

WARMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting
Held on Monday 25th September 2006
At 7.30pm
In the Village Hall, Warmington

1. ATTENDANCE

Mr D Rowell (Chairman)	Mrs M Hodges
Mr R Bosworth (Vice Chairman)	Mr D Short
Mr D Constant	Mr M Dixon
Mr G Reid	Mr I Cutler

9 Parishioners were also in attendance together with Rachel Stroud representing the Youth Group

2. APOLOGIES : Apologies were received from PC Bill DeGauza

3. ABSENTEES : None

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA : None

5. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10th JULY 2006 AND THE MINUTES OF THE INTERIM MEETING HELD ON 3rd AUGUST 2006. Mr Reid proposed and Mrs Hodges seconded that the minutes be signed as a true and accurate record of events. AIF

6. C0-OPTION OF MEMBER TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY ON PARISH COUNCIL.

Mr Rowell pointed out that there were 4 people who expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. For various reasons 3 have decided to consider standing for election in May.

Mr Rowell introduced Dr Catherine Jones, a Peterborough GP, nominated for the position of Parish Councillor by Mr Dixon and seconded by Mrs Penny Morgan. Dr Jones was duly co-opted on to the Parish Council.

7. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT FROM THE YOUTH GROUP

Rachel Stroud has now taken over at the helm of the Youth group with Katherine Davey leaving for university. Miss Stroud reported that there are a lot of young people willing to help and they also currently have the assistance of a person undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh Award. The profile of the Group tends to be a lot younger than it was but there are approximately 20 members. A membership evening is to be held on Thursday 28th September. Following a question from Mr Dixon Miss Stroud is to look into the offer of help from Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs now that there is no longer any similar assistance from NCC. Miss Stroud reported that the Group are also trying to keep the choir going as well as considering performing a small play.

8. TO RECEIVE THE POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT. PC

DeGauza asked that his report be given as follows: "We are having problems in the village with theft of and from motor vehicles. We are also having major problems with theft of scrap metals particularly copper which at present has a high scrap value. I would ask that any suspicious activity is reported to the police, either to myself or the force control room". Mr Reid reported that there is a lot of fly tipping in and around the village. Mr Rowell

reported that there has also been some damage by children in the village. Mr Bosworth stated that there had recently been 5 burglaries in one evening in Polebrook.

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a) Quality Parish Council –

- Consideration of progress towards quality status – newsletter and website.

The Clerk reported that she had attended a one-to-one training course at ENC regarding the setting up of the website. The course was extremely useful and the Clerk was given a very comprehensive manual detailing the process to be adopted. In due course the Clerk will be asking Councillors what information regarding themselves they would be happy to have on the site. Eg address, picture etc. Mr Rowell pointed out that only the Clerk's e mail would appear on the site so that all e mails would be dealt with through the Clerk. Mr Rowell reported that the second newsletter has now been published and comments from the village have been good. It was agreed that future editions would be compiled by Mr Dixon and vetted and proof read by the Chairman and Clerk. Mr Dixon asked Councillors for any articles they considered appropriate.

The Parish Council is in receipt of a request from the Parochial Church Council to fund their recent "Flyer" advertising Church events at a cost of £34.06. As members of the PCC Mr Dixon, Mr Constant and Mr Short declared an interest in this item and were not part of the decision making process. After discussion there was no support for taking this item further.

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b) Social Club footpath. Mr Bosworth reported that there was no further progress at present.

The concerns of the Parish Council are with the state of the walk way through the Social Club car park for people accessing Nene Pastures and Chapel Street in the winter months. The area around the gate can be a particular problem. With the agreement of the Social Club, Mr Rowell and Mrs Hodges will seek advice on the matter from the Highways Representative visiting the village on Wednesday 27th September.

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MH

c) Rainbow footpath. Mr & Mrs Reid have put together an article describing the Rainbow Footpath Project which will go in the next Parish Council newsletter. Mr Reid reported that all of the paths had now been walked and measured in terms of footsteps. He has contacted Jennifer Sherrey ROW who has been very supportive considering the project to be very unique. A copy of the article together with a covering letter will be sent to Jennifer Sherrey asking for financial support with taking the project further, producing the maps etc. The British Heart Foundation and Walking Your Way to Health could also be approached in the future. Mr Reid pointed out that it was the intention to use coloured markers to mark the routes, but Ms Sherrey suggested that this might be a problem with landowners, health and safety etc.

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d) Street Lights –

- Lights requiring maintenance. Mr Rowell reported that vegetation is growing on the light outside 43 Church Street.

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- Lights from Church Street to the roundabout. 3 lights for this area have been costed at £9,030 + VAT. 6 lights would be required for the whole area. The Clerk has approached Atkins and NCC for possible funding but it is unlikely that either would fund the project. Mr Mummery, NCC, however, is to look at other possible sources of funds – Safer Routes to School etc. The Parish Council reiterated the decision taken at the last meeting whereby the project would only go ahead with grant funding.

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- Nene Pastures Street Lights. There are 22 lights on Nene Pastures. The Clerk's investigation with NCC has confirmed that Warmington are the Street Lighting Authority and thus will take the lights over in due course potentially adding 50% to existing electricity bills. All settlements with populations of less than 3,000 are classified as the Lighting Authority. Taylor Woodrow have signed the adoption papers with NCC. The

Estate now goes on maintenance for approximately 1 year until it is taken over. At this time the Parish Council will be able to ensure that all lights are in good working order before accepting them. Mr Cutler pointed out that the 2 lights reported to TWD on many occasions are still not in correct working order.

Mr Donaldson, Glebe Stores, has offered to fund a light outside his shop. He is experiencing problems with youngsters and feels that this may help the situation. It was agreed that a lighting engineer be approached for advice as to whether a light could go on an existing pole or on the building itself. Mr Donaldson pointed out that if it was on the building then the permission of the owner, Mr Jibb, would have to be sought.

Mr Rowell pointed out that the three areas that require street light upgrades are School Lane, Buntings Lane and Big Green. It was agreed that these will be done in the next financial year.

e) Highways Matters –

- Identification of areas requiring attention. Mr Rowell and Mrs Hodges have surveyed the village and compiled a report for the visit of the Highways Representative on Wednesday 27th September
- Speeding Initiative. The results of this initiative show that Warmington does not have a problem with speeding, the average speed being recorded at 28 mph. As was requested at the last meeting the Clerk investigated the costs of the flashing 30 mph signs. Information from the Parish Clerk for Elton revealed the following:- The sign on the Wansford Road was jointly funded by Cambs CC at a total cost of £1,100 (bulk buy by Cambs CC) Elton are currently looking to install another in Duck Street, but Cambs CC are not in agreement as they do not consider speeding to be a problem at this location. They obtained a quote from another contractor of £4,112.50 + installation costs of £550. It was agreed that such a sign is not an option for Warmington with speeding seemingly not a problem.

Mr Donaldson has requested the permission of the Parish Council to install two signs in the village pointing the way to the Village Centre. One would be located near the Village Hall and the other on the triangle by the Social Club. Mr Donaldson has been in contact with NCC who will be providing the signs. There will also be a further 4 signs outside the village. After discussion Mr Reid proposed and Mr Dixon seconded that the Parish Council would have no objections to the signs provided that they are incorporated into other signs where possible. AIF

f) Landscape Management

- Grass cutting Having been given the authority to source a grass contractor, the Clerk and Chairman approached Horticultural Landscapes and Mr Bill White for quotations. Comparing these quotations together with the one from Turney Landscapes already received, the quotation from Mr Bill White was accepted. This was to cut the Churchyard and Cemetery ten times per annum for a cost of £1,500. Mr Constant proposed and Mr Bosworth seconded that this decision be ratified by the Parish Council. AIF. Mr White has asked for the patience of the village while he gets the grass to the standard that he is happy with. He has also suggested that should there be any special events at the Church he will try and cut the grass accordingly. The Clerk to be informed of such dates in order to convey the information to Mr White.

- Orchard Pocket Park Beech trees. Mr Rowell reported that the beech trees are to be looked at next week. If they require attention a price will be given. A report will be given at the next meeting.

- Mr Reid reported that he will be ordering bulbs next week. They will be planted in accordance with the Land Management Plan.

- Mrs Hodges asked who now owns the School House as the garden is in a terrible mess. Mr Rowell agreed to speak to the Headmaster for information.

g) Rights of Way. Mr Reid reported that various signs still need attention. These have been reported to ROW many times and promises have been given that the work will be done.

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The request to Highways for a sign between Taylors Green and Spinney Close has not been addressed. Mr Rowell and Mrs Hodges to raise this at their meeting with highways. Mr Simpson has asked that he be kept informed re the possible position of such a sign so that it is given a suitable location and is not liable to be knocked over by farm vehicles. Mr Atkinson reported that a drainage ditch has been installed on PD27. PD27 runs across the strawberry fields to the A605. This needs to be reinstated. A letter to be sent to Elton Estates and ROW.

h) Leisure Areas –

- Fun Field – progress report. Mr Rowell reported that good progress is being made although the portacabin has recently been vandalised. The committee are looking at taking on the Firework Night previously run by the Red Lion. The various issues are currently being looked into.

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- Play Area – consideration of annual inspection. The recent inspection revealed a deficiency in bark under the slide. The costs of having this replaced are somewhere in the region of £800. In contrast safety matting would be in the region of £4-5,000. Mr Reid agreed to try and source some of the correct standard bark with a view to the Parish Council laying it themselves.

GR

i) Public Transport

- Bus Shelters. The Perspex on the bus shelters is extremely scratched. It was agreed to obtain prices for replacement.

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- Bus Services. The last bus of the afternoon reaching the village about 17.30 has now been removed, going only as far as Elton. Despite the best efforts of the Parish Council the bus service is slowly being eroded. A letter was sent in response to the Northamptonshire Local Transport Plan Accessibility Strategy outlining concerns with the bus service. The letter sent in reply was read out at the meeting by Mr Rowell. The letter points out that NCC has no control over the bus services that are run commercially such as the X4. Where there are subsidies there tends not to be the money in the budget to fund a better service. Attempts are being made to instigate improvements but this will depend upon funding being available. The letter is to circulate amongst Parish Councillors for further consideration.

j) Improving Your Patch Award Result. Mr Dixon attended the ceremony at the Northampton Balloon Festival on behalf of the Parish Council and received the certificate awarded. Mr Dixon considered it to be a very worthwhile event and well worth supporting.

k) ENC funding to commemorate the Queen's 80th birthday. There is up to £400 available from ENC for a suitable project. After discussion it was agreed that a village sign would be nice but that this may be too expensive. Further suggestions were for seats. Both options will be costed and the most appropriate project in terms of cost applied for.

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l) Parish Constables Event – 11th October 2006 at 7pm. There were no volunteers to attend this event.

m) NALC AGM 17th October 2006 at 7pm. There were no volunteers to attend this event

n) Consideration of support to provide insurance for the Senior Citizens Christmas Party. Mr Constant proposed and Mr Short seconded that the Parish Council pay for the insurance. The majority were in favour.

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o) Consideration of policy for the allocation of allotments. It was agreed to continue with the policy of giving priority to Warmington residents. It was agreed however that it is better to have all allotments in use and in the absence of a Warmington resident the allotment will be rented out to a non resident.

p) Consideration of donation to Victim Support. Mr Constant proposed and Mr Short seconded that a donation of £50 be made. The majority were in favour.

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10. PLANNING – Update and to consider applications received

- a) Long Lane Farm, Taylors Green – EN/06/01082/LBC – Lime render over modern bricks and blocks in outbuildings. Dr Deayton and Dr Thorpe – Listed building consent received
- b) 3 Orchard Close – EN/06/01269/FUL - Conservatory to rear of property. Mr & Mrs M Bruce. Planning permission received
- c) 42 Dexter Way – EN/06/01258/FUL – First floor extension to existing garage – Mr R J Bucher – refusal of planning permission received
- d) 21 Pierce Crescent – EN/06/01285/FUL – Single storey rear extension – Mr K Taylor – Planning permission received
- e) 1 Church Street – EN/06/01455 – Single storey rear extension – Mr & Mrs McCormack - Planning permission received
- f) “Horsefords” (Part of Poplar Farm) Tansor – Grain Store – A B Gould & Sons. Mr Rowell and Mr Short had visited the site which is about 50 yards inside the Warmington boundary. The store is to be set into the side of a hill. Warmington is not visible from the site and only 4 houses in Tansor would be able to view the store. It is not anticipated that any Tansor residents will have any objections. Mr Dixon proposed and Mr Reid seconded that there be no objections to the application. AIF
- g) 59 Church Street – EN/06/01939/FUL – Extension to existing dwelling re cover existing roof and insertion of 4 roof lights – Mr F Montecalvo. Mr Montecalvo was present at the meeting to provide further information. The property was bought in 2002 having been in the ownership of the same family for many years previously. It retained its original layout and Mr Montecalvo worked very hard to retain this originality and character in his renovations. With a growing family he now needs to extent the property. This will be done at the side of the existing cottage thus preserving this latter intact. A Design and Access Statement has been provided. There are no highways issues as there are no changes here. The Parish Council is very impressed with the application. Mr Reid proposed and Mr Dixon seconded that there be no objections to the application. AIF

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11. FINANCE

a) To approve payment of accounts paid under Standing Order 14.2	
D Rowell Phone calls	6.00
CPRE Membership	26.00
MB Gardens	750.00
Leesons Lawnmowers	47.32
BDO Stoy Hayward – Audit	293.75
D Rowell – mileage	44.27
Village Hall Hire	10.00
NALC Subs	32.00
Wicksteed Leisure Inspection	47.00
D Rowell fuel can oil	19.37
D Rowell Petrol/phone calls	34.07
Powergen – Fun Field	39.55
Anglian Water – Fun Field & Allotments	154.76
M Dixon mileage	38.08
D Rowell Petrol for grass cutting	17.57
P’boro Grass Machinery – mower service	117.85
P Brashaw – Fun Field Expenses	30.56
D Rowell phone calls	9.60
ABB	5272.45

b) To receive details of balances on accounts

- Current Account
1,376.11
- Deposit Account
18,260.90
- Pocket Park Account
224.63
- Contingency Account
4029.25

c) To approve payment of outstanding accounts

A Webb – Clerks Salary & Expenses	550.44
Village Hall Hire (£40 Cult Com +£15)	55.00
ENC – Printing Newsletter	74.12

Mr Short proposed and Mr Constant seconded that items a – c above be approved. AIF.

12. OUTSTANDING CORRESPONDENCE :

- a) UK Villages Community Kitty – Application for funding
- b) BT – request for repair of telephone kiosk.

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13. PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- a) Alms Houses. Mr Short reported that a survey is to be carried out on the Alms Houses. Attempts are being made to obtain grants for modernisation.
- b) Village Hall. Mr Cutler reported that there is to be an Autumn Fair in the Village Hall on Saturday 7th October starting at 2 pm. The Parish Council are in receipt of an application to ENC by the Village Hall to increase their licensed hours to 09.00 – 00.00 Monday – Sunday.
- c) Warmington Charities. Mr Bosworth reported that a meeting will be held in mid October where Senior Citizens and bus tokens are likely to be discussed.
- d) Pocket Parks. Mr Rowell reported no problems other than with the beech trees.
- e) Allotments. Mr Short reported that a planned BBQ had to be cancelled due to the weather
- f) Reports from Councillors attending outside meetings/courses. None

14. PARISHIONERS' QUESTION TIME

- a) Mr Fox had asked Mrs Bosworth to enquire when the drains would be cleaned. Mr Rowe and Mrs Hodges to put it on their list for highways.

DR/
MH

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 20th November 2006

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

