

NEWBOLD PACEY AND ASHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 MARCH 2006

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

and 1 member of the public.

Cllr Cook opened the meeting and welcomed the new Cllrs- J Cooper and C Butterworth.

1. Public participation

There were no items reported.

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Butterworth declared an interest in item 6.a.

3. Apologies for absences

Apologies received from PC Steven Brown

4. Approval of minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th January 2006 were unanimously accepted as a true record of proceedings following the manual amendments of items 12.e,f and g to read Cllr Bolton rather than Cllr Booth.

Similarly, the meeting held on 13th February were unanimously accepted as a true record of proceedings following the manual amendment of item 6.e to read ‘..parish plan had NOT successfully been displayed...’

5. Matter arising from previous minutes

a. Cricket field update

Cllr Cook informed the Parish Council that an update from the Cricket Club had been received that day and included a map showing amendments to the proposed fence line, which had been agreed to by the Cricket Club and that this would form part of the amended licence agreement. The alteration to the fence line involved a straight fence rather than the curved fence line as previously proposed. Cllr Butterworth questioned whether the Darlings had made any commitment as to the dates of when this may happen. Cllr Cook replied that until the lease agreement had been signed, which had not yet been received, nothing would be taken further.

Cllr Cook also informed the Parish Council that several complaints had been received from residents regarding the high board fence that had been erected by the Darlings in between the garden of Ashorne House and the Cricket field. District Cllr Wright replied that as the building is not listed there is not much that can be done about it.

Cllr Bolton referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 4th January, where Cllr Wright had advised the Parish Council that he would request a site visit by a senior enforcement officer to view the signage that had been erected by Mr Darling, and asked for an update. Cllr Wright stated that the meeting would hopefully be taking place within the next week.

Cllr Thornton asked the question as to whether the new lease agreement would be signed in time for the new cricket season. Cllr Cook replied that this would hopefully be the case. Cllr Wright requested an update as to the Village Green application. Cllr Cook replied that the County Council will not make any decision on that until the case at the House of Lords is resolved.

b. Allotments

Cllr Cook advised the Parish Council that the allotment holders had met on Sunday as there was concern that rabbits and perhaps something larger was eating the crops. The suggestion was put forward that the used allotments be fenced with gates at both ends and Cllr Cook requested the Parish Council to consider paying for the fencing in conjunction with the allotment holders. Cllr Griffith advised that the cost would be approximately £250 in total for the fencing materials. Cllr Thornton questioned how many holders were affected. Cllr Griffith replied that six were and it would be the plan to place the fence around the boarder of these allotments. Cllr Butterworth queried whether the cost of the fencing could be added to the rental prices for the year. Cllr Cook replied that this was not possible as the budget has already been set. Cllr Thornton proposed that the Parish Council put £150 towards the cost of the fencing materials and the holders put in the remaining £100. This was seconded by Cllr Cooper and was unanimously agreed. Cllr Griffith agreed to organise the erection of the fencing.

Cllr Cook also raised the point that in the terms and conditions of the contract signed by allotment holders it is stated that a crop must be grown on each allotment within a 12 month period. If this did not happen the holder could be issued with warnings followed by eviction. Cllr Bolton stated that if this was the case he would like to hand in his notice to give up his allotment. This was accepted by Cllr Cook who also stated that all allotment vacancies would be advertised in the next edition of the Village Hut.

c. New Councillors

Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Declaration of Financial Interest forms were handed to the new Cllrs- Cooper and Butterworth. The Acceptance of Office forms were signed during the meeting and the Parish Council agreed to the Clerk collecting the remaining forms in the week after the meeting.

d. State of footpaths

Cllr Macaulay stated that no one had got back to her regarding the Holloway footpath and it was understood that the County Council have an obligation to maintain it.

Cllr Cook informed the Parish Council that she had not as yet spoken to Mrs Little regarding the Church Fields footpath.

Cllr Bolton questioned Cllr Macaulay as to whether she had been able to ascertain who owned the bridge that Mr Darling had put signs on. Cllr Macaulay stated that no one had let her know as yet. Cllr Bolton suggested that a preservation order be placed on the bridge.

Cllr Butterworth informed the Parish Council that the field owned by the College on the Newbold Pacey road is now impassable. Cllr Wright volunteered to take the matter to the Moreton Morrell Parish Council meeting.

e. Hedges on the Newbold Pacey to Moreton Morrell road.

