

AYNHO PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd April 2007 at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Chairman - Keith McClellan

Councillors – Bradford, Gibbs, Macklin, and Phillips.

In Attendance: Steve Jones (RFO) and Peter Cole (Clerk).

1 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from Cllr. Anderson, who was away on business, and Cllr. Iannacci, who was abroad, which were accepted.

2 Declarations of Interest

None.

3 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5th March 2007 and the Meeting held on 15th March 2007

It was proposed by Cllr. Gibbs, seconded by Cllr. Macklin and agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th March 2007 should be approved and signed.

It was proposed by Cllr. McClellan, seconded by Cllr. Phillips and agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th March 2007 should be approved and signed.

4 Matters Arising not on the Agenda

The Clerk had written to the Leader of N.C.C., Jim Harker, about the issue of two almost identical documents within just over a week regarding the Northants Waste Local Plan and the Northants Minerals Local Plan and the subsequent Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework.

He had received a reply pointing out that they are not identical documents, and the change from Local Plans to a Development Framework has been driven by central government, who have made this a statutory requirement for them. The use of a courier is actually half the cost of normal Royal Mail postage. In reply to his specific question, the cost of producing them, printing and dispatching to a parish council works out at £24.78 per council, which is partially funded by charging landowners, developers and the minerals industry £50 to be sent the two plans.

5 Finance

The RFO reported that the bank balances at 31st March totalled £3235.80.

It was proposed by Cllr. Gibbs, seconded by Cllr. Bradford and agreed that the following cheques totalling £8583.67 approved for payment at the meeting held on 15th March 2007 be authorised by full Council: -

Cheque	VAT(£)	Cost(£)	Total (£)	Payee	Detail	Power
100383	1263.50	7220.00	8483.50	P R Alcock & Sons Ltd	External sports pavilion work	(e)
100384	0.00	58.75	58.75	D & J Oakey	Trees for playgrounds	(c)
100385	0.00	41.42	41.42	C Macklin	Mileage	(a)

and that the following cheques totalling £1031.30 be authorised for payment: -

Cheque	VAT(£)	Cost(£)	Total (£)	Payee	Detail	Power
100386	0.00	104.76	104.76	K McClellan	Mileage to meetings	(a)
100387	2.28	13.00	15.28	A H Contracts	Dog bin emptying	(f)
100388	0.00	35.00	35.00	Cartwright Archive	Donation from Dance	(g)
100389	15.96	91.19	107.05	ABB	Lighting maintenance	(d)
100390	0.00	26.01	26.01	Anglian Water	Water for sports field	(e)
100391	0.00	152.00	152.00	N.A.L.C.	Annual subscription	(a)
100392	0.00	126.00	126.00	N.A.L.C.	Audit fee	(a)
100393	16.43	93.89	110.32	Viking Direct	Stationery supplies	(a)
100394	0.00	22.00	22.00	Aynho Village Hall	Q1 07 meetings	(a)
100395	0.00	254.38	254.38	P Cole	March salary & expenses (£19.18)	(b)
100396	0.00	78.40	78.40	S Jones	RFO fees	(b)

Code	Power	Regulation
(a)	Administration	Local Government Act 1972, s111
(b)	Salaries	Local Government Act 1972, s112
(c)	Open Spaces/grass cutting, etc.	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9 & 10
(d)	Electricity/street lighting	Parish Councils Act 1957, s3 & Highways Act 1980, s301
(e)	Equip recreational buildings	Local Government (Misc. Provisions) Act 1976, s19
(f)	Provision of litter bins	Litter Act 1983, ss 5, 6
(g)	Donation	Local Government Act 1972, s137

The Clerk has updated the Asset Register, based on the insurance renewal invoice, which will be paid next month, following receipt of the first instalment of the precept. The revised total figure is £108,308.21.

A H Contracts have written to say that due to increasing landfill tax, etc, prices for emptying the dog bins will rise by 4.75%.

6 Parish Council Elections

Nomination forms have been given to all existing Councillors, except for Cllr. Gibbs. Indications are that everyone will be standing again, except for Cllr. Iannacci, who sent an email saying that she had not had time to complete the form before going abroad. Two people had so far asked the Clerk for nomination papers, so it would appear that we shall not therefore need an election, but we shall probably have to co-opt one person later.

7 Planning

S/2007/286/P – Loft conversion to include insertion of 3No. rooflights at 25 Blacksmiths Hill – It was noted that the only rooflight visible from Blacksmiths Hill would be the fire escape window, which of necessity would need to face the road for emergency evacuation purposes. None of the neighbours has raised any objection, so it was agreed to support this application.

S/2007/335/P – Replacement windows at 3 Little Lane – At some time in the past the original wooden windows have been replaced with plastic-coated aluminium windows, which are not in keeping with the nature of the building. This application would assist in trying to restore the original appearance of the cottage, and it was agreed to support it.

The following decisions have been received from S.N.C.: -

S/2006/1355/LB – Internal alterations to a listed building comprising new openings, new stud walls, replacement lead roof and refurbishment of outbuildings at Aynhoe Park has been given consent subject to conditions.

The Clerk had been asked to write to Robert Peace about the delivery vehicles and a sandwich van still parked in Church Lane, which is causing problems for Church visitors and funeral parties. He had received a phone call from Mr Peace's assistant to say that they could not easily redirect delivery vehicles until they had established a car park on the western side, but in the meantime he had arranged for the sandwich van to park in the inner circle. They were not aware of anyone working there parking at the end of Little Lane.

S/2007/85/LB – Replace 3no. rooflights with 3no. conservation rooflights at The Grammar House, Croughton Road has been permitted.

S.N.C. have advised that the new bungalow in Cartwright Gardens will officially be known as 8A Cartwright Gardens, Aynho, Banbury, OX17 3BB.

8 Highways and Transport

Cllr. Macklin said that the Speedwatch programme had finished. We had been highly commended for the quality of our work, and the reports sent in. 157 people had been identified speeding through the village, and the Police now readily accept that we do have a significant problem with speeding here. We have a very good liaison with P.C. McQuad, and his data will provide very useful information. He is very keen to support us, particularly regarding the provision of vehicle-activated signs. He will also let us have the speed gun again if another village should drop out. Cllr. Macklin paid tribute to the dedicated volunteers, who had often turned out in adverse weather conditions.

The Clerk had already reported broken signposts by College Farm, and a pothole in the verge opposite the entrance to Aynhoe Park, but as these could prove dangerous he was asked to emphasise this to the Street Doctor service again.

The Clerk had written to Andy Preston, Head of Environment, complaining about the discrimination against some villages due to the restriction on bus passes to after 9.30 am, and asking for the decision to be based on the arrival time of the bus at its destination, so that everyone on the bus would be treated the same.

A reply has now been received indicating that the decision was taken on financial grounds as costs had risen above the budget allowed. It would not be possible to base the times on the arrival of a bus, as the departure time of 9.30 is defined by legislation.

Cllr. Macklin had asked Council to formally take up the problem of the road surface outside College Fields, as his neighbour has got nowhere. The Clerk will write to N.C.C. now that he has got details of earlier correspondence.

9. Playground Matters

Cllr. Phillips had drawn attention to several playground matters. These had been examined, and arrangements were in hand to deal with them.

We have received the Buildings Regs. Completion Certificate for the new drainage work, and the Clerk will now apply for the grant towards that part of the work.

It was agreed that a layer of hardcore would be needed near and behind the pavilion to enable cars to turn and park there in future. Alcocks had supplied a quote for this, but the Clerk asked if someone could look at the site, and come up with a detailed specification, which he could give to Alcocks, and any other tenderers, so that we could compare like with like. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr. Bradford would get an estimate that could form a basis for a specification for this, and also for resurfacing the drive as well, as the Chairman had found a possible funding source for this.

10. Farming and Footpaths

It was noted that Gill Phillips will not be available to assist on this year's Walk, but she will walk the route beforehand. Details of the route were confirmed, and it was suggested that a display should be put at the lay-by where people wait for the tractor return.

