



## WARMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting  
Held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012  
At 7.30pm  
In the Village Hall, Warmington.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm, wishing the assembled people a Happy New Year **ACTIONS**

### 1. ATTENDANCE

Mr David Short (Chairman)

Mr Chris Ellard

Mr Ian Middleton

Mr Graham Reid

Plus the clerk and 12 members of the public

Mrs Jennifer Anderson

Mr Doug Jose

Mrs Morag Wilson

Mr Jo Simpson

### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Dr Tim Helstrip (PC dispensation)

### 3. ABSENTEES

None

### 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

### 5. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2011 AND THE INTERIM MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2011

Proposed by Mr Graham Reid and seconded by Mrs Jennifer Anderson, AIF therefore **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted as a true record of events

### 6. PARISHIONERS' STATEMENTS RE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

With regard to the planning application for Acremead, 11/1749/OUT, Dr Bolman urged the council to be mindful of the reports of the prime minister's comments regarding communities having a say regarding development in their own villages, with particular reference to the Village Design Statement and the overall amount of development applications in the pipeline for Warmington.

He also raised a concern that the village social club may not be an appropriate item for the parish council to have on the agenda.

Mr Litawski said that he understood that within the last 24 hours, issues had been raised with regard to the road improvement project for Big Green and was concerned that these issues might potentially jeopardise the project. He asked whether the council yet knew what the extra costs might be or where the additional revenue might come from.

*There was an alteration to the agenda order at this point as PCSO Tim Butter had been called to attend to some other business.*

### 7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

#### a) Highways Matters

- Big Green – An email had been received from the country highways liaison officer stating

that the highways contractors were of the opinion that the repair work scheduled for Big Green could not proceed as per the quotation and specification in February – July 2011 because the road had deteriorated more than anticipated in that time and to install grasscrete in isolation would not be sufficient for the long term wear of the highway. An alternative approach, possibly with the addition of kerbing, was considered necessary, which would impact on the costs quoted, either by increasing the costs or not allowing for the whole area originally specified to be completed. One of the options put forward was to tarmac the road, but this was wholly rejected by the council as being out of keeping with the rural feel to the area. There was a discussion over the various issues, with the offer of a meeting with the county liaison officer to explain the issues being rejected at this stage and the non metalled, non adopted area near the river at The Mill and The Boat Club being cited as an example of grasscrete parking. It was proposed by Mrs Anderson and seconded by Mrs Wilson, with all in favour and therefore **RESOLVED** that the parish council is perfectly happy with its decision regarding the repair of the road on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011, and furthermore it rejects the implication that the road surface has deteriorated and wishes to continue with the project as originally specified in NCC drawing dated February 2011. The council also indicated that it would be interested to receive details of the alternative scheme, with full specification details of the cost and timing implications.

- The drainage dykes on Big Green and Chapel Street were mentioned again. The clerk confirmed that she had tracked down who is responsible for the clearance of these ditches and had received confirmation that they would be cleared before too long, but was asked to chase this up.
- A point was raised that the highway patching in Taylors Green had not been carried out to a high standard, with visible gaps between the infill and the tar sealant joining it to the road. The concern is that because of the lack of seal, frost damage could occur. It was agreed that photographs would be taken to pass on to the highways department.

b) Street Lights - Lights requiring maintenance

- 1 Dexter Way – The shade on this lamp had been blown off its fitting in the high winds of the week before. The contractors have been alerted and will be visiting to investigate. It was noted that when a similar problem happened with the light number 2 Dexter Way, it had taken a long time and high cost to rectify (*N.B. Since the meeting, the contractors have reported that they have put the shade back on as it had not actually broken, just come off*)
- Light outside 44 Pierce Crescent is not working correctly

*There was an alteration to the agenda order at this point as PCSO Tim Butter had returned to the meeting.*

**8. TO RECEIVE A POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT.**

PCSO Tim Butter addressed the meeting. He updated on the December crime figures (1 domestic crime (text harassment) and one taking a vehicle (incidence of farm vehicle being interfered with in Lutton, but within the Warmington 'crime boundary'). There had been a series on incidents on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January, with 12 crimes reported. There was some discussion regarding the actual number of incidents, and PCSO Butter explained that the police can only record the number of crimes actually reported, rather than the number of obvious incidences so regardless of how many wing mirrors are hanging off, for instance, the recorded crimes are those reported by owners/individuals. He suggested there might be some unfounded reluctance on the part of car owners to report things in case of compromising their insurance policies.

He then went on to explain that the number of thefts of catalytic convertors is increasing

Clerk

rapidly, fuelled by the high scrap value of the metals in them and the cost of replacing them (i.e. they have a resale value).

A police surgery had been held at the Glebe Stores in December which had been successful and the plan is to hold one every couple of months. There is a community panel meeting, which anyone is welcome to attend and which decides the local community safety team priorities for the upcoming 12 week period. This is on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 7.30 – 8.30pm.