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that Highways had been informed and had requested the land owners details so that a letter could be sent requesting the hedges be cut back. Cllr Cook volunteered to speak to the owners first.

6. Planning

a. New Applications

- i. 06/00259/FUL- Proposed single storey extension to residential care home to form additional bedrooms and assoc day space and parking. Bromson Hill Nursing Home,

Ashorne. Representations to be sent. Cllr Thornton requested that an objection be sent to the felling of the four mature chestnut trees. Cllr Bolton requested an objection be sent regarding the sewerage capacity and Cllr Butterworth requested an objection be sent regarding the relocation of the carpark. These were all unanimously agreed.

- ii. 06/00197/FUL & 06/00200/LBC- Renewal of 01/00692/FUL- one storey plus mezzanine level knowledge management centre located to the north side of existing mansion house and car park area connected by a glazed link between buildings. Ashorne Hill Management College, Ashorne Hill.
Cllr Butterworth left the meeting.
Cllr Griffith proposed putting forward previous objections to the felling of the trees and to the glazed link. Cllr Bolton also requested that an objection be sent regarding the removal of the archway over door 3, the relocation of the tanks to a more visible area and a condition that should the glazed link be approved the stonework of the mansion house is not damaged in the process. These points were all unanimously agreed.
Cllr Butterworth returned to the meeting.
- iii. 06/00319.FUL- Two storey extension on west side of house comprising family room, utility room and boot room with ensuite bedroom over. Mill Farm, Ashorne.
The plans were viewed and it was the unanimous decision of the meeting not to put forward any objection to these plans.

b. Decisions out of committee

None

c. District Decisions

- i. 05/03561/FUL- Amendment to planning consent 05/00218/FUL- replacement of existing cottage to provide third bedroom. Meriecot, Ashorne. Granted. Decision noted.
- ii. 05/03717/FUL- Proposed pre-fabricated garage and timber summer house situated on garden land to side of property and proposed widening of existing vehicular crossover and drive. Treetops, Ashorne. Granted. Decision noted.
- iii. 05/03663/FUL- Two storey pitched roof extension to rear. Heather Croft, Ashorne. Granted. Decision noted.

Cllr Cook raised a concern over Middle Cottage as she has had several complaints that the building no longer resembles the one it was 12 months ago. Cllr Wright informed the Parish Council that he had passed on photos of the property to District Council and had had a conversation with Development Control. Clearly the building does not retain the character of a conservation area and there is concern over the sandblasting of the brickwork, the chimney pot and the porch. Cllr Wright advised that Gary Fisher will be out to conduct a site visit.

Cllr Bolton informed the Parish Council that internal walls had been removed and that permission had not been sought to carry out this work. Cllr Wright advised that as the building is not listed permission is not required.

Cllr Cook also raised concerns that the Planning Department had refused to provide the additional information requested for the Old Farmhouse plans. Cllr Wright advised that the issue has been taken up with the Planning Department.

7. Finance

a. Approval of payments

The Parish Council agreed to following payments:

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| 1. | E Spencer- Expenses | £20.71 |
| 2. | Severn Trent | £30.19 |
| 3. | WALC- Training | £10.00 |
| 4. | WALC- Good Cllr Guides | £8.00 |

5. WCC- The Hut printing £8.24

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

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

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| 1. | SDC- S136a refund | £52.80 |
| 2. | Allotment rent | £16.00 |

Cllr Cook requested that the question of paying for the grasscutting in the village be added to the May agenda as the S136a refund will no longer be available.

b. Bank Mandate

The Clerk requested that the Parish Council appoint a third signatory. Cllr Bolton volunteered and this was agreed. The Clerk passed on the mandate form for completion by all three signatories- Cllrs Bolton, Cook and Griffith.

8. District Councillor's report

District Cllr Wright reported the following:

The Council tax rates had been set for the coming year. There is to be a 3.7% rise in the District Council portion. The rates are as follows:

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|--------|----------|
| Band B | £999.50 |
| Band C | £1142.29 |
| Band D | £1285.07 |
| Band E | £1570.64 |
| Band F | £1856.22 |
| Band G | £2141.78 |
| Band H | £2570.15 |

The rise came in below the Governments maximum of 4.9% but has been at a cost to parishes. Cllr Cook interjected to state that an explanation would be included in the next Hut newsletter to explain the dramatic rise in the parish portion.

