

WARMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting
held on Monday 14th January 2008
At 7.30pm
In the Village Hall, Warmington

1. ATTENDANCE

Mr D Rowell (Chairman)	Mr N Donaldson (from Item 7f)
Mr M Dixon (Vice Chairman)	Mr D Short
Dr T Helstrip (from item 7e)	Mr I Cutler
Mrs J Simpson	Mr G Reid
Mr C Ellard	

5 Parishioners were also in attendance together with Councillor H Smith and 2 PCSO's for the Police Report

2. APOLOGIES : None. Mr Donaldson and Dr Helstrip had sent apologies for their expected late arrival at the meeting

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 19th NOVEMBER 2007. Mr Reid proposed and Mr Cutler 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 Rowell reported on the damage done to the portacabin on the Fun Field. It is currently being repaired. Mr Rowell has spoken to the Police regarding the theft of bicycles around the village and has obtained details of correct procedures to follow when reporting a crime. All crimes should be reported and a crime reference number obtained. There is a Community Safety meeting on Wednesday 16th January which Mr Rowell is unable to attend. He asked if any other Councillors were free to attend but unfortunately no one was. There has been a theft of Anglian Water uniforms and an Anglian Water van. The public were advised to check name badges of all callers and if in doubt ring to confirm identity.

The PCSO's reported on crime statistics. For December 2007 there were 4 crimes: 1 theft of a motor vehicle, 1 burglary, 1 theft of farming equipment and 1 theft of petrol from the garage. There have been 44 crimes for the year to date, a fairly high figure for a relatively small village such as Warmington. This being the case there is likely to be an increased police presence in Warmington. The PCSO's reported upon a car that is known to be being used to commit crimes. It is a grey Volvo 940 registration J701 EEE. Mrs Simpson agreed to advertise this and the theft from Anglian Water in Five All Magazine.

JS

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a) Membership of the Parish Council. The Clerk had contacted ENC regarding the position with Mr Cutler leaving the village to live in Oundle and was informed that as Mr Cutler met the criteria when he was elected, he could continue as a Councillor until the next election. Mr Cutler stated that he was aware that it is less easy to represent from a distance, but would be more than happy to continue unless there was a volunteer from the village willing to stand. Mr Cutler is to publish his

views in his next article in Five All Magazine. He is moving on Friday 18th January to 4 Benefield Road, Oundle.

IC

- b) Quality Parish Council. The Clerk has attended a meeting of the Accreditation Panel. The result of this is that the Panel have deferred awarding Quality status pending possible changes to the Electoral Mandate Test. It is anticipated that this Test may be softened in the Spring from 80% to 67%. If the Parish Council comply with this Test by 19th June 2008 then Quality status will be conferred upon them.

The Accreditation Panel raised the question of the position of "Parishioners' Question Time" on the Agenda suggesting that it may be better at the beginning of the meeting so that Parishioners can comment before decisions are made. The Parish Council over the years have tried it at the beginning, at the end and at both the beginning and the end. After discussion all were in favour of keeping it at the end. It was pointed out that Parishioners can ask the Clerk to put items on the Agenda prior to the meeting and can also make written representations. Should it become urgent for a Parishioner to convey some information at the meeting the Chairman can use his discretion to open the meeting for that item.

- c) Street Lights
Lights requiring maintenance. None

- d) Highways Matters

Highway matters requiring attention. There are two pot holes in Big Green. Mr Dixon pointed out that NCC had been asked to resurface Big Green a couple of years ago, but had not done so and now there are continual problems. The Morborne Road is also in a poor state. These roads will be inspected by NCC in February. Mr Rowell toured the village in November with NCC representatives and was very disappointed in the result and subsequent reply.

AW

Mr Reid passed on his thanks for the bollards outside his property on Chapel Street.

Councillor Smith informed the meeting that Atkins have lost the County contract and that it will be taken over by a member of the May Guerny Group at the end of March. It is anticipated that there will be much tighter controls and opportunities for Councils to have an input. There will be money in the budget for footways and for walking and cycling routes..

- e) Church Street Project. Update re grant application for street lights and proposed improvements to the footpath. The application to ENC for £10,000 has been made and the Parish Council are awaiting the result. Councillor Smith has applied for £1,000 to contribute to the street lighting scheme. Should the Council require more she may be able to contribute from next years budget. Councillor Smith reported that the Church Street improvements to the footpath will still receive high priority from NCC in the budgets and a plan will be produced as to how the problems in this area will be resolved

- f) Church

Update re Church wall and gateway. The repairs have been effected and the paperwork completed. The invoices have been paid and recompense requested from the parties involved.

Update re church path. A solution to clean this has been purchased. Dr Helstrip reported that two signs have been erected noting the slippery nature of the path.