11. Spring Clean 2007

The Clerk said that we had had more volunteers than ever before, but strangely no children at all. The total amount of rubbish collected was less than previously, but this was because there had not been so much to collect. It appears that S.N.C. may have cleared in particular the Second Crossing recently. S.N.C. has been asked to pick up 16 tyres stacked on the M 40 lay-by. Thanks to the volunteers will be put in the newsletter.

Cllr. Macklin asked about a possible sewerage problem near the 30 mph gates on the Banbury Road. This will be investigated.

12. The Annual Village Report and the Annual Village Meeting 2007

Copies of the Parish Council part of the Annual Village Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. This Report was agreed.

Cllr. Phillips said that she had been asked what had been done about preventing cars from parking on the village greens. After some discussion it was agreed that "No Parking on the Grass" signs should be purchased initially, and if this is not successful, consideration could be given to using posts. The Clerk will get costings for this.

13. The Parish Plan

The Chairman said that the new Council ought to revisit this as it runs out in 2008, to assess where we are. He would like to see a History Group set up in the village, and wanted a preliminary meeting to ascertain support for it. In that event it was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for the hire of the Village Hall.

14 Meetings and Conferences

The Chairman reported on a funding workshop he had attended on 20th March. He had come back with a good deal of useful information about various sources of grants for a range of purposes.

Encams is offering obligatory courses to train officers authorised by a parish council to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for litter, graffiti, flyposting and dog control orders. The cost would be £185 per delegate.

Moulton College, Northampton, which provides courses in agriculture, horticulture and landbased services, has facilities including the South Northants Vocational Skills Academy at Silverstone. It has sent an invitation to an Open Day there on Wednesday 18th April between 12 and 2 pm.

The Chairman reported on the Ward Meeting held on 26th March. He had received an apology for the glossing over of a matter raised by this Council.

It was agreed that Councillors should have nameplates for the Annual Village Meeting.

15. Correspondence.

N.C.C. have sent a document "Putting the Customer First".

They have also advised that the General Register Office has invested in new technology to input notifications of births, marriages and deaths via the internet, This means that the relatively infrequent visits to Brackley do not justify the investment in technology required to register them at this location. Therefore from 26th March they can only be registered at Towcester.

Oxfordshire County Council have sent their Minerals and Waste Development Framework.

The East Midland Rural Action Plan was unveiled recently.

ABB have sent a list of their charges. Cllr. Phillips has been given a copy.

Central Networks sent a letter about signing an agreement for unmetered electricity connections. The Clerk sought clarification on this, and established that although we pay Powergen for our electricity, rather than paying for the exact amount used, Central Networks estimates a figure for Powergen, based on the number of lights and the length of time they are expected to be on for. This is apparently cheaper for us than paying for the exact number of units used.

We have been sent a leaflet issued by C.P.R.E. "Discover your Local Landscape and Champion it's Character". Co-incidentally at the Spring Clean Gill Phillips mentioned that we ought to take more account of village hedgerows, etc, such as that in Green Lane, with it's rich variety of wildlife, so she has been given a copy of it.

Postwatch have sent a letter about post office closures.

The following have been received and will be circulated: -

Alzheimer's Society Newsletter, Croughton Parish Council Minutes, emda news, Policing in Your Community, S.N.C.'s Landlord News and Views (plus the information leaflet to be sent to all tenants and leaseholders), and Voluntary Action in South Northamptonshire (plus Link-up - a leaflet about the changing role for SNVB).

16 Any Other Business (at the Discretion of the Chair)

Cllr. Phillips mentioned the emergency pack to be used in the event of a prolonged power cut. She suggested that as the Church was the main nominated disaster centre, this pack should be held by the Rector. This was agreed.

Cllr. Bradford said that due to massive charges for disposing of grass commercially at landfill sites, grass-cutters were no longer picking up the cut grass.

The Chairman thanked Graham Gibbs for all his efforts over the last eight years, especially in dealing with transport matters.

17 Date of Next Meeting – Monday 14th May 2007 at 7.30 pm

This date was agreed.

The Meeting closed at 10.05 pm.