

AYNHO PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on MONDAY 14th MAY 2007 in the Village Hall

Present: - In the Chair – Keith McClellan

Councillors: - Bradford, James. Macklin, Oakey and Phillips

In Attendance: - Messrs Bellamy, Brook and Mrs Iannacci, Steve Jones (RFO), Peter Cole (Clerk) and one member of the public.

1 Election of Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr. Bradford, seconded by Cllr. Macklin and agreed that Cllr. McClellan be elected Chairman for the next year.

2 Receipt of Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr. McClellan duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was witnessed by the Clerk.

3 Co-option to fill three Unfilled Vacancies

The Clerk said that he had telephoned the District Council Office for advice, and had been told that he needed to display a notice on the main notice board for one week, advertising the vacancies and inviting anyone who wished to be considered to let him know within that week. That was by last Monday, and as a result there were four candidates for the three vacancies. In strict alphabetical they were: - Andy Anderson, Andrew Bellamy, Stephen Brook, and Sally Iannacci.

The Chairman asked the candidates to introduce themselves briefly by saying a few words. Mrs Iannacci then asked if she could withdraw as she now has two small children, so she would be unable to devote as much time as before. She said that she would still be able to assist on things like the Farm Walk if needed.

Messrs Anderson, Bellamy and Brook were therefore co-opted as Councillors.

4 Receipt of Declarations of Acceptance of Office

All Members present signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office, which were witnessed by the Clerk.

5 Election of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr. Phillips, seconded by Cllr. Macklin and agreed that Cllr. Bradford be elected Vice-Chairman for the next year.

6 Apologies for Absence

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

7 Declarations of Interest

Cllr, Bradford declared an interest in item 9 as a Trustee of the Almshouses.

8 Delegation of Councillor's Responsibilities

It was agreed that the responsibilities should be as follows: -

Planning – Cllrs. Bradford and Brook

Highways and Transport – Cllrs. Macklin and Bellamy

Playgrounds, Youth and Health Matters – Cllr. Anderson

Farming and Footpaths, trees and ditches, etc. – Cllr. Oakey

Estates – Lighting, assets and equipment – Cllr. Phillips

Crime Prevention and Community Safety – Cllr. Bellamy

Environment and Communications – Cllr. McClellan

Finance and Risk Management – Cllrs. James and Brook

9 Appointment of Representative to the Almshouses

It was proposed by Cllr. Macklin, seconded by Cllr. Phillips and agreed that Cllr. Bradford and Ted Sutton be appointed representative to the Almshouses.

Cllr. Bradford said that further Trustees would need to be co-opted. Cllr. Bellamy volunteered for this.

10 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 2nd April 2007

It was proposed by Cllr. Macklin, seconded by Cllr. Bradford and agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd April 2007 be accepted.

11 Matters Arising not on the Agenda

Cllr, Phillips made the observation that under item 15 – Correspondence there was an unfortunate juxtaposition of items whereby “N.C.C. have sent a document ‘Putting the Customer First’ “, is followed immediately by “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.”

She felt that this was putting the customer last, as for example an elderly widow unable to drive would have great difficulty in getting to Towcester to register her husband's death. After some discussion the Clerk was asked to write to N.C.C. to express our concern at this.

12 Finance

The RFO said that there is currently a problem with internet access to our bank account, which is more difficult as he is not a bank signatory. As the previous Vice-Chairman has moved away, there will have to be a change of signatories anyway.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr, Phillips and agreed that Cllr. Bradford should replace Graham Gibbs as cheque signatory, and that Stephen Jones should replace Brian Reynolds as signatory, on condition that he did not ever sign cheques. It was further resolved that the Council should continue to use the Co-op Bank for its finances.

The Council's balances at the latest date available (17th April) stood at £2791.93, but since then the first instalment of the precept (£8,250) has been received, plus the grant from S.N.C. of £2,520.

