

AYNHO PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd March 2008 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Peter Cole (Clerk) and one member of the public.

1 Apologies for Absence

There apologies from Cllr. Anderson who had a school governors meeting, and Cllr. Bradford who was away on holiday, which were accepted.

There were also apologies from Mrs Hitchcox, who was away on a prearranged holiday.

2 Declarations of Interest

None.

3 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4th February 2008

It was proposed by Cllr. Macklin, seconded by Cllr. James and agreed that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4th March 2008 should be approved and signed subject to the following amendments: -

Page 1, item 4, line 4: replace “tumour” with “haemorrhage”.

Page 3, line 12: Amend to read “Regarding the possibility in page 2 of the December minutes that we might have to pay towards a pension”

Page 4, item 9, final line: add at end: ”and take it over for six weeks.”

4 Matters Arising not on the Agenda

The Clerk had sent two urgent letters on 8th February, one to the Chief Executive of each of the two ambulance trusts, asking while we are waiting for a full response, for a guarantee that any Aynho resident would be served by the nearest ambulance, and taken to the nearest A & E, i.e. the Horton Hospital, Banbury.

A reply has been received from the South Central (Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire) Ambulance Service NHS Trust, stating that Aynho comes under the operating area of the East Midland Ambulance service. The two Trusts do provide assistance to each other on occasions. They also point out that the Ambulance resource centre at Adderbury is a place where crews start and end their shift, but it is not primarily a place from which crews will respond to emergencies. Having booked on, crews are despatched to “stand by” at appropriate locations around the county, rather than remaining at the base. The East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust has not yet sent anything other than the original acknowledgement.

Councillors were appalled at this. Cllr. Brook noted that when a small fire had broken out at the back of the Cartwright Arms over the weekend, although a fire crew from Deddington had attended, there was also a fire officer from Northamptonshire, so the Fire Service has got this sorted out. The Chairman said that James Perkins wished to thank whoever had called the brigade.

It was agreed that the Clerk should telephone the East Midlands Trust urgently, to ask if a reply is on its way, and at the same time to ask if a representative could come to our Ward meeting to speak to all three councils at the same time. The Chairman will follow this up with a personal letter to the Chief Executive. If this fails we must consider action with Tim Boswell, the local press, and the County Council Committee which deals with NHS liaison.

5. Finance

The RFO had prepared a list of cheques for payment.

It was proposed by Cllr. James, seconded by Cllr. Macklin and agreed that the following cheques totalling £870.58 be authorised for payment: -

| Cheque | VAT(£) | Cost(£) | Total (£) | Payee | Detail | Power |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|---------------------|--|-------|
| 100459 | 0.00 | 350.00 | 350.00 | Aynho P.C.C. | Donation | (g) |
| 100460 | 0.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 | Banbury C.A.B. | Donation | (g) |
| 100461 | 0.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 | W & N Air Ambulance | Donation | (g) |
| 100462 | 0.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 | S Jones | Fee arrears | (b) |
| 100463 | 0.00 | 322.05 | 322.05 | P Cole | Feb salary & expenses (£20.85) + arrears | (b) |
| 100464 | 2.60 | 14.84 | 17.44 | A H Contracts | Dog bin emptying | (f) |
| 100465 | 2.18 | 43.65 | 45.83 | E-on | Pavilion electricity | (d) |
| 100466 | 0.00 | 26.26 | 26.26 | Anglian Water | Pavilion water | (e) |

| Code | Power | Regulation |
|------|------------------------------|--|
| (b) | Salaries | Local Government Act 1972, s112 |
| (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 |

A H Contracts have written to say that the cost of emptying bins will rise by 2% from 1st April.

6. Risk assessment

The Chairman had arranged for copies of the latest Risk Management Policy and Procedures to be circulated at the meeting. Recent advice from N.A.L.C. is that we should examine all likely risks and identify them as high, medium or low risk. Members examined most aspects and it appears that appropriate controls are in place to cover all eventualities. The Clerk said that he has set up a diary list of all actions that have to be taken during the course of a year, and has placed this in the front of his Clerk's folder.

It was proposed by Cllr. Bellamy, seconded by Cllr. Phillips and agreed that the Risk Management Policy and Procedures should be updated accordingly.

7 Planning

Once again there have been no new applications this month.

There were amendments to the Grammar House application, restricting the replacement garage to a smaller one without the balcony, and also to the Aynhoe Corner one, with a change in the description and area covered, but these were both for information only, and did not warrant any response. This

application will come up for a decision on 13th March, and it was agreed that the Chairman would attend to explain the Parish Council's reasons for its recommendation.

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

S/2007/1465/P and S/2007/1466/LB - the two relating to the Cartwright Arms have now both been permitted. It was noted that the pub has now been let, but work is unlikely to start for another four weeks.

S/2007/1579/LB and S/2007/1580/P – demolition of outbuilding (existing garage/store and erection of a replacement building as per amended plan 03A at the Grammar House have been permitted.

S.N.C. last year adopted a policy statement relating to the enforcement of planning control. They have now issued this in booklet form.

8 Highways and Transport

Cllr. Macklin produced notes of a meeting of the Aynho Parish Council Highways Action Group on 19th February. The Action Group strategy is to ensure that the Aynho needs appear at the top of the proposed N.C.C. spending programme, and that our share of the spend is maximised. The Group examined all four roads leading into Aynho, and identified possible traffic calming measures for each to be discussed with N.C.C. The Group also examined the four areas where there are particular parking problems, and again suggested possible remedies. Finally it looked at other highways issues such as motorway noise and the possibility of a new junction at some time in the future, weight limits, Satnav problems and more positively marketing Aynho as the "Apricot Village" in an endeavour to change the attitude of mind of drivers.

It was agreed that this is a very comprehensive analysis of the situation, and that in the light of our recent petition, we do not need to seek any further mandate from the village to proceed on this basis. We should let Ron Sawbridge know, and then get the County Council to look at it and to provide figures for the cost-effectiveness of our various proposals. In addition there are certain relatively low-cost proposals, such as getting parking bays marked out in The Glebe and Portway, and hatched white markings on the bottom corner of Charlton Road, which could be implemented quite quickly to improve parking, which should be drawn to the County Council's attention after advising nearby residents. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Macklin for his efforts in producing this document.

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. It was noted that the eastern playground gate on the Black Path needs adjusting.

10 Spring Clean

Saturday 29th March is the date for the Spring Clean. The Clerk has purchased some black sacks and gloves, and he will order the skip in due course.

He will remind all volunteers to be particularly aware of traffic issues. Yellow jackets or white tabards will be available, and the signs made up for the last Farm Walk will be placed on Banbury Road and Station Road.

11 The Parish Plan

The Chairman reported on a meeting of the Parish Plan Committee on 19th February. Mrs Leigh will be joining the Committee to liaise with the Church and assist with youth matters. She made an interesting point that our teenagers seem to have plenty to occupy them, which is why there has been no demand for a Youth Club. It is hoped that youngsters can be invited to set up their own project under the Plan, such as examining the carbon footprint of the village, as they are keen on recycling matters, etc. The

Village Hall has been booked for a Needs Day on Sunday 11th May. It will be open to the public from 2 pm until 6 pm, which gives time for setting up beforehand. As this was only a preliminary meeting, where Committee members were given things to examine for the next one in a weeks time, it was decided that only the next set of minutes would be circulated.

Regarding the Village Shop, Cllr. Brook said that he had learned just that evening that the pub has finally been let, so we should have some news on the Shop situation very shortly. The Chairman said that Mr Perkins had confirmed this by phone.

12 The Annual Report and the Annual Village Meeting

Letters have gone out to all the village organisations in preparation for the Meeting on 21st April, and replies are coming in.

The Parish Council part of the report will be circulated prior to the next meeting, so that it can be approved.

13 Meetings and Conferences

The Ward Meeting will be on 17th March. The Clerk has approached May Gurney, and it is hoped that someone from that firm will attend, but it has not yet been confirmed. We normally get a speaker from the Base, and this time it will be the U.S. Base Commander, Colonel John Jordan. The Clerk had visited the Brackley S.N.C. shopfront about the new bus pass scheme, but they don't really know much about this yet, so we cannot get a speaker on this. Cllr. Phillips asked for bus passes to be put on the agenda. Cllr. Bellamy will ask his wife if she would organise the refreshments.

Northamptonshire ACRE are launching a Green Space Toolkit on Wednesday 16th April at the Hunsbury Centre 6.30 to 8.30 pm. Designed by the Green Infrastructure Community Development worker, this is designed for communities to use when developing projects and applying for funding. The Toolkit includes a step-by-step approach to project planning, information about how to involve the wider public, and practical details about constitutions and risk assessments, and contact details for sector specialists.

14 Appointment of a Village Hall Representative

Cllr. Phillips indicated that she was willing to continue in this post, provided that her hearing did not deteriorate. It was proposed by Cllr. McClellan, seconded by Cllr. Macklin and agreed that Cllr. Phillips be appointed Village Hall representative for the next year. Cllr. Bellamy volunteered to assist her if she had hearing problems.

15 Correspondence

Mr Booth from the Square has written concerning the flooding across the footpath at Souldern Mill, which occurs every year. He is asking if stepping stones or a raised bank could be put alongside the south-western side of the path, so that people could access the bridge over the stream, where it goes round the field towards the motorway underpass. It was agreed that this should be passed on to the Rights of Way team, after showing it to Gill Phillips.

Northants ACRE has prepared a monitoring and good practice quality standards review. It is quite a lengthy questionnaire, which will be completed by the Chairman and the Clerk, as they are the only ones who have had direct dealings with them.

South Northants Youth Council is announcing the launch of the 2008/2009 Youth Opportunities Fund. This will be brought along to the next Plan Committee meeting.

The Voluntary Youth Sector is now on-line. It includes a full cost recovery calculator to enable groups to price up their project to see the real value of their service.

Enjoy England is inviting us to celebrate St Georges Day.

Clerks and Council's Direct has sent a complimentary copy of their Update. This is a monthly publication, which gives details of new legislation, etc. it was agreed that as a small council we do not need to buy into this.

Boilerjuice.com offers an 0800 phone number as an alternative to on-line access, which enables those in rural areas to compare the costs of home heating oil from local suppliers, and encourages people to buy together with neighbours to get cheaper oil, and to help prevent tankers from clogging up country roads.

The following have been received and will be circulated: -

Croughton and Evenley Parish Council minutes, Local Council Review and Village Viewpoint.

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

There has been a recent increase in the incidence of dog fouling around the village. Something will be put in the newsletter about this.

It was noted that very minor incidents of garden vandalism had taken place in Cartwright Gardens recently.

17 Date of Next Meeting - Monday 7th April 2008

This date was agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.46 pm.