

WARMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting
held on Monday 24th September 2007
At 7.30pm
In the Village Hall, Warmington

1. ATTENDANCE

Mr D Rowell (Chairman)	Mr G Reid
Mr M Dixon (Vice Chairman)	Mr D Short
Mr T Helstrip	Mr I Cutler
Mrs J Simpson	Mr N Donaldson
Mr C Ellard	

6 Parishioners were also in attendance together with Councillor David Brackenbury

2. APOLOGIES : Apologies were received from County Councillor Heather Smith

3. ABSENTEES : None

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA: Mr Reid expressed a personal interest in planning item 8i, Mrs Simpson expressed a personal interest in planning items 8 h & i.

5. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th JULY 2007. Mr Short proposed and Mr Reid seconded that the minutes be signed as a true and accurate record of events. AIF

6. TO RECEIVE THE POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT. Mr Reid reported that he and Mr Simpson had attended a Neighbourhood Watch meeting in Oundle where the topic was drugs. Mr Reid has had mentioned to him two burglaries at Nene Pastures but to date has not been able to confirm these burglaries.
Mr Ellard reported problems on the allotments over the weekend. The compost heap was set alight and a fruit cage vandalised. This has been reported to the Police who have attended, given a crime number and promised to investigate further.
Mr Short reported that boys have been seen playing football in the bus shelter on Orchard Close. All such incidents should be reported to the Police using the telephone number 08453 700700
Mr Rowell gave an update regarding the cameras discussed at the last meeting. Unfortunately, although the PCSO at the last meeting considered that they would be a good idea, the Police were not of the same opinion. In corresponding with Mr Rowell, Sergeant Chisholm pointed out that PCSO's have a limited role and do not necessarily know the law. He suggested that the cameras could be used to photograph graffiti or problems in ones own home, but problems could arise if they were used more widely. It was agreed that Mr Rowell should offer the cameras to the School for project work. AIF.

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7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a) Quality Parish Council –

- Consideration of application for quality status. Councillors were happy with the application as prepared by the Clerk

b) Street Lights –

- Project to install lights from the village to the roundabout. Grants available and cost to

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the village. Recent correspondence with Councillor Heather Smith has raised the possibility of putting the lighting together with the footpath improvements in one project. Councillor Brackenbury suggested that funding could be sought from the Community Safety Fund operated by ENC and possibly the NCC Highways budget. The Parish Council have already approached ENC regarding funding for the lights and have the application form ready for completion. It is estimated that the cost of the lighting would be in the region of £20,000. The Clerk agreed to copy Councillor Brackenbury the correspondence to date. Councillor Smith is currently obtaining quotations for the footpath improvements. It was pointed out that this is to link the right and left hand sections of the path. The improvements would provide safer access for those needing to utilize the bus services which do not come through the village, but drop off by the roundabout on the A605. Mr Ellard suggested that there would be benefits for having drawings and plans of the area. It was agreed that this could be done when funding was applied for. Councillor Brackenbury agreed to look into the matter further, liaise with Councillor Smith and report back to the Parish Council.

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- Lights requiring maintenance. None

c) Highways Matters –

- Update re proposals for improvements to the ford area on Church Street. See above.
- Update re bus shelter on A605. Garrick Outdoor who were to reglaze this shelter have expressed concerns over the current state of the shelter and are reluctant to undertake the work. Mr Rowell is waiting for a definitive answer, but to date has been unable to make contact. It may be necessary to source another company who would be willing to carry out the work.

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- Update re bus shelter on Church Street. This is due for completion at the end of this week. Nearby neighbours have raised possible problems that there may be with the shelter. Although they feel that the shelter enhances Church Street they feel that it may act as a place for young people to congregate. This could cause problems with behaviour and potential damage to cars parked nearby. The Parish Council are of the opinion that this will not be the case and it was agreed that the Clerk write a letter to the neighbours to help allay their fears.

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- Highway matters requiring attention. Mr Helstrip reported that the 30 Mph sign at the Cemetery end of Taylors Green has been knocked over. He pointed out that people should be made aware, possibly in the next newsletter, that this is an offence under the Road Traffic Act

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Mr Rowell reported that there is a contractor now interested in the Social Club car park subject to receiving planning permission. The contractor is aware of the obligation to install a footpath. It was agreed, in order to ensure that the obligation is conformed with, that Mr Rowell, Mr Dixon and Mr Cutler meet with a member of the Planning Department at ENC. Mr Rowell to set up the meeting. Mr Helstrip informed the meeting that he understands that 5/6 houses are to be built on the car park.

