

HAIL WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of General Meeting of the Parish Council Held on TUESDAY 20th January 2009 in HAIL WESTON VILLAGE HALL at 8.00pm

Present:-

Mr. N. Farnden	NF	Chairman
Mr. I. Wilkie	IW	Vice Chairman
Mr. M. Baughan	MB	
Mr. B. Easom	BE	
Miss L. Bacon	LB	
Mr. P. Chandler	PC	
Mrs. S. Penton	SP	Parish Clerk

Also present:- District Councillor Jonathan Gray (JG) and two members of the public.

90120-1 APOLOGIES – County Councillor Peter Downes (PD)

90120-2 MEMBERS' DECLARATION of INTEREST for items on the agenda

LB declared a Prejudicial Interest in Item 3(i) as her property is adjacent to the site of the planning application.

PC declared a Personal Interest in Item 3(i) as he knows the applicant who was a fellow Councillor.

PC also declared a Personal Interest in Item 13 as his 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.

NF declared a Personal Interest in Item 8 as his daughter presented the Play Area petition to the Parish Assembly.

90120-3 PLANNING – LB joined the public for the next item 3(i).

(i) Application 0803409FUL – Erection of 2 dwellings. Land at and including 1 Ford End, Hail Weston – Applicant Mrs. J. Clements.

The meeting was closed at this point to bring Item 4 OPEN FORUM forward to allow for discussion of the above application.

The meeting was then re-opened.

The application was discussed by Councillors and the following comments were made:-

Dimensions of house rather large, domineering and out of character. However, none of the windows overlook the Manor Way houses.

Concern was expressed at the narrowing of Ford End at the junction, which is already very congested.

It was noted from the application that concrete posts were to be situated on the grass verge to prevent parking.

It was considered important that the residents of Manor Way had stated that they had no objections.

There was an initial proposal to recommend approval. However, there was a counter-proposal to recommend approval but to urge HDC to reconsider the requirement to narrow the roadway and erect concrete posts.

SP to liaise with **BE** for wording the response to HDC.

(ii) Other Planning matters including update on Hail Weston Springs including footpath.

SP to clarify the situation with HDC Planning.

90120-4 OPEN FORUM – for all members of the public and press present including District and County Councillors.

JG informed the meeting of the Gypsy and Traveller Sites Development Plan Document – Issues Consultation: Principles and Processes (Itemised on the correspondence list attached to these Minutes.)

Signed by the Chairman.....Date.....2009

HDC is preparing a Development Plan Document (DPD), which will allocate sites for Gypsies and Travellers. Views are being sought on the Consultation document. Part of the Consultation is to ascertain whether there are sites, which might be suitable to accommodate Gypsies and Travellers. Future stages will consider site options leading to the Council identifying the sites which best meet the requirements and criteria. Documents are on web site.

The Consultation period runs from Friday 16th January to Friday 27th February.

IW will access the web site to investigate this further.

90120-5 TO APPROVE and SIGN MINUTES of the General Meeting held on 18th November and the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 1st December.

Both sets of Minutes were accepted as a true record. All in favour.

90120-6 MATTERS ARISING - Nothing to report

90120-7 CASUAL VACANCY – NF had spoken to Sheila Buchanan who has expressed her interest in becoming a Parish Councillor and so filling the vacancy left by Cindy Couzens' resignation. **SP** to take various introductory documents to her e.g. Job Description.

At this point **NF** informed the meeting that, regrettably, he has received a letter of resignation from **LB**. **NF** took the opportunity to thank Liz for all her hard work, particularly with regard to the Allotments and the associated difficulties. He went on to say that we are all very grateful for what she has done.

Liz expressed her willingness to continue to be involved with community activities.

90120-8 PROPOSED REFURBISHMENT of PLAY AREA

(i) **Report of meeting of Play Area Working Party held on 16th December.** It was agreed that publicity is of prime importance and Dawn Isaac will produce a notice to be delivered door-to-door. Distribution of notices is to be shared. Dawn also agreed to draft a letter to go to all children that signed the petition thanking them for their interest and welcoming them to the Consultation event on 31st January.

(ii) **Survey of Playing Field - Ian Gardner of Associated Surveying Consultants –** It was agreed that the survey should be carried out and the costs were approved. All in favour.

(iii) **Clerk has withdrawn envelope from Bank with a view to confirming ownership of land – PC** agreed to examine the contents of the envelope with a view to proving ownership of the Playing Field and to compile a list of the contents.

(iv) **Any other related matters.** **BE** will provide Jo Fitzpatrick of Cambridgeshire ACRE with copies of the Playing Field plans for Consultation Event purposes.

