

## AYNHO PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2006 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Chairman - Keith McClellan

Councillors – Anderson, Bradford, Gibbs, Iannacci, Macklin, Oakey and Phillips.

In Attendance: Steve Jones (RFO), Peter Cole (Clerk), P.C. Gez Shillito and Kathryn Smith, Rural Officer at Northamptonshire ACRE.

#### **1 Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies from Cllr. Handley, which were accepted.

#### **2 Declarations of Interest**

None.

#### **3 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2006 and a Planning Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

It was proposed by Cllr. Gibbs, seconded by Cllr, Bradford and agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2006 and should be approved and signed, subject to the following amendment:-

Page 3, line 6 replace “to” with “from”.

It was proposed by Cllr. Phillips, seconded by Cllr, Bradford and agreed that the Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2006 should be approved and signed.

#### **4 Matters Arising not on the Agenda**

Regarding an invoice for payment the Clerk said that he had spoken to the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator about the sign that had been vandalised with graffiti, and he had mentioned that as all the signs are becoming badly faded he thought the Parish Council would probably agree to replace them. He asked her if she knew where that signs came from, and she said that she would find out. He said that he would raise it at the next meeting. A few days later new signs arrived, and he asked Council if payment for these could be approved. This was agreed. Three of the signs have been put up, and it was agreed that the fourth should go on a roadside post by College Fields.

## 5 Finance (including a final look at the Budget and Precept for 2007/2008)

The RFO reported that the bank balances at 4<sup>th</sup> December 2006 totalled £13,158.18.

The outside auditors BDO Stoy Hayward have given Aynho Parish Council a clean audit.

It was proposed by Cllr. Anderson, seconded by Cllr. Bradford and agreed that the following cheques totalling £841.20 be authorised for payment: -

Cheque	VAT(£)	Cost(£)	Total (£)	Payee	Detail	Power
100364	6.06	34.60	34.60	Shurville Signs	4 Neighbourhood Watch signs	(a)
100365	40.26	230.03	270.29	Powergen	Street lighting	(d)
100366	2.98	59.57	62.55	Powergen	Electricity for Sports Pavilion	(d)
100367	2.28	13.00	15.28	A H Contracts	Dog bin emptying	(f)
100368	0.00	272.22	272.22	P Cole	Nov salary 236.20 & exp 37.02	(b)
100369	0.00	39.20	39.20	S Jones	RFO Nov. fees	(b)
100370	21.00	120.00	141.00	BDO Stoy Hayward	Annual audit fee	(a)

Code	Power	Regulation
(a)	Administration	Local Government Act 1972, s111
(b)	Salaries	Local Government Act 1972, s112
(d)	Electricity/street lighting	Parish Councils Act 1957, s3 & Highways Act 1980, s301
(f)	Provision of litter bins	Litter Act 1983, ss 5, 6

Regarding the budget the RFO had prepared a projection of expenditure to the end of the financial year, and based on this it was proposed by Cllr. Iannacci seconded by Cllr. Macklin and agreed that the Budget for 2007/2008 should be fixed at £17,300, and that a precept of £16,500 should be submitted to S.N.C. when appropriate.

The next item was taken out of turn to enable the Rural Officer to get away.

## 10 The Parish Plan

Kathryn Smith, Rural Officer at Northamptonshire ACRE was present to carry out an evaluation of our Action Plan and hear about our progress.

She firstly went through our procedure to get the Plan under way. Then she went on to ask what particular problems we had encountered. She was told of our difficulties with regard to N.C.C. Highways, which had been the major priority in our village consultation. Initially they had been constructive in discussing traffic calming with us, and actually drawing up a three year rolling plan. However this had fallen by the wayside after year one, and reached a stage where with staff changes they actually denied the existence of such a plan until we produced our copy of it! Now despite our offering to fund the next stage of vehicle-activated signs, they are totally refusing to consider such a thing.

On the other hand we have had our successes:

We have improved communication, through our website, the village newsletter and our welcome pack. An active recorded music society arose from the plan. Liaison with local farmers has been excellent, resulting in very well attended annual farm walks. We also had a French language course, but this only lasted a year before becoming a victim of Council cut-backs. Everything that we ourselves could do, we have done.

We would have liked to have some sort of simple running track around our sports field, but it appeared that only a large expensive one could be provided, which was well out of our league.

Kathryn Smith said that there is now a village hall and playing fields advisor at ACRE, and she would ask if they could assist us or advise on grants.

## **6 Planning**

There were no further new planning applications this month, but the full Council retrospectively approved that two that were dealt with by the Planning Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

The Clerk said that the final submission made to S.N.C. about the plans for Aynhoe Park differed slightly from the one he had circulated after the last meeting. This was not due to a variation in the wording, so much as a change of emphasis. Due to the tight deadline he had not been able to circulate this to every one again before sending it off.

The Chairman said that he had spoken to the architect, and had learned that as English Heritage were opposed to the proposed new pavilion, this had been withdrawn from the current application. Regarding the exit onto the main road, a vehicle count has been commissioned, and a mini roundabout has been suggested as a possible solution.

Cllr. Phillips said that deliveries were still going down Church Lane. A letter will be sent about this.

The Clerk said that he had received an email about consultation arrangements concerning a Draft Supplementary Planning Document on Energy and Development. The document provides clear guidance on ways in which development can be more energy efficient, and maximise the proportion of energy from renewable resources. It is applicable to all types of buildings, from residential to large-scale commercial and industrial premises. It is intended that this draft document will be adopted eventually as part of the formal planning system, and will be used for development control purposes, and in evidence for planning appeals.

The document itself can be viewed on the S.N.C. website, and it will be available for inspection locally at the S.N.C. office at Brackley, or the Brackley library from now until the consultation period ends on 12<sup>th</sup> January. This is the date by which all views and comments must be made to S.N.C.

## **7 Highways and Transport**

Cllr. Gibbs reported that the Highways Group had met Tim Boswell and had cranked up the issue on traffic volumes and speeding. The next step is to get visible evidence of Village support by means of our petition. Ron Sawbridge has suggested that it would be better to speak at the February meeting rather than the December one. This would give more time to get the petition to most of the village. Cllr. Anderson suggested that as the Park Club draw organisers will be visiting every household soon, it would provide an opportunity to get it signed by everyone. This was agreed.

P.C. Shillito asked what was the problem with the County Council about letting the village have vehicle-activated signs. The Chairman replied that it was so frustrating that several years ago the C.C. had drawn up detailed plans for such signs to be provided, but over the intervening period this had lapsed. So we are only asking for what they themselves originally suggested. Cllr. Macklin said that he had spoken to

an Inspector Tall from the Traffic Division about our need for this. P.C. Shillito offered to email Insp. Tall to see if he could assist.

Cllr. Macklin also said that having had the speed camera in 2005, we had not had it at all in 2006, and were only going to have it for a fortnight in February next year. A request for volunteers to train for this will be put in the newsletter.

His neighbour, who is a road engineer, wrote to S.N.C., pointing out that it is problems with the road surface which is causing the rumbling noise at College Fields, and asking them to change the road surface. He had received a negative reply. The Clerk suggested that the three of them should meet to draft a suitable letter to N.C.C./Atkins.

The Clerk has reported the vehicle-activated signs in the Souldern Dip that are only functioning intermittently to the Street Doctor. He was told that N.C.C. are aware of this, and are intending to reposition the sign soon.

He also asked for the trees near and at the Dip itself to be cut back drastically to improve visibility and thereby safety on this dangerous bend.

While he was speaking to them he asked about the missing "No Entry" sign at the foot of Blacksmiths Hill, which had been reported last December, but which has still not been replaced.

The work in Hollow Way has been completed.

Most of the windows on two sides of the public telephone box were smashed over last weekend. The Clerk reported this to British Telecom, and the Police. Someone from BT visited to clear the shattered glass from the windows and clear away the broken glass on the floor. Then last Friday a resident reported that the remaining windows had been broken overnight. This has also been reported, and Gez Shillito said that he had made enquiries of local householders, but no one had heard anything.

The abandoned caravan, which was dumped in the Nell Bridge lay-by, was reported, and has been removed.

## **8 Playground Matters**

Letters have been sent to the successful tenderers for the Sports pavilion work, advising them that they had secured the contract, but would not be able to start work yet.

We should know the result of our grant application by the end of next week following a meeting of the Grants Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

One of the "This playground is for the use of children under 12 years" signs has been broken, and is being replaced.

Cllr. Oakey said that the two trees for the playgrounds have been purchased. Mr Pardue and the W.I. will be consulted about the siting of them.

## **9 Farming and Footpaths**

Gill Phillips has produced a quarterly footpaths report, which will be circulated. There are only minor problems, which she is sorting out with the respective landowners. She is hoping to arrange for a footpaths map to be put on the website.

It was noted that a young man had collapsed on the Souldern footpath just outside the village recently. He had been found by a walker and taken to hospital.

## **11 The Cartwright Papers**

The outcome of the crucial Heritage Lottery application should be known by the end of this week.

It was unfortunate that the attendance at the Dance held to raise funds for the Archive was disappointing, as the band was very good, and those who did attend thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

## **12 Meetings and Conferences**

The Chairman reported on a meeting at Sywell Aerodrome to discuss the Local Government White Paper last Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> November. It appears that county and district councils will have to devolve some powers and functions to parishes, although at this stage nothing was said about funding.

## **13. Correspondence.**

N.C.C. have sent a questionnaire seeking our opinion on Country Parks and open spaces. None of these are close enough to Aynho to require a response.

S.N.C. have sent a poster and leaflet about a review of Northamptonshire Waste Management Strategy.

Buckinghamshire C.C. has sent its Minerals & Waste Local Development Framework – Statement of Community Involvement.

N.A.L.C. has sent Update 4, mainly about the Local Government White Paper, Policing, and training courses.

Help the Aged has sent a leaflet about how they can help older people in the community.

The following have been received and will be circulated: -

Alzheimer's Newsletter, Croughton Parish Council Minutes, emda news magazine and Local Council Review.

## **14 Any Other Business (at the Discretion of the Chair)**

None.

## **15 Date of Next Meeting – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

This date was agreed.

The Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.