MD

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d) Landscape Management

- Review of Grass Cutting contract. After discussion Mr Helstrip proposed and Mr Short seconded that Mr White be awarded a 5% increase on his contract to cut the Cemetery and Churchyard ie £1575 per annum. In subsequent years an increase in line with the cost of living will be given. AIF Mr White is also willing to cut the Play Area for a further £997.50 per annum. This is currently being cut by contractors on behalf of Taylor Woodrow. Mr Donaldson proposed and Mr Reid seconded that Mr White's quotation for the play area be accepted when Nene Pastures is adopted. AIF

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- Vergé cutting in Taylors Green and the Ancient Monument. Mr Short agreed that this will be completed by the end of the month

DS

- Bulbs – Mr Reid suggested that the next area to be planted is the Church Street entrance to the village. Concerns were raised should the footpath/street lighting project take place, but this was not deemed to be a problem. Mr Helstrip proposed and Mrs Simpson seconded that £250 be made available for bulb planting including the hire of the turf cutter. AIF.

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e) Consideration of repair or renewal of Parish Council noticeboard. Although it was agreed at the last meeting to buy a new noticeboard on closer inspection it was deemed worthy of repair.A

quotation of £110 has been received for the reglazing of both the Parish Council noticeboard and the map board on Church Street. Mr Short proposed and Mr Reid seconded that this quotation be accepted. AIF. The work to be carried out end of October, early November.

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f) Rights of Way –

- Rainbow Walks Leaflet. Mr Cutler reported that at the Village Hall Committee meeting on 3rd September, the Committee noted the regret of the Parish Council that consultation had not been undertaken regarding the leaflet and the provision of parking. On the understanding that any future print be changed accordingly it was suggested that a line be drawn under the matter.
- Provision of ROW map for notice board and repairs to board. See above. Mr Atkinson has the map to be laminated.
- Mr Rowell reported that there has been a problem with PD27 with the tenant erecting a fence and barbed wire. The area has now been partly restored but checks need to be made to ensure that both ends of the footpath are accessible.
- Path up to the Dovecote. This has suffered with water on the path. It has also recently be subject to an oil leak from a neighbouring property. The suppliers of the oil tank have admitted liability and the area is to be cleaned and restored under an insurance claim. The Parish Council to make NCC aware of this. It is hoped that the work might also solve the problem of the excess water. The Parish Council also to ask NCC for clarification of the status of the path

AW

g) Leisure Areas –

- Fun Field – Progress report including the cricket nets. Mr Rowell reported that the cricket nets have been extremely successful. The Committee have made a revised application to Sir William Proby for a new field.
- Play area – matters requiring attention. No problems reported

h) Elton Estates gravel extraction. Further to Elton Estates assurances that the Parish Council be kept informed, Mr Rowell, Mr Dixon and the Clerk are to visit the site on 25th September. The archaeological dig has taken place and work is about to begin.

i) Youth Activities. Mr Donaldson reported that he has received very little input from the children regarding their aspirations. Mrs Simpson suggested inviting the Grant Officer from NCC to meet with them. Mr Donaldson has suggested this but again there is very little interest. Mr Ellard felt that it would be interesting to find out whether the Youth shelter at Nassington was successful as this may be an option for Warmington. It was felt that the youth would not utilize the Benefice Room as a meeting place. Mr Helstrip suggested enquiring as to whether it would be possible to give an earlier screening of the Bond movie specifically for the youth on November 9th. Mr Helstrip to liaise with Mr Donaldson.

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j) Warmington Underpass project update. Mr Ellard reported an extremely successful project with over 40 people involved. He thanked members of the Parish Council for their support. It is anticipated that Saturday 29th September will be a fully public day with Sunday 30th September a finishing off day. The project will be completed on the Sunday for an official launch at 3pm. Mr Rowell has invited the press. Mr Ellard has some anti graffiti paint to be sprayed on. This may be undertaken by ENC or by Mr Ellard.

Mr Reid thanked Mr Ellard on behalf of the Parish Council for his excellent work. He asked whether the flooding of the underpass would be a problem, but Mr Ellard did not think so.

k) Improving Your Patch Award. Mr Ellard attended the Balloon Festival at Northampton and received a certificate for the Parish Council's entry.

l) Future Village Projects. Mr Ellard suggested that the Bronze Age Burial, a part of the early history of the village, be commemorated in some way.