Cllr Wright informed the Parish Council that he had met with the commissioner from the ODPM and had expressed concern over the Planning Department's disregard for the design element of parish plans and that the Enforcement department seemed ineffectual.

District Cllr Close supported Cllr Wright on his concerns over the Planning Department and also reported the following:

The Scrutiny committee has now been reduced from three to two and can choose to look into any item within the Council structure. It is hoped the new committees will involve the Parish Council's a lot more.

District Council are currently looking into the idea of area offices and the way they operate and are considering the idea of unitary authorities. It is believed there will be a white paper published in June on the idea but it is thought they won't be imposed. There will be local consultation on what structure will be introduced. The consideration is to have one authority for Coventry and Warwickshire or to split the county into North and South. It is felt that unitary authorities are more economical to run than District or County Councils.

Cllr Macaulay reported the following: Benefits Officers are available to speak to should elderly or disabled residents feel unable to afford the new council tax rates.

The Political Management Committee has been restructured and is now the Audit Committee. Most recently they have decided on numbers of Parish Councillors required as per the size of each area. Cllr Macaulay is the Chair of this committee.

9. County Councillor's report

County Cllr Macaulay reported the following:

The County Council portion of the Council tax has been set at a rise of 4.93%.

DEFRA have issues advise to all parishes regarding the possible outbreak of bird flu and what residents should do if they come across a dead bird. The Clerk was requested to circulate the phone number to all Cllrs of the DEFRA helpline for reporting groups of dead birds.

The Strategic Health Authority has had no objection to the merger of the three Warwickshire Primary Care Trusts.

With regards to the merger of the Ambulance trusts: County Council have refused to participate in the consultation as it is felt the process is biased and unfair due to the fact that the Government have already advertised the posts for the new proposed trusts. There is now a section on the County Council website where individuals can object to the merger.

Clerk to circulate DEFRA helpline number

10. Police report

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

11. Correspondence

A list of correspondence was produced and dealt with.

Cllr Cook proposed Ashorne enter the Best Kept Village competition again and this was agreed unanimously. A village clean-up day will be required before the judging commences in the first two week of June and this was proposed to be Sun 21st May at 2pm. This was agreed and will be advertised in the Village Hut newsletter. Cllr Cook requested a copy of a village map to be used for the competition entry form. Cllr Griffith volunteered to provide this. Cllr Cooper volunteered to keep the two village noticeboards clean and tidy.

Cllr Cook also read details of a training seminar to be held on 11th March which will involve a workshop on newsletter presentation. Cllr Thornton expressed an interest in the session. It was agreed to pay the £10 necessary to enrol Cllr Thornton.

12. Matters of interest

a. Millennium Oak and Time capsule

Cllr Thornton raised the issue of the Oak and the time capsule now being within the boundaries of Mr Darling's land. Mr Darling is prepared for them to be moved if this is what the Parish Council would like to happen. Cllr Wright suggested asking Gary Fisher for advice on whether the Oak can be safely moved now as it has been planted since 1999. It was agreed that the Parish Council would consider this at the next meeting and would also consider the time capsule.

Clerk to place on next agenda

b. Transport scheme

The Clerk reported the following to the Parish Council:

The scheme is to due to start running from 27th March 2006 with Newbold Pacey and Ashorne included in zone two. Zone two would run to Leamington Spa each Wednesday and to Stratford on Avon each Friday. Pick-up time would be approximately 10am with a drop-off back in the villages at around 12.45pm. In addition the service can return to the villages following the main morning route and take residents into Wellesbourne for an hour before needing to continue the main run at lunchtime. The vehicles used are to be two MPV's which have been tested at Age Concern for accessibility with positive results. Residents would be required to firstly become a member of the scheme and then telephone each time they require a journey. The MPV will collect them from their homes. There will be no joining fee and the journeys will be comparable to an ordinary bus service charge. The Parish Council were in support of the scheme and will circulate the information to residents who may benefit from the service.

c. Curb stone by village hall

Cllr Bolton informed the Parish Council that the County Council have now filled in the dip in the curb stones despite previously indicating that this was not possible.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is to be held in the Newbold Pacey and Ashorne Village Hall on Wednesday 3rd May 2006 at 7.30pm and this will also be the AGM.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.