There was a point raised from the public present regarding the recently announced cuts to the number of PCSOs in the county. PCSO Butter was not aware of imminent plans for this area. There was a short discussion speculating on the nature of a high speed police chase through the village in recent days and a brief mention of the new 101 non emergency contact number for the police.

c) (item 7) Landscape Management;

- The clerk had spoken with Sir William's PA and passed on a copy of the letter by email regarding the need to finalise the details of the rainbow bridge project. There had been no progress.
- Woodland Trust Diamond Jubilee tree planting project. Graham Reid has been in contact with the climate control team at the county council. The demand for the free trees is high. It was agreed that the approach would be to secure the supply, by applying for a pack of 105 trees in the 'year round colour' option and instigate a management plan in the interim (If successful in the February application, the trees will arrive in March)

Clerk

d) **Fun Field** – Nothing to report, but a reminder that the AGM is on January 18th

e) **Play Area** –

- The bushes and hedges have been trimmed and the tree branches considered dangerous removed.
- It was to again have the annual playground Inspection carried out by Wicksteed Leisure
- It had been established that the hedge on the play area is owned by Elton Estates with the responsibility for its maintenance resting with the parish council by way of a lease. The decision taken at the last meeting to leave the hedge alone was rescinded. Mr Ellard proposed, seconded by Mr Reid with all in favour therefore **RESOLVED** that the hedge would be trimmed by the end of February and after the nesting season, the hedge would be cut properly. Mr Reid undertook responsibility for organising a working party of councillors to trim the hedge in the short term.
- The metal work on some of the play equipment needs to be repainted. The clerk is to liaise with the 'odd job' contractor to obtain quotes. Members could not recall who this person is.
- The ownership of the path from the play area to Chapel Street has been established, with the parish council owning part of the land and Elton Estates owning the other part. The clerk has asked the grasscutting contractor to quote to systemically treat the weeds early in the growing season.

Clerk

GReid

Clerk

f) The village website is going from strength to strength and, provided the clerk gets the documents to the volunteer personnel in time, parish council items are appearing on there at each request.

g) There was not updated information regarding the recycling centre in Oundle

h) There was a discussion regarding potential ideas for use of the red phone box on Hautboy

Lane, but after having weighed up the pros and cons and discussed the potential hurdles to be overcome in the long term management of the phone box, it was proposed by Mrs Simpson and seconded by Mr Ellard, with all in favour and therefore **RESOLVED** that the parish council will accept the terms and conditions as circulated by the clerk by email and proceed with the adoption of the red K6 telephone box on Hautboy Lane, without requesting the electricity supply be discontinued

i) Environmental matters: Waste & recycling bins update

- The recycling bins in the social club car park have not been emptied since their delivery in November. The clerk has reported this to ENC and asked that if they had not been collected by the end of the week, someone let her know

- Fly Tipping – there is extensive flytipping on the field to the south west of the petrol garage on the A605. The clerk has taken some photographs and will email to ENC. She has also tried to contact the mushrooms company that is believed to own the field, but the phone number was not working. Although this is private land, the nature of the tipped materials gives rise for concern over future incidents if this is not curbed at an early stage

- The dog waste bin in the play area had been an ongoing issue for some weeks, having not been emptied for a great length of time and the contractors coming back to it time and again, but with insufficient information to locate it precisely. Thanks to the vigilance of Mr Jose, the contractor was pointed in the right direction and this bin should henceforth be on the contractor's list of sites.

- Litter pick – it was agreed that the litter pick will go ahead on 17<sup>th</sup> March. Mrs Simpson undertook to arrange the publicity and Mrs Wilson would liaise with the social club to arrange coffees for the volunteer litter pickers

J Simpson  
M Wilson

j) Newsletter – The next issue is due in March, but it was decided to hold this matter over until the March meeting. Mrs Anderson was approximately 6 copies short.

k) Heartstart Oundle – Mr Ellard reported on this initiative which is being promoted by Oundle Town Council training people within the community to carry out basic first aid, in particular basic heart CPR techniques. The council agreed that this is something that could be of benefit to the village and it would undertake to cover the costs of hiring the village hall and publicising the event to the wider community. Mr Ellard is to investigate the possibility of Warmington hosting a training session

C Ellard

l) Warmington Social Club – The clerk had been contacted after the publication of the winter newsletter by a long term user and ex trustee of the social club asking for ideas as to how to encourage use of the facility, especially in view of the upcoming improvements. The clerk felt that a reply was not something she could undertake without recourse to the council first. There was a brief discussion about the benefits that the facility does bring to the community and the necessity of community assets to a vibrant thriving village; however, the parish council does not feel it should spend time on matters it cannot do anything about.

m) It was proposed by Mr Reid and seconded by Mr Ellard, with all in favour and therefore **RESOLVED** that the parish council will take up the coming year's subscription to ACRE at a cost of £34

n) Dr Tim Helstrip had been in touch via the clerk to explain that he has been asked to extend his contract overseas and offering to give up his place on the parish council if members felt this the appropriate course of action. After a brief discussion, it was proposed by Mr Reid and seconded by Mrs Anderson, with all in favour and therefore **RESOLVED** that the parish council will

grant a further dispensation for leave of absence to Dr Helstrip, with the understanding that he is happy to act as the council's internal financial control checker.