Mr Helstrip suggested that a sub committee be set up to drive forward the Footpath/street lighting project. He also suggested that Mrs Ellard's idea to drop kerbs around the village be taken up. It was agreed that Mr Helstrip and Mrs Simpson undertake a survey of the village identifying where kerbs would need to be dropped.

TH/
JS

Mrs Simpson suggested having planters at the entrances to the village. Mrs Simpson to investigate further and obtain prices.

JS

Mr Rowell has been approached by Mrs Scotting for funding for the “Crash” project at Warmington Primary School. The School is to be open from 8 am – 6 pm. In order to feed the children, fridges are required and these need to be connected. Mrs Scotting is hoping to obtain a price of approximately £200 for this and asked if the Parish Council would fund it. Mr Rowell pointed out that unexpected funds of £195 have been received from the Village Design Statement project and these could be utilized. Mr Helstrip proposed and Mr Dixon seconded that £200 be given. The majority were in favour with one against.

- m) Parish Council newsletter. Mr Ellard thanked Mr Dixon for getting the newsletter out early to publicize the Underpass Project. Mr Dixon asked that all councillors give thought to the December issue and possibly write an article. All
- n) Parish Council mail – consideration of streamlining the present system. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk record all post as previously, but not circulate advertising material and heavy documentation. It was agreed that periodicals should be circulated. All mail would be available to Councillors on application to the Clerk. Councillor Brackenbury pointed out that all ENC documentation is available on their website www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk . If the dates for events are short the Clerk will e mail the information to those Councillors with e mail addresses. AW
- o) Planning Training for Local Councils event 1st October, ENC. Mr Helstrip and the Clerk are already booked for this event. Mrs Simpson asked to be booked for the afternoon session and Mr Donaldson for the evening session.
- p) NALC AGM 17th October, Wooton Community Centre, Northampton. None
- q) Consideration of provision of insurance for the Senior Citizen’s Party @ £125. Mr Helstrip proposed and Mr Reid seconded that this be provided. The majority were in favour with two against. AW
- r) Consideration of levy for OWEN (Older Wiser East Northants) at £10. After considerable discussion with some Councillors being unsure of the achievements of this organisation, Mr Reid proposed and Mr Short seconded that the £10 levy be paid – five Councillors were in favour with four against. AW
- s) Consideration of Clerk’s salary and revision of Model Contract of Employment. With the results of the negotiations on pay scales seemingly imminent it was agreed to leave this item to the November meeting. AW
- t) Social Club car park – update re provision of footpath. See above

8. PLANNING – Update and to consider applications received

- a) 59 Dexter Way – EN/07/00769/FUL – Conservatory to rear – Mr & Mrs Clapp. Planning permission received
- b) 59 Church Street – EN/07/00930/LBC and EN/07/00931/FUL - Two storey extension to existing dwelling house, re-roof existing roof and insertion of new rooflights – Mr F Montecalvo. Planning permission received
- c) 45 Dexter Way – EN/07/01310/FUL – Retrospective conversion of part of garage to habitable room – Mrs R M Atkinson. Planning permission received.
- d) Garage and Premises Oundle Road, Warmington – EN/07/01285/ADV – Two single sided free standing display units – Primesight Advertising Ltd. Planning permission received.
- e) OP8258 TL0592 Fotheringhay Road – EN/07/01324/FUL – New entrance to field. – Mr K F Bouher. Planning permission received.
- f) 8 Drapers Close – EN/07/01522/FUL – Single storey rear extension – Mr W Wilson. Planning permission received.
- g) The Red Lion – EN/07/01814/FUL – Lay riven stone slabs to rear. Erection of timber fence in concrete posts. Erection of dwarf wall to perimeter of paved area. Installation of 4.5m X 4m umbrella with heat and light – S & N Pub Enterprises. Mr Reid proposed and Mr Short seconded that there be no objections to this application. AIF. AW

- h) Rectory Farm - EN/07/01642/FUL – Change of use and conversion of redundant farm buildings to office accommodation (Phase 3) – Mr & Mrs J Wilkinson. A letter had been received from Mr & Mrs Wilkinson which Mr Rowell read to the meeting. The work is phase three of the development and is to supply a boardroom for the use of current tenants. Car parking is considered more than adequate at present, but will be kept under review. Mr Donaldson proposed and Mr Ellard seconded that there be no objections to this application. The majority were in favour with Mrs Simpson abstaining. AW
- i) 19 Stamford Lane – EN/07/01818/FUL - Demolition of existing outbuilding to west gable. Construction of two storey extension with single storey extension to north elevation and associated works – Mr & Mrs K Mickleburgh. Mr Ellard proposed and Mr Helstrip seconded that there be no objections to this application. The majority were in favour with Mr Reid and Mrs Simpson abstaining. AW

