

# NEWBOLD PACEY AND ASHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 NOVEMBER 2006

**PRESENT: Councillors:** P Cook (Chair), S Bolton, C Butterworth,  
C Thornton, J Cooper, M Griffith  
**District Cllrs:** D Close, R Wright

and 7 members of the public.

Prior to the opening of the meeting Cllr Griffith addressed those present and requested that a level of civility was maintained for the benefit of all.

### **1. Public participation**

Mr Lavercombe raised the question as to whether the recently published Parish Plan replaced the Design Statement. Cllr Griffith stated that no, it was to be read in addition to the Design Statement. Mr Lavercombe queried that, in that case, why the Parish Council had unanimously approved the UPVC windows installed at Holly Cottage when this was clearly against the Design Statement. In addition, Mr Lavercombe pointed out that the Parish Plan made no mention of renewables.

Another resident raised concern over the state of the Village Hall car park. Cllr Cook responded that the query would have to be passed on to the Village Hall Committee as the property did not come under the responsibility of the Parish Council.

### **2. Declaration of Interest**

Cllr Cook declared a prejudicial interest in item 6.a.iii

Cllr Bolton declared a personal interest in item 6.a.i and 6.a.iii

Cllr Butterworth declared a personal interest in item 6.a.i

Cllr Thornton declared a personal interest in item 6.a.iii

### **3. Apologies for absences**

No apologies were received.

### **4. Approval of minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2006 were unanimously accepted as a true record of proceedings.

### **5. Matter arising from previous minutes**

#### **a. Presentation from Mr Pat Reid**

Mr Reid was not present therefore no presentation was made.

Cllr Wright stated that it would be unusual for a director to attend Parish Council meetings but if there were concerns an officer could attend. Cllr Wright suggested that if the Parish Council had such concerns they should firstly detail these in a letter to Mr Reid. Cllr Close suggested that perhaps Mr Reid could be invited to be a speaker at the annual Parish meeting instead.

Cllr Cook informed the Parish Council that District Council were planning to put together a training session for Parish Councillors on planning in the future.

#### **b. The Square**

Cllr Butterworth had obtained accident figures for the junction of the C45 and the C167 from the Road Safety Intelligence Unit at County Council and they detailed nine accidents along the Ashorne Rd in the period between 2002- 2005. It was requested that the Clerk circulate these figures to all Parish Councillors.

*Clerk to circulate*

### **c. Barking Dogs**

This item was removed from the agenda as the dogs in question have now moved

## **6. Planning**

### **a. New Applications**

- i. 06/02631/TREE- Tree works involving 10 trees. Green Acres, Ashorne. No representations sent.
- ii. 06/02900/FUL- Revision of 05/00259/FUL. Bromson Hill Nursing Home, Ashorne.  
Cllrs Thornton and Cook were concerned as to the felling of the Chestnut trees on the plans. Cllr Close stated that the trees formed part of a significant area of trees and that a preservation order should be sought to protect them.  
Cllr Cook stated that the area outlined in blue on the plans were purchased from Bromson Hill Court and as such was agricultural land. It was uncertain whether a change of use application had been lodged.  
Cllr Thornton voiced concerns regarding the adequacy of the current vision splays, particularly given the increased traffic this plan may generate.  
Cllr Griffith raised the issue of the increased pressure which would be placed on the current sewerage system and Cllr Wright seconded this concern.  
*Clerk to submit the above comments to SDC.*
- iii. 06/02832/TREE- T1 Ash- fell. Whiteways, Ashorne. There were no objections to this application and it was agreed to send support for the Forestry Officer's comments.  
*Clerk to submit comments.*

### **b. Decisions out of committee**

None

### **c. District Decisions**

- i. 06/02269/FUL- Proposed 2 storey side and rear extension and conservatory. Crowsticks, Ashorne. Granted. Decision noted.
- ii. 06/02128/FUL- Amendments to dining room and kitchen window treatment. Lean to car port. Meriecot, Ashorne. Granted. Decision noted.

In response to Mr Lavercombe queries raised in item 1 Cllr Cook stated that Holly/ Elm Cottage did not require planning permission. In addition it had previously been established that UPVC windows could be installed in properties regardless of whether they were in a conservation area or not. Therefore this was not something the Parish Council could raise in response to an application as it was not a planning consideration. Cllr Wright added that, unless a building was listed, UPVC windows could not be prevented under a general development order. Mr Lavercombe stated that he believed the Parish Council should be more consistent.

Cllr Cook additionally informed the meeting that a copy of a letter had been received from Stratford District Council in response to a question raised regarding the garden area behind Heather Croft in a previous meeting. The letter, dated 2001, confirmed that the area was within the domestic curtilage of Holly Cottage and therefore would not require a Change of Use.

## **7. Finance**

### **a. Approval of payments**

The Parish Council agreed to following payments:

1.	6/9/06	E Spencer - Expenses	£42.91
2.	1/11/06	Severn Trent- Water services to 11/9/06	£46.86
3.	1/11/06	WCC- The Hut printing	£7.83
4.	1/11/06	WCC- Village Plan printing	£259.00
5.	1/11/06	J Tarver- grasscutting	£60.00

It was also agreed to pay the Clerk's salary for Sept and Oct in accordance with the amount budgeted in the 2005/06 precept.

The Clerk also informed the Parish Council of the following receipts:

1.	E-on- Wayleave	£1.15
2.	SDC- precept- 2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment	£2150.00

### **8. District Councillor's report**

Cllr Wright reported that the Audit Commission had, once again, visited Stratford District Council and now considers them to be much improved.

