

HAIL WESTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of General Meeting of the Parish Council
Held on TUESDAY 20th February 2007
in HAIL WESTON VILLAGE HALL

Present:-

Mr. N. Bowditch	NB	Chairman
Mr. P. Chandler	PC	Vice Chairman
Mr. M. Baughan	MB	
Mr. I. Wilkie	IW	
Mr. N. Farnden	NF	
Mrs. S. Penton	SP	Parish Clerk

Also present:- Councillor Mr. J. Gray (JG) who joined the meeting later.

70220-1 APOLOGIES - Mrs. C. Couzens (CC), Mr. B. Easom (BE) & Councillor Mr. P. Downes

**70220-2 TO SIGN and APPROVE MINUTES of the FOLLOWING MEETINGS:-
Planning Sub-Committee Meeting and General Meeting 16th January 2007.**

Both of these sets of minutes were proposed and seconded and unanimously accepted as a true record.

70220-3 MATTERS ARISING (*for information only*)

Planning Minutes – none.

General Minutes – Still no reply from BT re. painting of ‘phone box. **SP** to write again in stronger terms.
SP had responded to HDC re. Electoral Review.

70220-4 MEMBERS’ DECLARATION of INTEREST for items on the agenda. None

70220-5 OPEN FORUM – for all members of the public present including District and County Councillors.

As there were no members of the public or press present, this item was held over awaiting the arrival of Councillor Gray.

70220-6 POLICING MATTERS – Notification of Drugs Raids in St. Neots. The police had informed **SP that five men and two women had been arrested in a raid at 3.00am on 9th February.**

70220-7 BURIAL GROUND including:-

- (i) **NB & NF** to report on initial meeting.
- (ii) Report on **PC & BE**’s meeting with Robinson & Hall on 31st January and subsequent advice letter received from Robinson & Hall.
- (iii) Borrowing – Application form through CALC after land has been surveyed for suitability.
- (iv) Table of Parochial Fees as at 1st January 2007 included in Correspondence package for information.

Discussion took place including all of the above.

An email had been received from CALC outlining the procedure for borrowing funds for the purchase of land. **SP** is to ask CALC if the Council is permitted to borrow elsewhere other than going through them.

Robinson Hall’s recommendations were discussed and it was resolved to make an offer for the purchase of the plot of land in question to Alexanders – one of the co-Executors acting for the two beneficiaries who live in New Zealand.

They had originally quoted £25,000 plus £2,000 towards legal fees and surveyor’s expenses. The amount to offer was put to the vote. Two voted for £10,000 and three voted for £8,000. Therefore, the latter was carried. **SP** to liaise with **NB** re. wording of letter.

Signed by the Chairman.....Mr. N. Bowditch..... DATE.....27th March.....2007

70220-8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS UPDATE including:-

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

Permission granted by HDC as per website 9th February 2007.

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.

Pending consideration by Planning HDC as at 20th February 2007.

c) Hail Weston Springs – Work continuing despite the absence of a planning application.

The Enforcement Officer is now monitoring this project.

70220-9 COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITY REPORTS

a) Highways & Environmental including:-

- (i) Rubbish bin emptying and replacement. –The bins will be monitored to ensure they are being emptied each Wednesday. The bin outside no. 123 High Street has now been replaced.
- (ii) Footbridge update – Letter from CCC 1st Feb. They will install mesh on the railings as soon as possible.
- (iii) Street Lights – All now appear to be working.
- (iv) Report via emails from **BE** to **SP** – **SP** read out the progress report attached including notification from CCC that their contribution to the Parish for Grass Cutting for 2007/8 will remain the same as last year at £280.
- (v) Dog Fouling – Note to go in the newsletter as last year.
- (vi) Refurbishment of Notice Board – no action to be taken.

b) Council controlled open space – The Best Kept Front Garden Competition – organised by CC last year and was such a success that CC is to be asked to arrange another one for this year.

c) Liaison with other authorities – Nothing to report

d) Website and Publicity - The parish newsletter is now being forwarded in good time. The Sub-Committee to archive out of date articles and, with **CC**'s agreement, to put something on about the best kept garden competition.

70220-10 ELECTION – Canvassing procedure for possible vacancies – **NB & IW** stated that they would not be standing for election in May. **SP** is to prepare an article for the next Newsletter and to contact Will Davison with a view to having an article in the next Village Crier.

70220-11 FINANCE

- a. Approval of Finance Report including Accounts for Payment – No accounts for payment. However, the Reconciliation and Account Balances Reports were approved and balances are as follows:- Cater Allen £16,301.06, HSBC Money Manager £8,641.92 and HSBC Current A/C £1,190.75.
All in favour.
- b. Clerk's expenses allowance 2006/7 and review of printing, stationery and telephone expenses for 2007/8 – It was agreed that **SP** is to be reimbursed for expenses relating to Hail Weston. Agreement has yet to be reached as to what will actually be paid. **SP** to liaise with **NB**.
- c. Other Finance Matters – The Audit Commission confirmed that Moore Stephens have been appointed as external auditors for 2006/7 and the annual fee of £135 will remain the same for 5 years.

70220-12 QUALITY STATUS including:-

- a. **Update on progress of Clerk's CiLCA studies** – Mrs. Penton had submitted her portfolio and has subsequently been notified that she has passed. Having a qualified Clerk is one of the main requirements for Quality Status. The only other requirement outstanding for applying for QS is the production of a quarterly report, which **CC** has in hand.
- b. **Review of Quality Town and Parish Council Scheme as per NALC's letter of 6th February 2007** included in correspondence package for information – attached to these Minutes.

Signed by the Chairman.....Mr. N. Bowditch..... DATE.....27th March.....2007

70220-13 CORRESPONDENCE (List attached)

70220-14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS – An item to go in Newsletter discouraging people from parking on the pavements. In places, pedestrians have to walk on the grass verge to get past the vehicles. One car parked in Orchard close is leaking oil. **SP** to contact PCSO Carol Corn and ask her to take some action. Refuse containers still being left outside the houses opposite the Village Hall on days other than the collection day. Another reminder to be delivered to these houses.
NF agreed to take up various issues raised by **IW** regarding the Race Night held in the Village Hall.

70220-5 OPEN FORUM – Councillor Gray now being present, the meeting was closed to give him the opportunity to speak.

JG offered his assistance re. Hail Weston Springs if the Council wishes him to be involved even though the property is not in Hail Weston.

He reported that the increase in Council Tax has been kept to 4.99%.

The Core Strategy has been rejected and is to be re-presented

The meeting was then re-opened.

70220-15 DATES of NEXT GENERAL MEETINGS:-

March 27th

May 15th (7.00pm) AGM followed by Annual Parish Meeting and then a General Meeting

June 19th

July 17th

September 18th

October 16th

November 20th

The meeting closed at 9.23pm