9. FINANCE

- a) To approve payment of accounts paid under Standing Order 14.2

M Dixon mileage – Rainbow leaflet	38.08
M Dixon mileage – newsletter grant	38.08
D Rowell Phone call 122@ 30p	36.60
N ACRE Membership	33.00
SLCC Membership	72.00
CPRE Membership	27.00
M Dixon print cartridges – newsletter	40.85
BDO Stoy Hayward Audit	334.88
Anglian Water – Fun Field	70.01
Powergen – Fun field	45.74
Anglian Water – Allotments	57.90
C Slater – Artist Mural project	200.00
J Rowlett – Pocket Park trees	499.37
ENC – empty dog bin	14.63
ABB – Maintenance	251.69

- b) To receive details of balances on accounts

▪ Current Account	5,282.24
▪ Deposit Account	12,573.50
▪ Pocket Park Account	159.64
▪ Contingency Account	4,075.75

- c) To approve payment of outstanding accounts

A Webb – Clerks Salary & Expenses	548.11
Village Hall Hire	51.00

Mr Short proposed and Mr Reid seconded that items a – c above be approved. AIF. Budgets and the Precept will be an Agenda item for November. At all future meetings Councillors will be given a spreadsheet detailing expenditure against budgeted expenditure, thus clarifying where the Parish Council is in the budget cycle. AW

- d) Consideration of findings of Audit Report including review of amount of Fidelity Guarantee. Two issues arose from this Audit. The first stressed the necessity to minute the findings of both the internal and external audit. The second concerned the level of the Fidelity Guarantee. This currently stands at £15,000 for which Allianz Cornhill charge £22.50 per annum. With grants etc

balances have been quite high over the past couple of years averaging approximately £26,000. The auditors suggest that we consider increasing our cover to the maximum amount of money the council may hold at any one time during the year. There is, however, no statutory obligation to act on this suggestion. Cover works on a pro rata basis thus if £15,000 of cover costs £22.50, £30,000 of cover would cost £45 per annum etc. Mr Helstrip proposed and Mr Short seconded that cover be increased to £30,000 at a cost of £45 per annum.AIF.

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10. OUTSTANDING CORRESPONDENCE: None

11. PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- a)Alms Houses. Mr Short reported that they are waiting for further estimates for modernisation. There have been problems with a garden wall falling down.
- b)Village Hall. Mr Cutler had nothing further to his report given above.
- c)Warmington Charities. Mr Cutler reported that a meeting is yet to be held.
- d)Pocket Parks. Mr Rowell reported that the beech trees have been chopped down. A picnic bench has been installed courtesy of William Du Croz.
- e)Allotments. Invoices for rents are due to go out in October at the reduced rates of £34 for a full plot and £17 for half a plot.. Mr Ellard to check with Allotment holders as to whether or not they would like the membership fee for the Horticultural Society adding on to this. The Parish Council would then pass this fee on to the Horticultural Society.
- f)Reports from Councillors attending outside meetings/courses. Mr Reid attended the Neighbourhood Watch meeting as reported above

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12. PARISHIONERS' QUESTION TIME

- a) Mrs Hodges suggested that although there was not the demand for a Youth Shelter two years ago when she was on the Parish Council, the demand may be there now. Youths are using various parts of the School Playground to congregate. It was pointed out however that for such a project to go ahead demand has to be shown.
- b) Mrs Bosworth highlighted problems with people dropping children off at School. There is a tendency to let children get out of cars on the road side rather than the side of the pavement. Mr Rowell agreed to mention this to the School.
- c) Mr Donaldson had been asked by a Parishioner to mention problems with dog fouling on Broadgate Way. Unfortunately dog fouling laws do not apply outside the village limits. There are similar problems at the end of Big Green and on Long Lane.
- d) Mr Helstrip, on behalf of the Cinema Club, asked if any other organisation in the village would be interested in assisting in funding a hearing loop for the Village Hall. If such an interest could be sourced then a better hearing loop could be purchased. It was suggested that the Village Hall Committee be approached. The Cinema club shows a film the second Friday of every month from October to February. Advance tickets can be purchase from the Post office priced £4.
- e) Mrs Simpson advertised the World Conker Championships which are due to be held at Ashton on 14th October from 10.30 am. They are being sponsored by the Health and Safety Executive.

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13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 19th November 2007

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.