With regards to planning, there has been a moratorium on new development introduced for the region, other than for affordable housing. However, there is a shortfall of Brown land for redevelopment. The District Council are being challenged in the High Court over this decision.

The first stage of budgetary discussions are underway at District Council and it is clear that there are to be further demands from Central Government to raise more money from Council tax.

There is to be a review of the household waste collections and options being looked at involve fortnightly collections and/or taking the service back into District Council rather than using external contractors.

Cllr Close added that the current refuse service is seen as a 5\* service by other districts and it would be a shame to jeopardise that.

Cllr Close also reported that Stratford District Council, by 2010, is expected to move to a choice based letting system for those on its housing register. This would entail tenants choosing which property they would prefer based on a points system.

### **9. County Councillor's report**

There was no County Cllr present therefore there was no report under this item. Cllr Bolton stated that he felt it was not great service to receive from a County Cllr, whereby meetings are not attended and no apology is tendered.

### **10. Police report**

There were no police officers present therefore there is no report under this item.

Cllr Wright informed the Parish Council that District Commander Chris Ward had left the post and a new DC had replaced him.

Cllr Close informed the Parish Council that both he and Cllr Wright had raised concerns to the CDRP over the level of policing in the area, particularly given that the area was set to increase in size with no additional officers being allowed for.

### **11. Correspondence**

A list of correspondence was produced and dealt with.

Cllr Cook read aloud a letter received from Mrs B Lavercombe of Middle Cottage, Ashorne. Cllr Cook stated that she had contacted WALC with regards to the letter and had been advised to send a copy to them and they would forward it to NALC for a legal opinion. This was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Butterworth, who is mentioned in Mrs Lavercombe's letter with regards to alterations to his property, stated that he disputed all opinions in the letter but would be happy for the Enforcement Department to be contacted to investigate. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

Cllr Wright observed that, as District Council had been mentioned in the letter they should receive a copy of it for their information. Cllr Wright volunteered to contact the Clerk with the names of those at District Council who should receive a copy. This was agreed.

Cllr Close advised the Parish Council to respond as a united body only from this point forward, and for no Parish Councillor to comment individually.

*Cllr Wright to provide names to Clerk. Clerk to send letter to SDC and WALC.*

## **12. Matters of interest**

### **a. The Holloway**

Members of the Parish Council raised concerns about work carried out by Warwickshire County Council on the Holloway footpath. Where it had previously been a walking track and bridleway it was now all one track. This has meant that the ground is being churned up by the horses travelling along it, thus making it unsafe for pedestrians. Cllr Griffith suggested fencing off one side of the path with a post and rail system to prevent this occurring. This was agreed and the Clerk was requested to send a letter to WCC outlining this suggestion.

*Clerk to write to WCC*

### **b. Parish Plan actions**

Cllr Griffith raised the issue of the adoption of the Parish Plan. Cllr Wright suggested the Clerk contact Richard Hood at District Council to ascertain who needed a copy for consideration. Cllr Close informed the Parish Council that the next Area Committee meeting was in January and that if the Parish Council wanted the plan adopted it would have to be presented at this meeting.

Cllr Griffith also requested that all Cllrs study the action plan in the rear of the publication so that a discussion could be held at the next meeting with regards to completion of the actions identified.

*Clerk to contact Richard Hood and send plan to relevant parties at SDC and include the plan on the next agenda.*

Cllr Griffith also answered Mr Lavercombe's query regarding renewables as raised in item 1. He stated that the Parish Plan is not a static entity and can be added to in the future. Cllr Griffith agreed that the issue of renewables was of interest and would be reviewed in the waste section after the adoption was completed.

### **c. Church footpath working party**

Cllr Cook raised the concern regarding the section of footpath which goes over the bridge and past the Cricket pavilion. Cllr Cook stated that Mr Little is to provide gravel to put down but that a working party needed to be arranged to spread it. Cllr Griffith questioned whether the ground needed to be prepared first. Cllr Bolton questioned who was legally responsible if an accident occurred on the footpath and Cllr Cook replied that the landowner was, therefore the Parish Council could only repair the path to the owner's specifications.

A date of the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2006 at 2pm was agreed upon.

### **d. Best Kept Village competition**

Cllr Cook displayed the Gold certificate won by the village in the recent competition. Cllr Thornton volunteered to frame this and place in the committee room.

*Cllr Thornton to arrange framing.*

### **e. Roads**

Cllr Cook informed the Parish Council that the previous Highway Department surveyor had left and was replaced by John Brown. Mr Brown is aware of the state of the roads in the village and from Ashorne to the B4087 and is scheduling them for resurfacing. Additionally Mr Brown has been informed about blocked drains on the Newbold Pacey road.

### **f. Village Hut news**

Cllr Cook stated that a complaint had been received from Mill Farm that the Village Hut news was not being delivered to them. Cllr Cooper volunteered to do this.

**g. Parking on verges**

Cllr Butterworth requested that the issue of parking on the grass verges in the village be added to the next agenda. This was agreed.

*Clerk to add to Jan agenda*

**h. Village garden**

Cllr Griffith informed the Parish Council that he had looked into purchasing fruit trees for the village garden. They were £20 each and he requested that an item be included in the next Village Hut news asking for donations towards the trees. The trees will need to be planted in January. Mr Lavercombe suggested that Cllr Griffith contact John Kendrick as he will be delivering mature trees in the new year.

**13. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting is to be held in the Newbold Pacey and Ashorne Village Hall on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2007 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.