**9. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY – Fun Field AGM 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012 – to include** Diamond Jubilee celebration discussion and consideration of Jubilee Beacon on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

## 10. PLANNING

• 11/01749/OUT - Garage Block Acremead Warmington - Proposal Outline: Demolition of 9 existing garages and erection of 6 dwellings with associated parking and formation of additional parking area (all matters reserved). The chairman closed the meeting at 9pm to allow for public comment on this proposal. The general consensus was that this was not an acceptable proposal for reasons including:

- Extra cars on Stamford Lane
- Additional cars passing and parking at Acremead
- The reduction of the green/open space on Acremead, when planning stipulations dictate that new developments should include open space
- The meeting recognised the need for affordable and social housing, but not at all costs. There was a suggestion that perhaps there could be fewer houses
- There was mention of the amount of soil in the area that would have to excavated.
- The parking would be unusable unless parking places are made available – there will simply be too many cars to allow access

It was proposed by Mr Reid and seconded by Mrs Anderson, with all in favour and therefore **RESOLVED** that the parish council would object on the following grounds:

- The proposed development in beyond the development boundary in the adopted RNOT plan and therefore contrary to policy 2 of that plan
- The loss of green space is contrary to policy 15 of the RNOT plan
- The complexity of the traffic access and inherent parking issues make the proposal unworkable
- The council considers that the proposal will make the area over developed and therefore objects to the density
- The council considers that the option of dropping the kerbs, at the cost of the developer, be considered to alleviate some of the parking issues

The council also agreed that the clerk should contact the planning department as a whole and point out that there are a number of developments being put forward in Warmington at the moment and they will impact on one another as well as the area as a whole.

• Planning course on 12<sup>th</sup> January at ENC offices, Thrapston to look at material planning considerations (*NB This was incorrect – the email that had been circulated advising of this is correct – the meeting is 19<sup>th</sup> Jan at 19.30*)

## 11. FINANCE

To approve payment of accounts paid under Standing Order 14.2

### Current Account

EON Street Lighting	611.66
S Rodger Salary (Sep/Oct/Nov)	804.15
Judi Harrington insurance	115.00

	S Rodger Salary (Dec)	309.29
	Glebe Garden Centre	120.00
<u>Fun Field Account</u>		NONE
To receive details of balances on accounts		
	Current Account	17,354.70
	Deposit Account	14,140.91
	Pocket Park Account	146.50
	Contingency Account	4157.74
	Fun Field Account	<u>1932.21</u>
		<u>37,732.06</u>

Full details of payments and receipts to date had been circulated in advance of the meeting and the one query regarding a VAT element was covered

To approve payment of outstanding accounts:		
	S Rodger – Clerks Salary (Jan)	310.30

It was proposed by Mr Reid and seconded by Mr Ellard, with all in favour and therefore **RESOLVED** that the above finances be accepted and payments approved

#### **12. TO CONSIDER BUDGETS AND RESOLVE PRECEPT FOR 2012/13 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The proposed budget had been circulated. At the last meeting, it had been agreed that the precept would remain the same for the forthcoming financial year. The proposed budget reiterates this decision and sets out anticipated expenditure. It was proposed by Mr Ellard and seconded by Mr Reid, with all in favour and therefore **RESOLVED** that the precept be set at £18,500 which is the same as the last 2 years. The budget is appended to these minutes

#### **13. OUTSTANDING CORRESPONDENCE.**

Correspondence with Elton Estates regarding the Rainbow Bridge project

#### **14. PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

- a) Alms Houses – The spring flowering bulbs had been planted
- b) Pocket Parks – Maintenance is on a 'winter break'
- c) Village Hall – The AGM had taken place, with only one member of the public in attendance, that being the chairman of the parish council. A number of fundraising events are planned for the year
- d) Tree Warden – Nothing to report
- e) Rights of Way – No items of note other than brief report regarding a tree having blown over in the recent high winds, blocking a bridleway and cleared promptly by Elton Estates.
- f) Parish Council Newsletter – This had been dealt with earlier in the meeting
- g) Warmington Charities – This does not have to be agendaed until May as the meeting is annually in April

#### **15. PARISHIONERS' QUESTION TIME**

- It was pointed out the odd-job person for painting the play equipment advertises in the Nene Valley News
- Mr Rowell had reported Taylors Green to Street Doctor and felt that this is why it had been repaired.
- There was another discussion around the Big Green project, with the assertion that a

specification should be in place for the expenditure of such an amount of money

- There was a discussion around the wider planning policy for the area, with Dr Bolman suggesting there should be some clarity on the planning policies, as they were unclear to people without a working understanding of recent advances in planning legislation and policy. The clerk undertook to send further information to help clarify the issues to Dr Bolman

**16. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** No items were put forward other than those naturally occurring

**17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012

**The chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.55pm**

<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2012 7.30PM, WARMINGTON VILLAGE HALL</b>	
<b>Approved by Warmington Parish Council:</b>	
<b>Signature of Chairman of following full meeting:</b>	<b>Date: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012</b>

DRAFT