- g) Landscape Management

Taylor's Green. Two letters have been received from Mr Northern asking that the area be cut back to assist in getting rid of the rabbits. Advice from NCC Regulations team is that if there are rabbits it is up to the individual to fence the area. Taylor's Green is a protected area and the difficulty is obtaining a balance between conservation and sensitively clearing the area. Wildflower seed could be sown but this would involve more expense for the Parish Council. After discussion it was agreed that Mr Rowell meet with Mr Northern to try to come to some agreement.

DR

- h) Rights of Way. Mr Rowell reported that the path to the Dovecote is still under water. NCC to be informed. Mr Reid reported that the path at Pear Tree Corner cannot be negotiated because of water. It was pointed out that this has always been the case.

AW

- i) Leisure Areas

Fun Field – Progress report. The damage to the portacabins has already been mentioned above.

Play area. - Mrs Simpson has visited the Play Area and taken some photographs of the damaged wooden surround which is to be repaired by the Odd Job Man. Mr Simpson has very kindly repaired the fence panels. The recent Inspection Report from Wicksteed Leisure revealed all to be in a satisfactory condition apart from the bark requiring building up. Bark is very expensive and has a tendency to migrate, it was therefore agreed to obtain prices for safety matting for the next meeting. The report also suggested the provision of a litter bin and an emergency sign. There is a litter bin outside the gate and the provision of an emergency sign was not considered necessary.

AW

j) Future Village Projects. Mrs Simpson reported that she has investigated the provision of planters to be situated at the entrances to the village. The cost would be approximately £80 a tub. As there are currently a lot of bulbs planted at the entrances to the village it was agreed to wait and see what comes up. It was agreed that fairly substantial planters would be required. Councillor Smith pointed out that a licence may be needed for these from NCC. The project to be on the Agenda for discussion in the Autumn.

AW

k) Update re Ambulance service to the village. The Parish Council wrote in November requesting an explanation for the delay in the despatch of the ambulance. Unfortunately this letter was lost in the system. Contact has been made and the letter e mailed. In the meantime a parishioner has also written to voice her concerns. She has received a response and a representative from the Ambulance Service is due to meet with her on Tuesday 15th January. Mr Dixon is also to attend this meeting.

MD

l) Consideration of support for the Easter Cultural Community Partnership Event for 8 – 13 year olds. Mr Dixon proposed and Mr Reid seconded that this event be supported. AIF.

AW

m) Consideration of Clerk's salary and revised of Model Contract of Employment. Mr Reid proposed and Mrs Simpson seconded that the revised Model Contract of Employment, considered by Mr Rowell and Mr Dixon and circulated to Councillors for approval, be signed by the Chairman and Clerk. AIF. Mr Reid proposed and Mr Short seconded that the Clerk's salary be increased in line with the NALC salary scales effective from April 2007 - Spinal Point 21, £9.579 per hour for 6.5 hours per week, £3237.70 per annum. AIF.

8. PLANNING – Update and to consider applications received

a) Consideration of the Rural North Oundle and Thrapston Plan including discussion of Slaughter's Field and the Social Club.

Of eight possible development sites around Warmington only one, a 0.87 ha site adjacent to Eaglethorpe Barns, was considered to have development potential. This site is allocated for mixed use development and associated infrastructure : Minimum of 12 dwellings: 0.38 ha of Class B1 (office use)

The site known as Slaughter's Field has been identified as a mix of Important Open Land and Open Space. Mr Rowell has received correspondence from Bletsoes, the Agent acting for the owner, suggesting that they will be challenging ENC on this. The Parish Council are aware that there could be other ways of sensitively using the land. Part could be for building and part retained as open space. It may even be an option that the village buy a portion of the land at agricultural rates. A further suggestion would be that the proposed developments at Slaughters Field and Hautboy Lane are taken together to attempt to overcome difficulties on both sites. It was agreed that development needs to be managed to benefit the village. It was agreed to accept Bletsoe's offer to meet with the Parish Council to discuss matters further.

AW

Mr Rowell has viewed provisional plans for the Social Club. No application has yet been made to ENC. These plans show two houses on the left facing towards the Social Club and three houses along the Play Area boundary facing the road. The footpath access would be to the right.

b) Update of Village Design Statement. In the light of the above it was agreed that the VDS be reviewed. Mr Ellard, Dr Helstrip and Mr Reid agreed to look at the document and perhaps publish an addendum. In the past Mr Montecalvo had offered his services. Mr Rowell agreed

CE/
TH/
GR

contact Mr Montecalvo. Mr Dixon will ask Parishioners for any comments in the next newsletter.

- c) 63 Church Street – EN/07/01872/FUL and EN/07/01963/LBC – New kitchen extension and new access gates – Mr & Mrs P Moules. No objections
- d) 42 Dexter Way – EN/07/01880/FUL – Replacement of upvc windows with vertical sliding sash windows to front elevation – Mr & Mrs R J Bucher. Planning permission received
- e) 28 Church Street – EN/07/02002/FUL – Two storey side extension – Mr H Wooley. Planning permission refused
- f) 9 Hautboy Lane – EN/07/01791/OUT – Outline application for re-development of site for four two storey dwellings (all matters reserved except for siting and means of access) – G Brown Thomas & A Stainforth. Planning permission refused
- g) 30 School Lane – EN/07/02094/FUL – Glazed link between 28 and 30 School Lane – Mr R Carpenter. No objections.

