

Whatton in the Vale Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday March 27, 2018, at the Jubilee Hall, Whatton in the Vale at 7.30pm

Coun. Chris Grocock (Chairman)
Ray Evans Chris Edwardson
Jane Morris Julia Faulconbridge Gregg Redford

Also present Mike Elliott, and one resident..

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, There were none

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were none

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 27 2018 were accepted as circulated and signed by the chairman

4 OPEN SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, LIMITED TO 15 MINUTES

A question was asked on the Neighbourhood Plan and the chairman said it had been agreed to make one last attempt to test the interest there is in scheme going ahead. The question of a tree for long serving former councillor Mr John Prow on The Green was confirmed and local resident Gwynne Owen would order it. The question of the condition of the fence along part of The Green was raised.

5. CLERK'S REPORT

Litter pick was agreed for April 14 following the previous postponement due to bad weather. Coun. Edwardson would make the arrangements and produce notices for the 10-30am start at the Railway Station. Progress was being made on the next issue of the newsletter.. The current Asset list of the council had been circulated by the clerk. Coun. Evans queried the number of notice boards, saying it was more than the two listed.

6. REPORT FROM THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER

Coun. Francis Purdue-Horan said the County Council were producing a work plan for highway repairs but its contents were not yet confirmed.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Chris Edwardson commented on the poor state of many of the parish highways and produced photograph of some of the worst parts, with many pot holes. His comments were going to the County Highways.

Notts NALC Planning seminar, June 20 at Shelford. Ray Evans had been booked on it. Notts County Council highways advised that Beverleys Avenue was proposed for the planned work programme in the future.

The clerk was to write to Rushcliffe Borough Council tree officer regarding trees that had been removed from the Cherry Trees property on Old Grantham Road. Coun. Faulconbridge provided several photos of grass verges etc, showing how they have been severely damaged by vehicles running on them.

8. PLAYING FIELD

Coun. Grocock spoke of the issue relating to whether or not the S106 contribution to be received from the Abbey Lane housing development can be spent on play equipment located on the Sports Field or whether it has to be spent specifically on the Pavilion and Sporting infrastructure. They would be taking steps to confirm this with Rushcliffe Borough Council planning officer.

He advised the council that the Trustees had agreed for the Pavilion project to proceed and work up which of the proposed designs is most feasible based on the funding options available under advice from pro-bono consultant (Roger Betts of ICS based in Edwinstowe) who will now be requested to deliver this.

10. FOOTPATHS

A written report by Coun. Redford had been circulated and was discussed by members.

11. FINANCE

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT were approved as per the circulated list.
APPOINTMENT OF DAVID DIXON AS INTERNAL AUDITOR had been confirmed
DATA PROTECTION

The council agreed to set a retention policy for keeping papers emails etc of five years. Papers etc over that date would be read by the clerk and any that it was felt needed to be kept would be filed again and then the reason for it being retained recorded.

Confirmation needs to be given for the appointment of Data Protection Officer, Adrian Fretwell of Sibthorpe who had quoted £150 a year. The appointment was approved.

The clerk advised the council it will be impossible to carry out the necessary work on Data Protection within the current payment to him and when work is completed an account would have to be submitted.

12. ENVIRONMENT

The question of highways had been discussed earlier in the meeting,

13. QUEEN'S WOOD

Coun. Faulconbridge agreed to undertake a wildlife survey and was thanked for her offer,

14. NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN AND PLANNING

The meeting expressed deep concern in respect in the approval of the planning application for Orston Lane (Reference: 17/02703/OUT). Members felt that the approval was entirely contrary to the Local Plan and Rushcliffes' Spatial Strategy and was a perverse decision.

The debate also explored other areas of concern in relation to planning matters which arose from the Orston Lane Planning Application.

Firstly, it was felt that the publication of the Committee Report (typically at the same time as the Planning Committee Agenda is produced) provided insufficient time for Parish Councils to examine, form a response and for the Parish Council to meet to resolve the response and authorise one of its number to present the response at the Boroughs' Planning Committee Meeting. Ten days was the minimum time required for the Parish Council to meet its obligations and to formulate an adequate and informed response.

Secondly, the meeting was concerned that Pre-application advice was not published. Members were informed that some authorities do publish Pre-application advice alongside the Application documents. The Council was informed that in 2016 Camden Council resolved to publish Pre-application advice in full and closer to home Charnwood District Council publishes a Pre-application advice report alongside other application documents. The meeting felt that in the interests of transparency and the preservation of the perception of the integrity of the Planning System Pre-application advice should be published, ideally on the Camden Model, but at the very least as a Pre-application Advice report.

It was resolved that a letter be written to Ward Member Maureen Stockwood, requesting that her colleagues consider the following:

1. That the Committee (Planning) Report be published a minimum of 10 days prior to the Boroughs Planning Committee Meeting.
2. That Pre-application advice be published either in full or as a report alongside and at the same time as the Application is published.

15. WW1 COMMEMORATION

The matter was still being progressed. The clerk had spoken to British Gypsum about purchase of the proposed rock. An event was planned for the evening, to include lighting a beacon. It is hoped the church bells will be rung at 7-05 pm as part of a national ringing event and the beacon lit at 7pm. The matter would be an agenda item for the parish meeting.

16. CASUAL VACANCY

The clerk said the vacant position was being advertised.

17. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING , MAY 4, 2018 which will be the annual meeting of the council and the annual parish meeting,.