

HAIL WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of General Meeting of the Parish Council Held on TUESDAY 19th June 2007 in HAIL WESTON VILLAGE HALL

Present:-

Mr. N. Farnden	NF	Chairman
Mr. B. Easom	BE	
Mr. P. Chandler	PC	
Mrs. S. Penton	SP	Parish Clerk

Also present:- Cllr. Mr. J. Gray (JG), Cllr. Mr. P. Downes (PD) and one member of public

The Chairman opened the meeting at 8.05pm

70619-1 APOLOGIES - Mr. I. Wilkie (IW) Vice Chairman, Mrs. C. Couzens (CC), Miss L. Bacon (LB) and Mr. M. Baughan (MB)

The meeting was closed for the next item

70619-2 OPEN FORUM – for all members of the public and press present including District and County Councillors.

JG reported that the police had caught several culprits in the speed trap recently operated on the B645. This action by the police confirmed that the presence of the Parish Council at the last Safer Neighbourhood Panel Meeting was effective. Therefore, it is important to attend the next Panel Meeting on Tuesday, 3rd July at 7.30pm in Little Paxton Village Hall.

PD informed the meeting that he is pursuing the matter of the proposed closure of the recycling centre in Brampton. He will shortly be meeting with the Managing Director of the company.

PD gave the Clerk a copy of his annual report that he had presented at the Parish Assembly on 15th May.

JG has yet to produce his, but both of these will be published on the web site and in the next issue of the Parish Council Newsletter.

BE questioned **JG** about the planning application for the new access to Hail Weston Springs that had been submitted and later withdrawn. He pointed out that work is continuing in the shape of 2 large brick pillars, a control building and electric gates.

JG reported that Planning Dept were not clear, initially, as to whether or not planning permission was required until they went out on site to view the work. **JG** will investigate this and report back.

The meeting was then reopened

70619-3 TO APPROVE and SIGN MINUTES:-

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – 15th May 2007

General Meeting of the Parish Council – 15th May 2007

Extraordinary General Meeting of the Parish Council – 30th May 2007

Planning Sub-Committee - 30th May 2007

All four sets of Minutes were approved subject to the numbering of the General Minutes for 15th May to run on from the AGM Minutes. All in favour. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

70619-4 MATTERS ARISING

The Risk Management Policy was revised to include **Assets** as per **MB**'s recommendation. See item 9 in AGM Minutes 15th May. **SP** circulated the amended page.

PC Russell Simpson had provided **PC** with a supply of **E-cops cards** for circulation to residents. **SP** to obtain a further supply to be distributed to every household with the next Newsletter.

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

Village Notice Board – At the last meeting **SP** had suggested that perhaps it could be repaired rather than buy a new one and it was decided to ascertain if there was anyone in the village who would be prepared to do this. It was, therefore, decided to approach John Baker on the matter.

70619-5 MEMBERS’ DECLARATION of INTEREST for items on the agenda – **PC’s** wife has an interest in the plot of land adjacent to the site the Parish Council is hoping to purchase for the new burial ground. He therefore declares a Personal Interest in the next item.

70619-6 CEMETERY UPDATE

- (i) **Chairman’s Report** – **NF** circulated his report of the Working Party meeting held on 23rd May and it is attached to these Minutes. The report covered details of the site, key steps, likely costs, Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) interest rates, factors to consider and investigate and a plan of action. **NF** had obtained details of two Surveyors. One was Robinson & Hall who had been engaged previously to advise on value of the land. The other was Allied Surveying Consultants in Eaton Socon. However, Robinson & Hall proved to be less experienced in dealing with this type of land and so **NF** contacted the latter and met him on site on Sunday evening and discussed his observations. **BE** proposed and **PC** seconded the proposal for **NF & SP** to proceed with the survey and to arrange a more formal site meeting.
- (ii) **Project Financing** – Terms of loan and interest rates had been obtained from the PWLB. However, it was resolved to delay any action re. finance for the time being and to await any reaction from residents to the Chairman’s Report in the Newsletter, which is about to be circulated.
- (iii) **Membership of Ass. Burial Auths. (ABA).** Disappointing results to date. **SP** had understood from their leaflet attached to their application for membership that advice was available in respect of surveying matters among other services listed. However, they referred **SP** to the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. **SP** had experienced difficulties in making contact with them and now is doubting the benefits of membership.

70619-7 POLICING MATTERS – PCSO Carol Corn had been making the fortnightly contact with **SP** but there was nothing to report. **SP** receives regular crime updates through E-cops.

70619-8 PLANNING MATTERS

- (i) **Application ref. 0701527FUL – Manor Cottage, 2 Newtown. Extension to dwelling.** Recommended for approval by Planning Sub-Committee on 30th May 2007
- (ii) **Application ref. 0701583OUT – Land at and including 1 Ford End. Outline application for means of access and layout for the erection of two dwellings.** Outline application recommended for approval, subject to certain conditions, at full Council meeting on 30th May 2007.
- (iii) **Application ref. 0701805FUL - Dirt House, 589 Gt. N. Road, Eaton Ford – Extension to dwelling.** This application to be considered by the Planning sub-committee at a meeting to be held Tuesday, 26 June 2007.

It was also noted from HDC’s weekly planning list (18th June) that Application ref. **0701078FUL** for widening of existing access to **589 Great North Road** had been submitted and later withdrawn.

70619-9 COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITY REPORTS

- a. **Highways & Environmental including Bus Stops** – **BE** reported for Mr. Foxley, Street Warden in his absence. There are weeds in the play area and to clear the playing field of the debris would probably take 2 loads at a cost of £100 per load for a contractor to do the work. See item 9b – Action Plan
The tree by the entrance to the village hall is to be cut back so the light can be seen.
The gate on the Lt. Paxton side of the ford has been damaged. The County Council will install a bollard.
The raised footpath in front of the village sign was discussed and it was decided not to pursue lowering the path to create a platform, as it would change the area too much. However, County Council’s proposal to resurface the whole length was supported as it is becoming very uneven and broken up. **BE** will communicate with Tony King of CCC on these matters.
Grass cutting will be done by the end of the month.

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

Bus Stops - At least one was wrongly placed and it is now over a year since efforts were made to have it re-sited. Also there are no timetables. **JG** will pursue the matter.

b. Council controlled open spaces including Play Area Safety Report from RoSPA – PC had considered the report and presented the Council with his commentary and proposals. The report is attached to these Minutes.

Basically, the playground is deemed to be in good condition and well maintained.

There are a number of Low Risk failings on the equipment and the seat, which are noted by the Council and the situation will be monitored in the future.

Action Plan:-

Handyman - It was proposed and accepted to seek the services of a local handyman to carry out repairs to gate.

Also a new sign is to be obtained stating ownership of area and contact details. Handyman to fix it.

Community Services – There are several references to bark requirements for which a large amount of bark is needed. The services of Community Services to be obtained for spreading the bark.

Car Park trip hazard – aggregate required for this and, again, a job for Community Services.

PC – Planting – cut back branch steps – **PC** will attend to this.

Tree brash has yet to be removed. **PC** can get a tractor and trailer and **BE** volunteered to assist him. Also **PC** will spray the weeds.

One or two points in the report need clarifying with the inspectors. **SP** to write to RoSPA.

Replacement swings – These are deteriorating and will need to be replaced in a couple of years' time. **SP** to obtain prices from a selection of suppliers.

c. Liaison with other authorities – nothing to report.

d. Communications – nothing to report.

70619-10 FINANCE

a) Finance Report including Accounts for Payment. It was suggested that all account headings referring to grass cutting should be reported under one heading in future. It was agreed this would simplify the reports. **SP** will contact **MB** re. amendments to the Quicken accounting system.

The finance reports were approved and signed by the Chairman.

b) Acceptance and Approval of Annual Return for the year ended 2006/7

This was deferred until the Internal Auditor has produced his report. The delay was due to Mr. Whitfield having been in hospital. However, **SP** has his assurance that his report will be ready in time for the July meeting. **BE** to hand over the package of documents to Mr. Whitfield the following day.

70619-11 QUALITY STATUS – Application process update including Annual Report, Newsletter and Chairman's Report. A vote of thanks to **CC** and **SP** for the production of the Parish Council's first Annual Report, which includes the Chairman's Report. **CC** is to take most of the credit for an excellent publication. A copy was sent to **CALC** for them to review and the response was that it looks very professional, is well presented and includes all the requirements for our Quality Status application:- the Chairman's Report, a synopsis of the accounts, a review of activities and contact details of Councillors and Officer.

CC and **SP** to arrange a meeting with **Ian Dewar**, the person responsible for QS at **CALC**.

A vote of thanks also to **PC** for the photocopying services for 250 or so copies of the 6 pages.

70619-12 NEW CODE of CONDUCT for consideration with a view to approval by 1st September.

Copy circulated to each Councillor prior to the meeting together with guidance from CALC.

This was considered and approved for adoption by all present. However, decision is to be deferred pending response from those Councillors absent from this meeting.

70619-13 CORRESPONDENCE (List attached) – Responses on the various consultation documents from **HDC** re. Local Development Framework are to be as last time. **JG** offered his assistance on this.

70619-14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Various keys to be obtained from Nick Bowditch.

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

70619-15 DATES of NEXT MEETINGS:-

Tuesday, July 17th
Tuesday, September 18th
Tuesday, October 16th
Tuesday, November 20th.

The meeting closed at 10.02pm

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