9. FINANCE

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

D Rowell excavator for bulbs	20.00
G Reid stone cleaner	18.98
Glebe Gardens bulbs	293.75
ABB Maintenance	251.69
D Rowell Phone calls	39.60
Wicksteed Play Inspection	47.00
Bowmans Church Wall	1985.75
Bowmans Church pier	1539.25
C Ellard Allot Exp	11.00
ENC Printing newsletter	170.38
- b) To receive details of balances on accounts

▪ Current Account	2,638.77
▪ Deposit Account	14,779.61
▪ Pocket Park Account	159.64
▪ Contingency Account	4,109.39
- c) To approve payment of outstanding accounts

A Webb – Clerks Salary & Expenses	535.53
Village Hall Hire	15.00
D Rowell Phone calls	15.90
S Harbour Rose garden	140.00

Mr Dixon pointed out that the newsletter is currently being funded by grants. The newsletter has been a success and it was agreed that it should continue. Grants are in place 2008/9, but could be supplemented by the Parish Council so that monies are available for a longer period of time. Eventually the options are that a further grant is obtained or the newsletter is funded by the Parish Council. Mr Rowell pointed out that this would be a cost which would need to be identified when applying for the Precept.

Mr Dixon proposed and Mr Ellard seconded that items a) – c) be approved. AIF

- d) Consideration of Budgets. All Councillors were in possession of budgets updated to January 2008. The Clerk pointed out that the £3,000 for the repair of the Church Walls is being reclaimed from the relevant parties and that the VAT element will be reclaimed by the Parish Council in the normal manner in March. After discussion Dr Helstrip proposed and Mr Reid seconded that the Clerk

continue to produce these figures for Dr Helstrip to monitor, but that a more simplified version is presented at meetings..AIF.

- e) Consideration of Cemetery fees. The Clerk has obtained Burial Charges from Thrapston, Brackley and Moulton. There is no standard manner of charging. Dr Helstrip queried the way in which funeral directors may pass on Parish Council charges to their clients. Mr Rowell agreed to ask a funeral director to find out. The cost to run the Cemetery is currently £848.34 per annum whereas income over the past few years has been as follows: 2003/4 £855; 2004/5 £1095; 2005/6 £805; 2006/7 £680 and 2007 to date £150. It was agreed that the item be looked at for further discussion at the next meeting. Mr Rowell pointed out that only one or two people have bought roses in the Memorial Garden over the past 7 years. These cost £15. The Parish Council currently pay £140 per annum to maintain the rose garden. Mr Dixon agreed to publicize the Rose Garden in the next newsletter.

AW

MD

10. OUTSTANDING CORRESPONDENCE: None

11. PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- a) Alms Houses. Mr Short reported that alterations would be starting in a fortnight.
- b) Village Hall. Mr Cutler reported that a meeting is to be held in the next two weeks.
- c) Warmington Charities. Mr Cutler had nothing to report
- d) Pocket Parks. Mr Rowell reported no problems.
- e) Allotments. Mr Ellard reported that the meeting in October was well attended. Working weekends are to be held in February. A welcome newssheet is to be produced for newcomers. All plots are let although one person is still to decide whether or not he wishes to continue. The latch on the gate has been repaired.
- f) Reports from Councillors attending outside meetings/courses. None
- g) Mr Rowell asked for a volunteer to coordinate the Annual Litter Pick towards the end of March. All offers of help would be greatly appreciated.

DR

12. PARISHIONERS' QUESTION TIME

- a) Mr Cooper thanked the Parish Council for reporting and discussing the holes in Big Green, the stolen Anglian Water uniforms, the path to the dovecote and Taylors Green. He is aware that the catch on the gate to the underpass has been reported to ROW. Mr Cooper reported that the hedge from the Dark Hole to 11 Buntings Lane is overhanging and needs cutting back.
- b) Mrs Ellard asked the status of East Crescent, the "road" opposite the School in Church Street. It is a service road to the houses. It is now maintained by NCC and has been resurfaced. Mrs Ellard pointed out that people are tending to park half on the road and half on the grass or all on the grass which is causing a problem with the verges.
- c) Mrs Scotting asked when the gravel is due to be removed from the Reservoir site. Mr Rowell, Mr Dixon and the Clerk met with the contractor in the Autumn. Problems were being experienced with having to deal with two counties, but they were assured that no gravel would be moved until the road had been altered. At this meeting it was anticipated that these alterations would take place in the Spring.
- d) Mrs Cooper suggested that cutting high hedges in the Fun Field would prevent people using the hedges to hide and allow all to see what is going on in the Fun Field. The disadvantage of this is that not everybody would want to see and the hedges do stop balls coming over into the roads. The comments will be passed to the Fun Field Committee.

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13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 13th March 2008

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.