

AYNHO PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 4th February 2008 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Chairman - Keith McClellan
Councillors – Anderson, Bellamy, Bradford, Brook, James, Macklin, Oakey and Phillips.

In Attendance: Mrs Ambereen Hitchcox (Potential RFO), Peter Cole (Clerk) and one member of the public.

1 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

2 Declarations of Interest

None.

3 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3rd December 2007 and the Special Planning Meeting held on 11th January 2008

It was proposed by Cllr. Oakey, seconded by Cllr. Phillips and agreed that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3rd December 2007 should be approved and signed.

It was proposed by Cllr. Macklin, seconded by Cllr. Bellamy and agreed that the Minutes of the Special Planning Meeting held on 11th January 2008 should be approved and signed.

4 Matters Arising not on the Agenda

The Clerk had drafted letters to the two ambulance trusts. By the time he had established their addresses it was close to Christmas, and he did not think that writing to them at that time would be a good idea. In the new year he showed his drafts to Cllr. Bradford, who said that there had been a tragic event at his house over the holiday. A visiting relative had suffered a brain haemorrhage, and a paramedic called, shortly followed by a Northants ambulance. They wanted to go to Northampton, but the paramedic insisted on the Horton. This was agreed, but they went via Baynards Green and the M40, instead of the direct route via Adderbury. The patient's partner did not know the area sufficiently to correct this. The patient subsequently died in hospital. This sad event was incorporated into the letters. So far an acknowledgment has been received, but nothing else.

Members were appalled by this. As this could be a matter of life or death for our residents, the Clerk was asked to write again urgently to both Trusts, asking for a guarantee that Aynho patients could be taken to the nearest A & E, i.e. the Horton, by the most direct route. Cllr. Bradford suggested that to ensure being treated at the Horton, it would be better to drive to Banbury, rather than rely on the ambulance service. This will be put in the newsletter. It is understood that someone in Croughton had a similar experience.

The Clerk said that he had done a great deal of weeding of old correspondence, but he had not yet arranged to deposit the old minute books with the Northamptonshire Records Office for safekeeping, as he had discovered another older one that he had not yet summarised.

The Chairman said that he had checked out the proposal to have a temporary curtain suspended from the ceiling of the village hall for play productions. This will have no effect apart from when plays are being performed, as the fixing point will be recessed in the ceiling with a white cover.

Cllr. Phillips mentioned that the Risk Assessment was still overdue.

5. Appointment of a new RFO

The Chairman introduced Mrs Ambereen Hitchcox, who had responded to the advertisement for the RFO post. He and the Vice-Chairman had interviewed her, and they recommended that she seemed very well qualified for the post.

It was proposed by Cllr. Bradford, seconded by Cllr. McClellan and agreed that Mrs Hitchcox should be appointed RFO with effect from 1st February 2008.

The Clerk mentioned that there had been another applicant, who had replied to the February advert in the newsletter. He had informed him that the post was already taken.

6. Finance (including approval of N.A.L.C. approved salary increases for 2007/2008, and a look at Donations)

The Clerk had prepared a list of cheques for payment.

It was proposed by Cllr. Brook, seconded by Cllr. Bellamy and agreed that the following cheques totalling £404.59 approved at the Special Planning Meeting held on 11th January should be minuted, and that the subsequent cheques totalling £643.33 be authorised for payment: -

Cheque	VAT(£)	Cost(£)	Total (£)	Payee	Detail	Power
100450	0.00	72.39	72.39	Allianz Insurance plc	Additional premium (pavilion work)	(a)
100451	40.33	230.43	270.76	E-on	Street lighting	(d)
100452	2.60	14.84	17.44	A H Contracts	Dog bin emptying	(f)
100453	0.00	44.00	44.00	Aynho Village Hall	Fourth quarter meetings	(a)

Cheque	VAT(£)	Cost(£)	Total (£)	Payee	Detail	Power
100454	2.60	14.84	17.44	A H Contracts	Dog bin emptying	(f)
100455	10.71	61.24	71.95	Viking Direct	Stationery	(a)
100456	0.00	31.62	31.62	J R Bradford	Mileage for meeting	(a)
100457	0.00	483.12	483.12	P Cole	Salary Dec. & Jan. + expenses £12.72	(b)
100458	0.00	39.20	39.20	S Jones	RFO fees December	(b)

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

The Clerk reported that details of our Precept had been sent to S.N.C. at the appropriate time.

New pay scales for clerks and RFOs had been received from N.A.L.C. The revised hourly figure would be £8.04, and should apply from 1st April 2007.

It was proposed by Cllr. Anderson, seconded by Cllr. Oakey and agreed that the new salary scale rate of £8.04 per hour as advised by N.A.L.C. should be paid to the Clerk and RFO with effect from 1st April 2007.

So far as Donations were concerned the Clerk said that in addition to the usual Church payments, which amounted last year to £350, requests had been received recently from Banbury C.A.B., Banbury Benefits Advice Project, and Vitalise. Cllr. Macklin suggested that the Air Ambulance should be supported, especially due to possible ordinary ambulance problems.

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Anderson, seconded by Cllr. Bradford and agreed that the following donations should be paid at the March meeting: -

Aynho P.C.C. £350, towards the Churchyard maintenance and the newsletter.

Banbury C.A.B. £50

Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance £50

It was further agreed that the budget for donations should be examined more closely when setting budgets for next year.

Regarding the possibility in page 2 of the December minutes that we might have to pay towards a pension if we employ a clerk under pension age, the Clerk pointed out that this was unlikely, because his understanding was that the new Act only applied if monthly earnings were above £364, whereas his (after the new increase) would only amount to £241.

7 Planning

The Clerk said that after he had sent our response to the Aynhoe Corner application, he was asked to include a condition that there should be no exterior floodlighting so as to minimise light pollution. He therefore sent an addendum to S.N.C.

There were minor amendments to the Cartwright Arms application, to do with removal of the clock tower and revision of the parking spaces, and also amendments to the Grammar House application, but these were both for information only, and did not warrant any response.

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

S/2007/1426/P – 1.8 metre closeboard fencing at 11 Portway has been permitted.

S2007/1256/LB – Listed Building work at Cartwright Arms has received consent.

Cllr. Bradford reported on a Parish and Town Council's Planning Forum held on 24th January. 8,250 houses are to be built in the South Northants area by 2026. Most will be based in cluster villages, that is those with a shop, a post office, surgery and good transport links to large towns. At one point it was stated that village confines were set in concrete and still exist. Later on, when asked what would happen if an application was received for housing outside the village confines, it was said that if the application was agreeable they would alter the village confines!

It was noted that Oxfordshire County Council is looking at seven possible sites for a waste incinerator, two of which are just north of Banbury, but are unlikely to affect us.

8 Highways and Transport

The Chairman said that Northamptonshire County Council had been successful in getting a grant of 1.5 million pounds, plus a further million within a three-year period, to research and take action on rural roads. A letter of congratulations has already been sent to Councillor Liz Tavener. Cllr. Macklin clarified that this was to deal with speeding, traffic dangers, etc. The Council made their submission very much with our petition in mind, and ten roads including the B4100 have been specifically designated to be looked at. He added that we are the only village on a major road that has not had any calming measures, so we must capitalize on the good work we have done to ensure that we get our fair share of this spend, and that we are near the top of the priority list for it. He suggested that

the Transport Sub-Committee becomes an Action Group to focus on getting our case over and lobbying the officers dealing with it. He has noticed that in the last four weeks there has been a deterioration back to awful driving and excessive speeding, and on the night of our Planning Meeting there was an accident on Roundtown. The Action Group will consist of Cllrs Macklin, Anderson and Bellamy, and Lawrence Wilkinson. The Chairman and Tim Boswell attend sometimes. This was agreed, and a meeting will be convened soon.

We have been allocated two spots on the Community Speedwatch campaign, in August and September this year, and February and March 2009.

Cllr. Macklin said that the next serious issue is parking. We really must try to do something about this. The situation on Roundtown is that the "snake" of kerbside parking has extended so far that people are parking opposite double white lines, forcing vehicles to straddle these lines which is very dangerous, and may cause residents to become ticketed. Cllr. Anderson said that there were similar problems at the lower end of Charlton Road. The Chairman said that this should also be examined by the Action Group.

The Clerk advised that Akins have lost the contract to act for N.C.C. The new firm replacing them will be May Gurney-WSP (Wilson Scott Patrick). It was suggested that a representative should be invited to attend the Ward meeting in March.

The Clerk said that it had been reported to him a week ago that a hole had appeared in the verge outside The Glebe, and sewerage was flowing out of it onto the grass. He had reported it at once, and prompt action had been taken to deal with it.

We have been advised of changes to the 81 bus service operated by Heyfordian Travel. From 11th February the Monday to Saturday 0700 bus from Banbury to Bicester, and the Saturday 1600 bus from Bicester to Banbury will be withdrawn. A notice has been put up in the bus shelter, and it will be included in the newsletter.

9 Playground Matters

The playground inspection report is still being circulated, and so far the copy of The Playing Field magazine relating to the safeguarding of play areas has not yet been returned for action.

Cllr. Anderson said that there had been a fire on the sports field at about 3.30 am recently. A big rocket had been attached to a goalpost, and had damaged both the post and the net. He had gone out to remonstrate with them, but they ran off. The fire went out of its own accord. Soon after a car appeared on the field, and he was able to get the number. It was suggested that this should be put in the newsletter.

Cllr. Bellamy has been doing the playground inspections for almost a year now, and he suggested that it might be useful for someone else to look at it from a different perspective. Cllr. Macklin volunteered to join him on this and take it over for six weeks.

10 Farming and Footpaths

Cllr. Phillips suggested that the Farm Walk should be held at a different time this year. Cllr. Oakey said that after June the farmers would be harvesting, so earlier would be better. It was agreed that we should meet the farmers soon to discuss this. They will be invited to come at 7 pm, just before the next Council meeting on 3rd March.

Cllr. Oakey said that a resident of The Glebe had contacted him about the possibility of reinstating the gates that used to be at both ends of The Glebe footpath, to discourage dog walkers from letting

their dogs foul the path. He had advised her that she would have to get a written consensus from all the neighbours before anything could be done.

The Clerk said that Mr Wyatt had given a quote for £240 for both Bowmens Lea trees. He had contacted another local man for a quote, but he didn't get back to him. As previously authorised he had accepted Mr Wyatt's estimate. The only problem is that as he is working away and has a lot on, he will probably not be able to do the work until late March or April. This was accepted.

Gill Phillips has produced a Footpaths Report, together with an Annual Report under the Parish Path Wardens Scheme and a Problems Report, which will be circulated.

She has received an email from Ron Sawbridge, which was copied to the Clerk, advising that from 29th March the Rights of Way in Northamptonshire are being transferred from N.C.C. to the new Highways Services Contract, together with 6 members of staff. She has reservations about this, as she understands that it has had a poor record of success where it has been tried in other authorities.

11 Spring Clean

The Clerk suggested Saturday 29th March as a date for the Spring Clean. This was agreed, starting at 10 am, and he was authorised to order a skip and to purchase any bags and gloves as necessary. This will be put in the newsletter. It was suggested that Walkers is used for a skip this year.

12 The Parish Plan

The Chairman reported that the grant that we had applied for from Northants ACRE had been received, but not yet paid in. The grant obtained through Ron Sawbridge has already been put in our account. ACRE complimented us on how good our previous Plan was, and how successful it was, and on the latest application as well. No one replied to the two newsletter requests for people to help with it, but he had subsequently approached Sara Retallick, Ambi Hitchcox, and Kay Anderson specifically for youngsters, and they had all agreed to join the group. We shall garner a lot of information from the Shop Survey, which we won't need to ask for this time. From the Parish Council there will be the Chairman, and Cllrs. Bellamy, James and Macklin. The purpose of the group is to find out what the village needs, and what we do about the survey, e.g. on-line or by visit. Sorting out the right questions will be important. He will try to get Kathryn from ACRE to the first or an early meeting. Tuesday 19th February was suggested for the first meeting, in the Sports pavilion.

13 The Annual Report and the Annual Village Meeting

A letter will be sent out to all the village organisations as usual later this month, in preparation for the Meeting on 21st April. Cllr. Brook will be able to print out the Report for us. The Clerk has started to prepare the Parish Council's report. Cllr. Macklin suggested that if the ambulance situation has not been resolved by then, we could invite the directors of the Trusts to come to the Village meeting. Other people we could invite are Liz Tavener concerning Highways, and the Practice Manager at Deddington surgery.

Regarding the shop, Cllr. Brook said that the Steering Group had met on site with an architect and an estate agent, who can advise on the likely cost of alterations needed, and the size of rent we should negotiate with Mr Perkins. There are some potential problems, but it is hoped that a meeting can be held with him very soon to sort out the situation.

14 Meetings and Conferences

The Clerk confirmed that both Croughton and Evenley had agreed on the date of 17th March for next month's Ward Meeting. We normally get a speaker from the Base. The Clerk will approach May Gurney, and someone from S.N.C. or one of the bus companies to talk about the new bus passes. The Chairman suggested that a possible speaker might be the Northamptonshire Patient Liaison Officer from Towcester.

Natural England are holding a Regional Seminar on the 7th February to be held at Nottingham in conjunction with East Midlands Biodiversity Forum on Public Bodies statutory obligations to biodiversity under the Natural Environment and Communities Act (NERC) 2006.

Northamptonshire YMCA are holding a Voluntary Youth Services for Northamptonshire Forum on Wednesday 20th February at Towcester Racecourse 10 am to 5 pm.

N.C.C. are holding a Parish Emergency Planning Conference on Tuesday 11th March at S.N.C.'s Council Chamber, Towcester. Cllr. Anderson will consider this.

The Northants branch of C.P.R.E. is holding a Planning and Landscapes Roadshow on 15th April at Cranford Hall, near Kettering, 6 pm to 9pm.

15 Correspondence

S. N. C. has sent the latest copy of Housing 4U, and a newsletter.

The Government Office for the East Midlands has published the draft East Midlands Regional Plan Panel Report. Copies are in most local libraries, or on the web. The Panel's report contains conclusions about the draft plan, published last September about future housing development, and recommends what changes should be made. Proposed changes will be published for consultation in the Spring.

Communities and Local Government has published a consultation paper on detailed arrangements for putting into effect the orders and regulations to provide a more locally based ethical regime for the conduct of local councillors in England.

N.C.A.L.C. has sent an Update, and details of Community Empowerment Awards for 2007.

Northamptonshire ACRE has sent details of the Calor Village of the Year competition.

The Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service has sent details of its Proposed Standards of Operational Response 2007, and wants our response by 3rd March. It was agreed that we should ensure that we are not negatively affected by it as we are by the ambulance service. The Clerk will look at this and consider a response to discuss with the Chairman.

Alan Waterhouse is advertising his services as a mole trapper.

The following have been received and will be circulated: - Arts News and Northants Touring Arts, Clerks & Councils Direct, Croughton Parish Council minutes and newsletter, Local Council Review, The Playing Field, and two editions of Link-Up.

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

Cllr. Macklin mentioned particular problems at College Fields with wheelie bins and boxes. As this is private land, they have to be left out in a very exposed place, and therefore in recent heavy winds they have ended up blown across the main road, causing problems for vehicles, and also the risk that they will be severely damaged in the process. It may be necessary to have a special shelter built for them. The Clerk suggested that he should approach S.N.C. about this. In the recent winds this has been a problem throughout the village.

The Clerk said that he had received two emails from a resident about a firework display held late last Saturday evening, with excessive noise and smoke. This is a copy of a letter he has sent to S.N.C. The Clerk confirmed that it had been a noisy display, but it had occurred from about 10.40 pm until 10.55 pm. The Chairman said that he had recently spoken to Mr Perkins regarding fireworks, mostly from the aspect of safety due to the number of thatched cottages in the vicinity, and also about the effect on pets. Members felt that since it had ended before 11 pm, there was little that could be done under current legislation.

It was noted that perhaps more could be put in the newsletter to publicise what the Parish Council does, since many residents are probably not aware of what is and can be done by the Council.

17 Date of Next Meeting - Monday 3rd March 2008

This date was agreed.

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm.