

AYNHO PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 12th May 2008 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Amby Hitchcox (RFO), and Peter Cole (Clerk).

1 Election of Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr. Bellamy, seconded by Cllr. Phillips 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 Election of Vice-Chairman

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

4 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from Cllr. Brook, who was abroad.

5 Declarations of Interest

None.

6 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7th April 2008

It was proposed by Cllr. Bellamy, seconded by Cllr. Bradford and agreed that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7th April 2008 should be approved and signed.

7 Matters Arising not on the Agenda

Cllr. Phillips said that she had thought that lamp number 7 was intermittent, but on a later visit it had been working. She will monitor it.

Cllr. Bellamy asked if anything had been found in the Development Framework (item 15) that affected Aynho. The Clerk said that he had not found anything.

The Chairman said that he wished to have it minuted that there had been an error in Item 12, as Cllr. Sawbridge had later contacted him to say that his daughter was in the Aynho Apricots, so it was not correct to say that no one from Aynho was still in the group.

8 Possible Reconsideration of Insurance Proposal based on Fresh Information Received

There had been some concern about the three-year deal, and the Clerk agreed to find out more about this, and also an exclusion relating to sponsored walks, etc., which might affect our farm walks. He had spoken personally to Mr Peter Came of Came & Co, and had been assured firstly that as there was no sponsorship money, nor any payment for the Walk itself involved, and that adequate steps were taken to cover eventualities by means of road signage, crossing wardens and the provision of water stations, our Farm Walks would be covered by their insurance. There was still a problem with hiring a bouncy castle however under this policy, so we would be dependent upon a policy held by the hirer of such a castle.

Regarding the three-year agreement, Mr Came stressed that this would be legally binding on both parties, so that even if there was for example major storm damage, which resulted in all insurance companies increasing premiums by 20%, this would not apply during our three-year deal. Obviously those sections of the policy where it is stated that they would increase by either 3% or 5% to cover inflation, would increase automatically, but the remaining sections would not increase at all, and if we made no claims during the year, the premium would go down by 5% anyway. If the insurance company did increase premiums for us, they would have broken the agreement, so we would be free to walk away, if we could find cheaper insurance elsewhere. The Clerk therefore had no hesitation in recommending to Council that we go for this cheaper option immediately. Indeed he had asked the RFO to prepare a cheque for the lower amount of £1,551.57 in anticipation.

It was proposed by Cllr. Bradford, seconded by Cllr. Macklin and agreed that the Council should change insurers to Came and Co's Norwich Union policy from 1st June 2008, and sign a three-year binding agreement to stay with them for that period.

9 Finance

The RFO said that the account balances at 30th April totalled £7,456.24.

Cheque number 100474 for £120.00 for the annual internal audit fee had been made out incorrectly to BDO Stoy Hayward, the external auditors, instead of to S.N.C. and so had been cancelled. As the amount had been approved at the April meeting, a replacement cheque no. 100477 had been signed at the Annual Village Meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr. Bellamy, seconded by Cllr. James and agreed that the following cheques totalling £3195.97 be authorised for payment: -

Cheque	VAT(£)	Cost(£)	Total (£)	Payee	Detail	Power
100478	0.00	5.25	5.25	RadcliffeLeBasseur	Village Hall 5 year peppercorn rent	(a)
100479	0.00	1551.57	1551.57	BNL Came and Co	Insurance premium	(a)
100480	3.34	19.22	22.56	Ciceroni Tours Ltd	Newsletter printing	(a)
100481	2.65	15.12	17.77	A H Contracts	Dog bin emptying	(f)
100482	0.00	900.00	900.00	M Dempsey	Grass cutting	(c)
100483	54.91	313.79	368.70	E-On	Street lighting	(d)
100484	0.00	289.92	289.92	Peter Cole	Clerk's April salary and expenses (£18.72)	(b)
100485	0.00	40.20	40.20	A. Hitchcox	RFO fee April	(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
(f)	Provision of litter bins	Litter Act 1983, ss 5, 6

After some discussion it was agreed that Cllr. Bradford and the RFO should meet Kay Anderson before the next meeting to sort out exactly how the situation of the A.S.R.A finances, and their auditing should best be formalised.

Our unmetered electricity supply certificate now has to be renewed annually. As there had been no changes as per the schedule, it was agreed that this should be signed.

10 Fields In Trust – Guest Speaker – Paul Allen

As Mr Allen had not turned up, this item was deferred until a later date.

