

WOODHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Monday the 19th July 2010

Present Cllr Alistair Marr - Chairman
Cllr Terry Huggins - Vice Chairman
Cllr John Nicoll
Cllr Andy Notman
Cllr Peter Collins
Cllr Bob Newell
Cllr Simon West
Mrs Elizabeth Pendered – Clerk

Also present - DC Mike Newman, CC Steve Criswell and one member of the public

16. Apologies and reasons for Absence - none

The meeting closed for the County Cllr District Cllr & members of the Public to address the meeting

Cllr Newman stated that there wasn't much to report on. The current issues are still the parking in St Neots and the use of public facilities. The general public have been given the opportunity to comment on the Council Budget cuts.

Cllr Criswell reported on the Traveller sites. He said that there are two existing sites, Sheep Lane and next to the Raptor Centre and a proposal for one adjacent to the mushroom farm. In 2009 everyone was asked for land for possible sites. This current plan is an exercise to find suitable sites and currently there are no private landowners with any land. The County Council sites have formed the list that has come out of this exercise. The sites have to give the travellers the ability to walk or cycle to school, the same as the settled communities. The current site is considered to be ok and if it remained would be ok. The new site would 2, 3 or 4 pitches maximum, owner/occupied. The question has been raised as to why they are all in the NE of the County but that is where the majority of the County Council land is. Cllr Marr requested that all the Councillors write their comments to him and he will form one letter of response from Woodhurst Parish Council. Cllr Criswell also commented on the status of the Guided Bus. The project is waiting for the builder to finish and rectify all the defects that have been found. On the St Ives – Cambridge route there have been 6 defects found and when it considered fit for purpose it will open. Currently the builders are paying a penalty clause of £14,000 per day, so far £6m in penalties. It is considered that the builders were hoping the Council would cave in to public pressure to open but they won't. The plan is that when the Cambridge end opens it will all open.

17. The minutes of the AGM held on the 17th May 2010 were read, approved and duly signed as a true record of the meeting

18. Matters arising

- **Swan Weir pond** – A pond clearing party was organised on Saturday 17th July 2010. There was a good turnout and good progress was made. The general feeling was very positive.
- **The Lamp Post** is still being chased with not much progress.
- **The Litter Bin** in Moot Way has been replaced.
- **The drainage issue at Cherry Tree Cottage** seems to be much better and considered under control

- **Small Scale Environmental Improvement Scheme.** The costs of electricity have now made the lighting in Church Passage no longer a viable option so it was agreed that the application for funding would be dropped. Proposed by Cllr Marr and seconded by Cllr Nicoll.
- **Gate Butt Lane** – has been installed and invoice has been paid. A letter will be written to Farbon Farms confirming that they have no further responsibility for the gate. Key holders for the gate will be:
 1. Parish Clerk
 2. Cllr Alistair Marr
 3. Cllr Peter Collins
 4. Neil Farbon, Farbon Farms
 5. Herbert Burgess

19. Members declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda – none

20. Public Footpaths – all reported to be in good order

- P3 payments/allocation – new allocation approved and cheques approved to be issued by the Clerk.

21. Countryside Watch – all very quiet and no crimes reported. The main issue seems to be vehicles pulling into gateways and then leaving for no apparent reason could be completely innocent. Neil Farbon reported that the battery from his electric gate has been stolen but he has not reported this to the police.

22. Travellers' sites – covered in Cllr Criswell's report. The Clerk will chase the missing documentation from HDC.

23. Planning Applications:

- **Ref: 1007505ENQ** Not in principal objecting but concerns over the proximity to RAF Wyton. Nothing reported to HDC.
- **Ref: 1007511PENQ** Not in principal objecting but concerns over the proximity to RAF Wyton. Nothing reported to HDC.
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- **Ref: 1000953FUL** Approved. Proposed by Cllr Marr and seconded by Cllr Huggins.

24. Correspondence:

- The Clerk Magazine
- HDC Letter re enforcement cases
- Letter re mobile Library route changes – changing to once a month.
- Public meetings schedule
- Bus route changes – no changes to report on our bus route
- HDC Budget report
- Cambridgeshire Highways emagazine
- NHS Keeping in Touch
- Luminus Headlines/News
- Plum Weekend
- Legal note re Parish, Town and Community Council Meetings
- Community Action
- Cambridgeshire ACRE products and services guide

- Aran Services Ltd
- Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Scheme application form:
 - i. Suggestion of applying for funding for a light at the corner of Butt Lane. This was denied over costs of electricity
 - ii. Suggestion of upgrading the Bus Shelter so that the children are visible from the road. It was felt that the current shelter provides a deterrent to motorists speeding as it blocks the view ahead. It was suggested that bollards in front of the shelter would stop vehicles mounting the pavement. The member of the public present at the meeting was the owner of The Chapel so he was asked for his comments. He said he has no immediate objections but would prefer alternative methods to be adopted and suggested Speed Warning signals in the village. Cllr Criswell suggested that we state our reasons why would like to erect bollards.

25. Finance

- Clerk's wages – it was agreed that the scale would be, in accordance to CPALC, £9 per hour and a level of 3 hours per week, totalling £1,404 per annum. A cheque for £200 has already been issued so a cheque will be written for the deficit and a direct debit will set up starting 1st September 2010 for £117 per month. Proposed by Cllr Marr and seconded by Cllr Huggins.

- Cheques raised May – July

Chq No 844	Internal Auditor	£25.00
Chq No 845	Village Hall Hire charges – Sept 08 to May 10	£260.00
Chq No 846	Clerk's Expenses	£105.74
Chq No 847	Payment for Gate in Butt Lane	£117.50

All approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr Huggins and seconded by Cllr Newell.

- Year End Accounts 09/10 – the Clerk reported that we are going to be charged additional fees by the external auditors for answers that the internal auditor, Mrs Olga Mansfield, answered and that needed further investigation. It was considered that we should ask Mrs Mansfield to return the £25 fee we paid her to audit the accounts on our behalf. Proposed by Cllr Huggins and seconded by Cllr Notman.

26. Items for next meeting

- Height restrictions for exposed electricity on poles
- Clay Pitts Lane

Mrs Elizabeth Pendered - Clerk
Next Meeting: 19th July 2010

These minutes are un-adopted