

**HAIL WESTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of General Meeting of the Parish Council**  
**Held on TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> January 2007**  
**in HAIL WESTON VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:-**

<b>Mr. P. Chandler</b>	<b>PC</b>	<b>Vice Chairman</b>
<b>Mrs. C. Couzens</b>	<b>CC</b>	
<b>Mr. B. Easom</b>	<b>BE</b>	
<b>Mr. I. Wilkie</b>	<b>IW</b>	
<b>Mr. N. Farnden</b>	<b>NF</b>	
<b>Mrs. S. Penton</b>	<b>SP</b>	<b>Parish Clerk</b>

Mr. Chandler chaired the meeting in the absence of Mr. Bowditch

**70116-1 APOLOGIES** - Mr. N. Bowditch, Chairman (**NB**), Mr. M. Baughan (**MB**), District Councillor Mr. J. Gray (**JG**) and County Councillor Mr. P. Downes (**PD**)

**70116-2 TO APPROVE and SIGN MINUTES of the FOLLOWING MEETINGS:-**  
**Planning Sub-Committee Meetings 24<sup>th</sup> October, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2006 and 9<sup>th</sup> January 2007. And General Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> November 2006.**

All approved as true records and, therefore, signed by the Chairman.

**70116-3 MATTERS ARISING**

**The bus shelter** has been painted by Community Services. **BE** reported that the roof in one corner is leaking badly and needs further attention, although not immediately. Thanks go to **BE** for purchasing the materials for this work. **BE** reprimanded some children that had climbed on the bus shelter roof a few days ago.

**BE** reported that Anglian Water Authority had now repaired the leaking mains, but work has yet to be done on the trees.

**Bridge over the Ford** - **BE** suggested that a letter should go to Cambs. County Council reiterating the Parish Council's concern that the surface of the bridge is dangerous when wet and that there is a risk that may result in injury. **BE & SP** to compile a letter and a copy is to go to Cllr. Downes.

**SP** has written to the Chairman of BT and she is to follow this up if no reply within the next two weeks.

**70116-4 MEMBERS' DECLARATION of INTEREST for items on the agenda - None**

**70116-5 OPEN FORUM – for all members of the public present including District and County Councillors.** There were no members of the public present.

**70116-6 POLICING MATTERS** - Nothing to report but PCSO Carol Cornes 'phones the Clerk weekly to ask if there is anything that requires her attention.

**70116-7 BURIAL GROUND**

**PC & NB** had met with the Vicar, Judi Clarke and the Church Warden, Elaine McCarthy and a letter was later received from the Church stating that there is no money available from them for purchasing further burial ground land. **PC** reported that there are now only eight burial plots available plus an area for interment of ashes.

It was proposed that **BE** is to obtain an estimate from Surveyors, Robinson Hall, for advice as to the value of the land. All in favour of the proposal.

Alexander's letter, quoting the price they are asking for the area of land adjacent to the Churchyard, is to be acknowledged.

**IW** is to approach Hugh Duberly, Treasurer of the Diocese, with a view to further discussion on funding.

Signed by the Chairman.....N. P. Bowditch..... Date.....20<sup>th</sup> February.....2007

### **70116-7 BURIAL GROUND (continued)**

The Biffa Award scheme was discussed. **SP** had followed up their offers of funding that she had received. One example given by them was for cemeteries. However, when **SP** approached them on this she was told that the scheme did not include funding for cemetery land.

**SP** is to make enquiries as to the sanctioning of obtaining finance by way of a loan for this purpose.

### **70116-8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS UPDATE including:-**

**a) 0603902FUL Alterations to form ancillary accommodation. 3 Green Lane, Hail Weston**

Approved by Planning sub-committee 9<sup>th</sup> January 2007. Minutes approved at this meeting.

**b) 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.**

Recommended approval by the Planning sub-committee at their meeting held immediately prior to this one.

### **70116-9 COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITY REPORTS**

#### **a. Highways & Environmental including.**

a. Rubbish bin emptying and replacement.

**Rubbish bins** to be monitored after the scheduled emptying days – Wednesdays. New bin has been ordered and to be installed in the near future.

b. Footbridge

See Matters Arising re. Parish Council's concerns that its condition poses a health and safety risk. It was suggested that a cycling event should be held in the Spring involving Press demonstrating the difficulty for cyclists having the hazardous task of carrying their bikes over the bridge.

**BE** will organise another litter-pick in March following the success of the one held last March.

**Grass cutting** – **BE** will negotiate with the present contractor, Mr. Green, for the coming season. **BE** produced a village map identifying various areas for grass cutting. **SP** is to produce a copy for **MB**.

#### **b. Council controlled open space.**

**CC** has noticed that there is an increase in dog fouling recently and will place another item in the Newsletter.

**CC** had received a request from a resident to keep chickens on an allotment. The Parish Council is in complete opposition to any request to keep any livestock on allotments.

**c. Liaison with other authorities** – Nothing to report

**d. Website and Publicity** – **SP** had been in touch with **MB** as she had difficulty in finding the photos of Hail Weston in Autumn. However, it can be found by accessing the Community Page menu, which gives more choices than the Home Page menu.

### **70116-10 FINANCE**

#### **a. Approval of Finance Report including Accounts for Payment.**

Each Councillor had copies of all Finance Reports as attached. These were accepted and accounts for payment were approved including the payment to **BE** for the purchase of the materials for painting the bus shelter.

#### **b. Review of Clerk's Expenses Allowance in association with printing, postage and stationery expenditure.**

A decision on this is to be carried over to the next meeting when **NB & MB** can be present.

#### **c. Confirmation of Independent Internal Auditor's appointment**

**SP** to offer the appointment to Mr. Gerry Whitfield, which is to be annually until further notice

#### **d. Other Finance Matters - None**

### **70116-11 QUALITY STATUS including:-**

#### **a. Update on progress of Clerk's CiLCA studies.**

**SP** reported that she has made considerable progress on her portfolio, which consists of 25 Modules. She has completed 20, has done the majority of the work for another four leaving one yet to be started.

Signed by the Chairman.....N. P. Bowditch..... Date.....20<sup>th</sup> February.....2007

**70116-11 QUALITY STATUS (continued)**

**b. Report on QS Workshop attended by CC & SP on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2007.**

It was an excellent session. Most informative and CC concluded that it will be worth achieving Quality Status. SP & CC were able to confirm that, at Hail Weston, we are very close to fulfilling all the requirements for a successful application. An Annual Report together with a quarterly newsletter will satisfy the remaining requirements.

**c. Update on formulation of Annual Report**

Ideas for the content of a newsletter and an annual report were discussed and CC agreed to take on this task together with SP. No more than two sides of A4 are necessary for a newsletter and it could be inserted as a loose leaf and distributed with the Parish Newsletter.

**70116-12 CORRESPONDENCE (List attached)**

**Letter from the Milestone Society was noted.** The Hail Weston milestone is to be restored by the District Council and replaced by them in the grass verge at the side of the B645 at Hail Weston. BE confirmed that the suggested site is part of the grass-cutting schedule.

SP had sent an article on the subject for inclusion in the next issue of the Parish Newsletter.

**The Draft Proposals for the Parish Electoral Review** had been distributed to all Councillors in advance of this meeting. There were no objections to the change of boundaries but the Parish Council objects to the reduction to 5 Councillors from the present 7. The proposal is for Parishes with an electorate up to 500 to have only 5 Councillors and 501 to 1,000 to have 7. In Hail Weston there are 480 Electors and it was considered unreasonable for the present level of responsibilities to be spread over less Councillors. SP to liaise with PC to formulate a response. Representations are due by 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

**70116-13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**70116-14 DATES of NEXT GENERAL MEETINGS FOR 2007:-**

PC pointed out the difficulty in holding the Annual Parish Meeting, in an election year, before the appointment of the Chairman at the AGM and, therefore, the order of these meetings has been revised accordingly.

**February 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**March 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**May 15<sup>th</sup> (7.00pm) AGM followed by Annual Parish Meeting and then a General Meeting**  
**June 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**July 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**September 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**October 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**November 20<sup>th</sup>**

**The meeting closed at 9.40pm**

Signed by the Chairman.....N. P. Bowditch..... Date.....20<sup>th</sup> February.....2007