and Mrs. Spencer stated the rents are expected to be between £80.00 and £100.00 per week. Mr. Craft agreed to notify the Clerk confirming this.

Neighbourhood Watch – Mr. Andrews reported that Community Speed Watch had started again in High Street and Courteenhall Road. The problem of refuse vehicles travelling through the village had been raised at the Community Panel meeting. Sat Nav's are proving to be a real problem, particularly older versions which are directing vehicles from Junction 15. Connegar Leys is to be a No Cold Call Zone in the near future.

Canal Partnership – A meeting regarding the Canal Festival is to be held in the village hall on Monday, April 26th. Starting at 7.30 pm. The Partnership is applying for funding for the tunnel top towpath. There is to be a Theatre Group visiting the School on June 4th. Details to be advertised. Membership of the Partnership is open for subscription at a cost of £5.00 per person.

Parish Plan – The conclusions from the recent questionnaire are close to being finalised. Over 600 papers were returned representing approx. 75%.

SNC – Register of Electors – Monthly alterations.

SNC Homes – Blisworth Walkabout – Report received from SNC Homes following the walkabout on 24th. March which raised issues of a request for a dropped kerb to 71 Connegar Leys, cleaning of street lighting and a request for a replacement light in Greenaway Close.

NCC – Household Waste Recycling Centre Contract – Changes to the service. The service is to reduce from seven days per week to five in selected areas. Cllr. Ingram to clarify the changes at Towcester Centre.

NCALC – Northamptonshire Councils' Charter – Response! The Parish Council agreed to support the response from the Mid Northants Parishes.

NCC – Meeting re outstanding issues – The Clerk reported on a meeting with Helen Howard from NCC regarding the numerous outstanding issues raised over the past months. Cllr. Mrs. Field attended on behalf of the Parish Council and Cllr. Ingram on behalf of NCC. The replacement and additional grit bins has been passed back to Mr. Grindly (NCC) for him to reconsider.

Mrs. Howard is dealing with the request for road marking to delineate the footpath at RD2. Several minor items have been passed to the Enhancement Gang (see notes below).

The repair, repainting and provision of new direction signs around the village is in hand. The signs have been made and are awaiting installation.

With regard to the request for a safety audit on Stoke Road, Mrs. Howard stated that the NCC do not carry out such audits but are monitoring the problem of the crack in the road on a

weekly basis. With some one million traffic movements per year the Parish Council felt this attitude to be unacceptable.

The Vehicle Activated Sign in Stoke Road has been installed and is awaiting final connection.

The double yellow lines requested for Courteenhall Road is included in the NCC Parking Review and has been given a “green” priority.

The drainage problem at Blisworth Mill (Towcester Road) has now been resolved.

Station Road has been partially resurfaced and many pot holes repaired. Some still a problem particularly at the bridge. Parking at the bridge (fishermen) is destabilising the verges. The requested reinstallation of the footpath from the junction with Northampton Road to the Hotel was discussed and Mrs. Howard felt the road was not wide enough to take a 1.8m footpath. There is no money within the budget to cover this. The requested “Blisworth Arm” sign at the Northampton Road junction (requested following the problem of an Ambulance getting lost on route to the Marina) is to be considered.

Footpath resurfacing – no money.

“Blisworth” village sign – Mrs. Howard to check.

“No Cycling” signs on the footpath between Eastfield and Home Close – It was confirmed by Mr. Andrews that these are existing but need repainting Clerk to report this to Mrs. Howard.

The removal of graffiti on the A43 bridge is the responsibility of the Highways Agency – Cllr. Clarke to provide details to the Clerk.

NCC Parish Enhancement Gang – The Enhancement Gangs will commence operating from early May. The Clerk was asked to request the following works for Blisworth:

Sign cleaning and repainting.

Siding out of footpaths.

Clearing of vegetation.

Resetting of slabs and block paving.

Cleaning and repainting/staining of parish benches.

Sun, Moon and Stars – Mrs. Burgoyne reported via email that SNC will decide on Monday, 19th. April to put the building up for sale. The trust is very disappointed that after all the hard work they have been unable to retain community access and establish all the facilities shown to be wanted by the recent village survey. Mrs. Field commented that Mrs. Burgoyne had put a lot of faith in the Towcester Partnership who did not put together a convincing financial package. The Towcester Partnership is now in liquidation and there is nothing to show for the £65,000.00 grant from SNC for the work undertaken. Mrs. Burgoyne was not informed of the liquidation and is understandably very upset by this turn of events. It is hoped that a developer can be found who is sympathetic to the needs of the village and will put the works in hand at the earliest opportunity.

Royal Oak – An email from Jim Payler was read to the meeting regarding the closure of the Royal Oak. The Parish Council, whilst sympathetic to the problem, felt it was a matter for the Brewery.

Chairman’s Items:

The Chairman reported that the street light outside 96 Connegar Leys was not working. He asked the Clerk to arrange for grasscutting to be carried out as soon as possible.

Correspondence:

NCC – Parish Path & Tree Wardens Newsletter.

Energy Saving Trust – Newsletter.

NCC – Local Councils’ Conference – 16th. June 2010 4.30pm to 8.30pm at Empress Stand, Towcester Racecourse.

Northants 50+ Network – Newsletter and details of “Summer Mystery Tour” & Spalding Flower Parade and Festival.

NCC – Play Rangers to visit Primary School on Thursday 15th. April.

NCC – Pocketeer newsletter.

SNVB – Newsletter.

Northamptonshire Acre – Best Village Competition 2010.

NCC - “*You Choose*” – Information Leaflet.

NCC - “*Reduce Waste*” – Information Leaflet.

Northants ACRE – Village Viewpoint Magazine.

Planning:

Notice of Decision:

36 High Street – single storey and first floor extensions – GRANTED.

2 Tunnel Hill Mews, Knock Lane – loft conversion and alterations to first floor – GRANTED.

Canal Cottage, High Street – Detached dwelling – REFUSED.

Willow House, Towcester Road – new two storey dwelling – GRANTED.

11 Courteenhall Road – replacement windows – GRANTED.

Blisworth Playing Field – replacement community hall – GRANTED.

Applications:

S/2010/0277/LDE – Arm Farm, Blisworth Arm – Certificate of lawful development for the occupation of the farm by a person not engaged in full time agricultural employment – FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

S/2010/0260/FUL – Land adjacent to towpath of Grand Union Canal – Installation of bench. No observations.

S/2010/0238/FUL – 18 Eastfield – two storey side and rear extensions and single storey extension to front. Mr. & Mrs. Andrews, being an immediate neighbour, declared an interest and took no part in the discussion. No observations.

S/2010/0222/FUL – 22 & 24 Northampton Road – Divide existing dwelling to create an additional dwelling. Two storey side extension to no. 22. No observations.

Amended Plans:

None

Appeals:

none

Opportunity to attend Planning/Development Control Committee:

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Tree Preservation Orders:

none

Enforcement Notices:

none

Finance:

BDO - Audit for 2009/2010 – Audit date set for 28th. May 20-10.

Presentation of Accounts for year ending 31st. March 2010. - The Clerk presented the Account for the year ending 31st. March 2010 and gave a brief appraisal of the financial transactions for the year. Notice for the exercise of electors’ rights is displayed on Notice Board for the period 12th. April 2010 to 25th. April 2010. Records to be made available for those electors’ wishing to view from 26th. April 2010 to 24th. May 2010. (A copy of the Balance Sheet is appended to these minutes.)

That the Account for the year ending 31st. March 2010 be approved and accepted.

Proposed: Mr. Hawkins

Seconded: Mrs. Field

Agreed.

Governance and Accountability for Local Councils – Compliance with regulations. The Clerk has obtained a copy of the guide and will report any items of importance and interest at a future meeting.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Receipts</u>				
Blisworth Football Club	Rent of Allotment Ground	150.00		150.00
Hodgson	Allotment Rent	5.50		5.50
<u>Total</u>				

Payments

Clerk	Salary (Jan & Feb)	398.00		398.00
	Expenses	21.20		21.20
NCALC	Membership Fee	326.64		326.64
EON	Street Lighting Maint.	215.67	37.74	253.41

Blis. VH&PF Assoc.	Hire of hall (Neighbourhood Watch)	21.00		21.00
JS Landscapes	Mowing of Eastfield	50.00		50.00
AON	PC Insurance premium	1582.55		1582.55
EON	Street Lighting Energy	678.19	118.68	796.87
Total				

That the above accounts be accepted and approved for payment:

Proposed: **Mr. Andrews**
Seconded: **Mrs. Andrews**
Agreed.

Committee Reports

none

Any Other Business:

Mr. Hawkins asked how the number of affordable houses (34) shown by the needs survey as being required would be met. So far a disappointing 6 houses are proposed plus a potential 10/11 at the Chapel Lane development leaving some 17 additional houses to be built. Cllr. Clarke stated that an “exception site” development could give the number required.

The Clerk was asked to look into the provision of additional play equipment at Eastfield ready for discussion at the next meeting.

Website – Clerk to obtain approximate costs and find what other Parish Councils’ are doing.

Date of Next Meeting & AGM : MONDAY 10th. MAY 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.29 p.m.

Open Forum:

Mr. Marsh pointed out that the Chapel Lane development was not specified for affordable housing and asked if additional properties would be needed to accommodate the number required to meet the SNC interim housing policy.

It was reported that the Towcester Recycling Centre will reduce its opening period from seven days to five and no sale of items will be made from the site. This will undoubtedly encourage fly tipping.

Meeting closed at 8.54 p.m.

Signed: Chairman:

Responsible Officer:

Date: