

HAIL WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of General Meeting of the Parish Council Held on TUESDAY 27th March 2007 in HAIL WESTON VILLAGE HALL

Present:-

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Mr. N. Bowditch | NB | Chairman |
| Mr. P. Chandler | PC | Vice Chairman |
| Mrs. C. Couzens | CC | |
| Mr. I. Wilkie | IW | |
| Mr. B. Easom | BE | |
| Mrs. S. Penton | SP | Parish Clerk |

Also present:- Cllr. Mr. J. Gray (JG), Cllr. Mr. P. Downes (PD) who joined the meeting later and four members of the public and press.

70327-1 APOLOGIES - Mr. M. Baughan (MB) and Mr. N. Farnden (NF)

70327-2 TO APPROVE and SIGN MINUTES of the General Meeting held on 20th February 2007.

70327-3 MATTERS ARISING

70327-4 MEMBERS' DECLARATION of INTEREST for items on the agenda - None

The meeting was closed for the next item

70327-5 OPEN FORUM – for all members of the public and press present including District and County Councillors.

IW raised the question of services at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. **JG** replied that services were generally being put outside the hospital facilities. However, A&E and Maternity Services are being retained at Hinchingsbrooke. MP Jonathan Djanogly will continue to fight to retain all services at Hinchingsbrooke. Services at Great Staughton Surgery are being retained.

BE reiterated concerns over the proposed reduction in the number of Councillors under the Parish Electoral Review – Draft Proposals. **JG** confirmed that he would press for our views as per our letter of 22nd January. **IW** pointed out that the 'SLOW' signs have been worn away from the road surface and need to be reinstated. **JG** reported that the speed limits on B roads are being reviewed by 2011 as part of proposals for improving safety.

70327-6 POLICING MATTERS – The next Neighbourhood Panel is at Tilbrook Village Hall on Tuesday 3rd April 2007 at 7.30pm. Possible opportunity to follow up the B645 speeding issue. **BE, IW and possibly SP will attend.**

70327-7 BURIAL GROUND including:-

- (i) Robinson & Hall charges – **PC** proposed that Mr. Guto Edwards is invited to render his invoice for his fees as they are. All in favour of payment of £476.46.
- (ii) Offer for purchase of land sent to Alexanders – Acknowledgement received.
- (iii) Further advice and information from CALC re. Burial ground and allotment land. This item to be held over for a future meeting.

Signed by the Chairman..... Date.....2007

70327-8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS UPDATE including:-

a) 0603945CLED Certificate of lawfulness for use as dwelling in breach of agricultural restriction imposed by planning permission K41.60 as Russia Farm, Hail Weston. Named as Rushey Bungalow, Great Staughton under this application. Still pending consideration by Planning HDC as at 27th March 2007.

70327-9 COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITY REPORTS

a. Highways & Environmental including.

i) Orchard Close - Trees. Incident with residents.

BE reported that CCC Engineer, Tony King had sent his agents to Orchard Close with a view to carrying out work on the trees in the Autumn. The crowns are to be trimmed to 2 ½ metres for the well-being of the trees. His men were met with abuse. And the residents of nos. 8 & 9 Orchard Close complained that it reduces their screening.

BE is prepared to meet the tree officer there together with Tony King in order to obtain a good understanding of what needs to be done.

BE also reported that the Jubilee tree is dead and he will speak to the County Tree Officer for his recommendations.

NB pointed out that they are not our trees and that they are not on Parish Council land.

It was agreed that an item should go in the Newsletter explaining why the work needs to be done. And **CC & BE** are to compose a letter and do a leaflet drop.

Grass cutting was to commence the following day.

BE read out the Street Warden's Report:-

The bridge surface is slippery.

There are potholes that need attention.

There are hedge clippings still on the playing field. **BE** will assist in clearing these away but transport is needed.

ii) Footbridge update including possible cycling event. No date has yet been set.

iii) Dog Fouling – An item went in the Newsletter but no improvement in the situation.

iv) Refurbishment of Notice Board – **SP** to obtain prices for a new one.

b. Council controlled open space including Litter-Pick arrangements - Date yet to be arranged.

JG will follow up the matter of HDC supplying sacks etc. Item will go in Newsletter

c. Liaison with other authorities – nothing to report.

d. Website and Publicity – nothing to report as neither **MB nor **NF** were present.**

70327-10 ELECTION – Nomination forms distributed. **SP emphasised that these must be in by noon on 4th April. **CC** will be going to Pathfinder House on Friday and offered to take anyone else's forms.**

70327-11 FINANCE

a. Clerk

As agreed at the last meeting **SP** had met with **NB** to discuss items (i), (ii) and (iii). Item (iii) was deferred until the end of the meeting. **SP** left after item 14 and the discussion continued in her absence.

(i) Payment of Expenses Allowance and Printing & Stationery for 2006/7 - It was agreed to reimburse **SP** for stationery expenses for 2006/7 - £88.75. All in favour.

(ii) Review of budget for Printing & Stationery and Clerk's Expenses Allowance for 2007/8 – It was agreed to reimburse **SP** for any Printing & Stationery expenses that could be specifically attributed to Hail Weston and to switch £50 from the Printing & Stationery Budget to Clerk's Allowance increasing the Clerk's Annual Allowance to £300. All in favour.

(iv) Clerk's Salary Review for 2007/8 – It was agreed to increase Mrs. Penton's salary by two points on the scale to spinal point 21 and to increase the hours for which she is paid from 6 to 7 hours per week. All in favour.

Signed by the Chairman..... Date.....2007

FINANCE – Clerk (continued)

- (iv) Authority to dispose of Canon Photocopier – The ink cartridge needed replacing and **SP** had discovered that a new one would cost about £100. Also the copier was not fit for purpose as it only copies black and leaves blank spaces where there should be colour in the document being copied. Disposal of the copier was approved – all in favour.
- (v) Approval of Finance Report including Accounts for Payment - Report accepted and payments approved – all in favour.
- (vi) Second contribution of £250 received from Inland Revenue for on-line filing for 2005/6 returns.
- (vii) Other Finance Matters - none

70327-12 QUALITY STATUS – Application progress

Draft Annual Report, showing finances, to be presented to next main meeting and to be printed and distributed by the end of June. Application to be submitted in October.
CC suggested that perhaps a shelf could be provided in the Village Hall for the Parish Council Minutes to be made available for public inspection. This would satisfy one of the requirements for the application.
CC had composed a draft Parish Council Newsletter for approval. Judith Clements had kindly agreed that it would be distributed with the Parish Church Newsletter. The Newsletter was approved. All in favour. **PC** offered to make arrangements for the photocopying.

70327-13 CORRESPONDENCE (List attached)

The meeting was closed again at this point to allow PD the opportunity to speak.

PD informed the meeting that there will be cuts in public services e.g. the household waste centre in Brampton will be closed next year. County tax rises are held at 5%, which is £8.5m reduction in real terms. This will affect minor road repairs and a cut back in other public services.

The meeting was then re-opened.

70327-14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Street light needs attention. In Green Lane before Barker Close. Blue bin still being left outside no. 105 High Street. A note will be put through the door.
Mr. Bowditch will not be standing at the forthcoming Election and, therefore, this was his last meeting.
CC & BE thanked him for his work as Chairman and his previous service. Mr. Bowditch replied that he had enjoyed his time serving on the Council.

The public, press and Mrs. Penton left the meeting at 9.35pm and the Clerk’s salary was then discussed in private.

70327-15 DATES of NEXT MEETINGS:-

- May 15th (7.30pm) AGM followed by Annual Parish Meeting and then a General Meeting**
- June 19th**
- July 17th**
- September 18th**
- October 16th**
- November 20th**

Signed by the Chairman..... Date.....2007