90120-9 BOTTLE BANK UPDATE – Item to go in next Newsletter inviting residents' comments on the suggested site.

90120-10 BUS STOP UPDATE – JG to follow this up again with Paul Nelson.

90120-11 PAINTING of POST BOX next to telephone box – No action yet taken by **SP**.

90120-12 BRIDGE over the FORD – Nothing to report

90120-13 CEMETERY UPDATE – Report of Planning Application progress. The application was withdrawn. An arboreal report is required and an alternative site layout to be agreed. **BE** to meet with Barry Louth (HDC Highways) and to contact the Tree Officer, Brian Ogden. **BE** also to liaise with **JG**.

90120-14 COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITY REPORTS.

a. Highways & Environment

(i) Tree Maintenance work carried out by edf on 6th January.

(ii) Parking on pavement, Orchard Close reported to PCSO Carol Corn – residents' complaints. Carol Corn had observed the vehicle in question and reported that there was no offence caused. She said she would call on the driver and ask if he would park more considerately. **NF** had already given her the driver's address and there is no more that the Parish Council can do.

Signed by the Chairman.....Date.....2009

(iii) B645 lack of signs into village travelling west – resident’s complaint. This matter will be pursued with HDC.

BE reported that the sewer problem will be postponed until the summer and that there are probably 50 houses with a private sewer. Also the hedge on the B645 had been dealt with and patching of the roadway had been completed. In future **BE** will give a full written report bi-monthly.

b. Council controlled open spaces

(i) **Allotments** – Mr. Gipson’s two months’ Notice of Termination of Tenancy for non-payment of rent expired on 12th January 2009. **SP** confirmed that the latest correspondence was delivered by recorded mail on 28th November. **LB** had received a letter from Mr. Gipson on 12th January enclosing £15. **NF** had since delivered a letter to Mr. Gipson’s house informing him that the notice period to quit had expired and requesting him to remove his personal property from the plot by 20th January. It was agreed that anything of value would be left on his front lawn if he hadn’t already collected his belongings. Photos will be taken as evidence of anything removed.

Some preparatory work is needed before the new tenant can take over the plot and, therefore, authorisation is required for expenditure to cover this clearance work. It was proposed that Peter Round, the village grass-cutting contractor, would clear the plot and rotovate it for the sum of £200. All in favour.

(ii) **Garden of Rest Trees** - Council approval sought for additional tree work to be carried out in the Garden of Rest at a further charge of £180. A complaint has been received from a parishioner that the branches are brushing on her roof.

Approval was given for the £180 expenditure. All in favour.

c. Communications including Newsletter & Web Site – **MB** is currently compiling the next Newsletter to be distributed on 15th March.

d. Liaison with other Authorities

Safer Neighbourhood Panel Meetings for 2009 will be held at the Priory Centre, St. Neots at 7.30pm on the following dates:-

Thursday 15th January, Thursday 16th April, Thursday 16th July and Thursday 15th October.

IW was to attend the meeting of 15th January but was unable to do so as this coincided with another business appointment.

90120-15 FINANCE

- (i) Finance Reports and Accounts for Payment - All in favour of approval - Reports attached to these Minutes.
- (ii) Precept Application submitted for £15,244 i.e. £14,800 + 3% as agreed at November meeting.
- (iii) 2009/10 draft Budget – The draft Budget was finalised subject to amendments agreed. All in favour.
- (iv) Other Finance
 - (a) Insurance, Fidelity Guarantee – recommended cover is Balance at Banks + 50% of Precept i.e. almost £40,000. Present cover is £30,000. Further cover of £10,000 is £22 pa. Increase approved. All in favour. **SP** to make arrangements with Allianz Cornhill for the increased cover.
 - (b) Annual Return – Further Variance Report requested by Moore Stephens in November re. Balances C/F and Staff Costs. Additional Variance Report sent and accepted. Annual Return has since been returned with NO comments. Copy of Annual Return given to each Councillor at meeting. Moore Stephens invoice is on the list of A/Cs for Payment attached to these Minutes.

90120-16 CORRESPONDENCE (List attached)

Gypsy and Traveller Sites Development Plan Document. **IW** to investigate this further. See Item 4. Taxis in Huntingdonshire questionnaire. **LB** will respond.

90120-17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS – As Village Hall representative, **BE** will attend the Village Hall meeting to ascertain their plans and in particular, Financial Planning, Budget & Contingency.

Signed by the Chairman.....Date.....2009

90120-18 DATES of NEXT MEETINGS:-

17th February
17th March
21st April (Parish Assembly)
19th May (AGM)
16th June
21st July
15th September
20th October
17th November

The meeting closed at 10.15pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Date.....2009