It was proposed by Cllr. Bradford, seconded by Cllr. Phillips and agreed that the following cheques totalling £3821.78 be authorised for payment: -

Cheque	VAT(£)	Cost(£)	Total (£)	Payee	Detail	Power
100397	0.00	1784.52	1784.52	Allianz Cornhill	Annual insurance premium	(a)
100398	10.50	60.00	70.50	M Sabin	Hedge trimming	(c)
100399	22.75	130.00	152.75	Smiths of Bloxham	Skip hire	(f)
100400	2.60	14.84	17.44	A H Contracts	Dog bin emptying	(f)
100401	0.00	820.00	820.00	M Dempsey	Grasscutting - village 660, sports field 160	(c)
100402	0.00	118.83	118.83	Dr S Ruddock	Health Centre bus	(h)
100403	39.81	227.49	267.30	Powergen	Electricity	(d)
100404	0.00	255.14	255.14	P Cole	April salary 235.20 and expenses 19.94	(b)
100405	0.00	39.20	39.20	S Jones	RFO April fees	(b)
100406	44.10	252.00	296.10	Hobs Reprographics	Copies of Annual Village Report	(a)

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
(f)	Provision of litter bins	Litter Act 1983, ss 5, 6
(h)	Provision of Community Transport	Local Government & Rating Act 1997, s 26-29

It was agreed that until the new signatories have been confirmed the Chairman should arrange to transfer funds between the accounts as needed.

13 Planning

S/2007/508/P – Roof raised to create rooms in loft space with the addition of dormer windows at The Bothy, 16 Croughton Road – It was agreed that this application should be supported as the dormer windows will not overlook anyone, and the application would not adversely affect the look of the dwelling.

S/2007/286/P – Loft conversion to include 2no roof lights at 25 Blacksmiths Hill has been permitted. The road-facing roof light has been changed to the side.

It was noted that the Cartwright Arms has closed indefinitely for refurbishment.

14 Highways and Transport

The Chairman said that Ron Sawbridge has told him that the next meeting of N.C.C. on 28th June would be the last opportunity to present our case to them until October, so we ought to consider making use of it.

Cllr. Macklin said that he had presented startling figures to the Annual Village Meeting indicating that if all people speeding through the village could be fined, the annual total raised would be £84 million. He has since received additional statistics showing that 148 drivers per day would lose their licence by driving in excess of 20 miles per hour above the 30 mph figure. On average 800 cars a day travel at speeds of up to 50 mph, and 148 drivers travel at 50 to 60 miles per hour through the village. P.C. John McQuad, who heads the Safety Partnership says that this is the first time they have seen anything so severe, and so he will be redoubling the efforts of the police mobile camera team. There are similar problems on Charlton Road and Station Road in addition to the B4100. From 1st April the Police have been given new powers allowing them to hide their presence and stop vehicles. We therefore have a very strong case to present to N.C.C. for traffic calming measures.

He added that parking is going to become even more of a problem in the village, especially if the refurbished public house proves to be much more popular. We have been told that although we are not due to receive the speed camera again until 2008, if any village drops out, we shall be first on the list to receive it ourselves.

Regarding "No parking on the grass" signs for the green triangles the Clerk had been given a quote of £10 each for suitable signs, although we would have to provide posts for them. He thought that aluminium angle bracket strips would do for this. He was authorised to get four signs and make up posts for them.

Mrs Iannacci asked if white lines could be laid down in The Glebe to maximise parking there. This will be investigated.

It was agreed that the Highways Committee should meet to draw up our case for N.C.C., and present it to the next meeting on 4th June.

A member of the public asked what ideas we had to resolve parking problems. The Chairman said that we didn't have any solutions, as there just was not sufficient space in Aynho.

The Clerk had been asked to write to N.C.C. about the road surface problems notified by Mr. S Price of College Fields. He had done this but it didn't go off until just over a week ago, so there has been no response yet.

The broken sign by College Farm has been removed. Work is in hand to repair the hole in the footway opposite Aynhoe Park House, but at present the traffic cone is still there. Several problems between the sharp bend on the B4100 road and Croughton have been reported.

Regarding the water leak in Blacksmiths Hill, the Clerk first reported this on 1st May. As nothing had happened by a week later, he phoned again and was told that it had been inspected on 3rd May, and prioritised. Anglian Water's contractors are given 10 working days to fix any fault, so it should be repaired by 21st May

Cllr. Macklin had reported someone spraying in the ditch by the north side 30 mph sign near College Fields. Investigations revealed that there is some Japanese knotweed there, and N.C.C. contractors regularly spray it with glyphosate.

At the Annual Village Meeting we were asked to take action if possible about the bus pass fares. The Clerk was planning to write to the bus operator SMS to ask if they would be prepared to change the timetable so that the 9.25 am bus to Banbury runs a few minutes later, but before that he wanted to see if anyone had any other ideas. Also three pensioners have written complaining about the new rules. In particular one has written about bus drivers apparently not understanding the new rules, and imposing higher charges than £1 on Aynho residents. He therefore proposed to write first to S.N.C. pointing out that there was considerable opposition to all this at our very well-attended Annual Village Meeting, and to clear up this specific point, before writing to SMS. This was agreed.

New bus timetables, but with no changes affecting Aynho, have been received, and have been placed in the back room of the Village Hall.

15 Playground Matters

Kay Anderson has said that the internal work on the pavilion is due to start at the beginning of June.

The Clerk has returned beneath the parrot and motor bike, and cleared away the overhanging branches nearby. He was asked to look at the parrot as it may be coming loose from its fixings.

An email has been received from Keith Parker, who is the new Sports and Play Consultant from Park Leisure. He will be pleased to help if we want any information on play equipment, skateboard parks, safety surfacing or the new money available to help promote play.

A quote has been received from John Walker Construction for resurfacing the driveway from the Sports Field gate to the tennis court, and for resurfacing the area alongside and behind the pavilion in both stone and macadam. The Clerk will now go back to Alcocks to get their estimate for these specific areas. He will also get them to put a load of earth in there as previously agreed, to protect the projecting manholes from damage in the meantime.

A quote has been obtained from Windrush Installations for providing double glazed windows and new doors for the pavilion.

16 Farming and Footpaths

Cllr. Oakey asked the Clerk to liaise with him about the map for the Farm Walk route.

The Chairman said that he had booked the bouncy castle, and had arranged for the Benbow family to assist as previously.

17 The Annual Village Meeting 2007 – Feedback

The Chairman has had several comments that it was a very good meeting.

Cllr. Philips asked if a note could go in the newsletter advising everyone that in the event of an emergency, refuge centres would be set up at the Church, the Village Hall and/or the Sports Field pavilion, and that if there were a severe power cut a survival kit is held by the Rector.

In response to a question about interactive speed signs the Chairman replied that these had been part of the original plans agreed with Northamptonshire County Council in 2003. These plans have been unilaterally abandoned by N.C.C. without consultation.

18 The Parish Plan

The Chairman pointed out that the current Plan runs out in 2008, so we need to look fairly urgently at a new Plan for the subsequent 5 years. This will be a priority for the new Council.

Cllr. Macklin said that we need to get a consensus of where we want the village to go over the next few years.

19 Meetings and Conferences

Cllr. Bradford will attend the Cherwell District Council meeting tomorrow.

The Chairman or Clerk have been asked to go to a N.C.C. Parish Council Conference meeting at Police HQ, Wootton Hall, Northampton on Thursday 24th May 4.3 to 8.30 pm.

Cllr. Bradford attended a planning training course, and also the open day at Moulton College.

20 Correspondence

S.N.C. have thanked us for recycling. The Croughton round has collected 82 tonnes of composting materials so far, of which Aynho contributed 24.9 tonnes.

The Northamptonshire West Area Police Commander has written saying that we shall receive a police attendance at our council meeting at least once a year.

The Standards Board and Communities and Local Government have sent information about the new Code of Conduct for all local authorities, including parish councils. We may have to formally accept this new Code, but Kevin Lane of S.N.C. has advised us not to rush into this, as he thinks that more advice and possibly training may follow.

The Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust is asking for our help in recruiting members so that residents of the parish can have their say about health matters. They have sent no fewer than 25 application forms.

The Cartwright of Aynho Archive Trust has thanked us for the donation resulting from the October Dance.

The following have been received and will be circulated: -

Arts News, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire County Council Minerals and Waste Development Framework, Clerks and Councils Direct, Evenley Parish Council minutes, Local Council Review, Summer Activities for children and Waymarker magazine.

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

It was suggested that new identity cards would be required, at least by the Members visiting houses on planning matters.

22 Date of next Meeting – Monday 4th June 2007

This date was agreed.

The Meeting finished at 9.57 pm.