11 Planning

S/2008/476/P – Garden room extension to existing outbuilding at 12 Charlton Road – There are no objections by neighbours, one of whom is considering a similar application himself, so it was agreed that this application should be supported.

S/2008/251/LB - Replacement of six existing windows with single-glazed timber casement units; the enlargement of one existing window opening and the replacement of the existing window with a larger single-glazed timber sash unit, all to the west elevation. Incorporation of new and extended oak lintel to left ground floor opening. Installation of secondary glazing to all 7 windows at 32 Roundtown has been permitted.

S/2008/381/P – Two storey rear and single storey extensions at rear at Woolstone, 27 Blacksmiths Hill - have been permitted subject to conditions, which met all our observations.

The next Planning Forum will take place at S.N.C.'s Council Chamber on Thursday 19th June, at 5.45 pm.

It was noted that materials are still being stored outside at Wensden Buildings. A new gateway has been put in at the rear. The Clerk was asked to draft a letter for Cllr. Bradford to approve to be sent to the Enforcement Officer.

Cllr. Macklin asked about the position of the egress from Aynhoe Park. It was noted that this is still with the Highways Department of N.C.C., but indications are that the exit will be on the Wembley corner, with improved visibility in both directions.

Regarding the position of the pub, an Order to close the footpath through it has been obtained in order to put new drains across the area, and it has been blocked up as from today. There will probably be a planning application for the detail of what still needs to be done before it can reopen.

Cllr. Macklin suggested that we should get a regular update on the situation for both the pub and also for Aynhoe Park and Aynho Corner. Cllr. James mentioned that large quantities of earth have been dumped on the concrete paths in Ryeland Hill Wood near his land.

12 Highways and Transport

Cllr. Macklin said that he had had a meeting with Helen Howard of N.C.C. Project Warship is the scheme under which the 8 roads are being given money for traffic calming. It will be an 18 – 24 month programme, with each of the villages looking more or less the same at the end. We have been invited to join a Citizen's Council to plan all this. She now sees Aynho as a suitable case for treatment, as although we do not have a history of accidents as such, the speeding problems, etc. are sufficiently serious to warrant action. She also attended the Needs Day, and heard local people expressing views about the problems, including parking. Tim Boswell spent some time with her, so she realises that there is a good deal of local support, and Mike Pearson of S.N.C. also expressed support for action.

We should therefore write to South Northants Council about the parking problems on Charlton Road, Roundtown, The Square and The Glebe, identifying each particular problem, and asking for a dialogue with them about sorting it out. We should also involve Ron Sawbridge and the County Council in this.

The next issue is motorway noise, which also featured prominently at the Needs Day. We should write to the Highways Agency and point out that we have a problem, and ask them what they are going to do about it, i.e. altering the road surface, and/or putting up baffles, etc.

Finally there is the problem of heavy lorries going through the village. How can we reduce the number of these? Should we approach the operators, and ask if they need to go through Aynho? For example, instead of lorries based at the Kings Sutton transport yard coming to Kings Sutton and back for a change of driver, could the relief driver not go to the motorway service station?

The Chairman said that according to Mike Pearson, the crazy paving on the raised footway in The Square was only introduced as an economy measure shortly after the war. He would ideally like to replace this with York stone, because although very expensive, this would last forever, and if it were later not required, it could be sold second-hand for a good figure.

It was agreed that we should proceed to get N.C.C. and S.N.C. round the table with us on all these matters as soon as possible.

Cllr. Bellamy asked for thanks for Colin's hard work on all this to be minuted.

Cllr. Phillips noted that Deddington's newsletter referred to the vehicle-activated signs in the Souldern Dip not working for most of the time. This had been reported to Helen Howard at the Needs Day.

The Clerk said that he had received a response from S.N.C. about the increased cost of early buses to Banbury for bus pass holders. A decision had been taken due to financial constraints not to fund travel outside the laid-down guidelines, i.e. before 9.30 am, but this would be reviewed in December. An email had been received from John Townsend, suggesting that we should write to the bus operator, S.M.S., in the first instance, and if necessary he would follow this up depending on the reply received. It was agreed that the Clerk should draft a letter for the Chairman to send.

He had also received an update on the delays in bus pass issue.

He had spoken to the Street Doctor about a blocked drain just off the Square (leading up towards Catton House), which had been reported some time ago. He was told that this would be cleared the next time a jetting lorry is in the area.

Cllr. Macklin said that two blocked drains near the main road entrance to Collage Fields should be added to this list.

The bollard on Aynho Park Corner has been replaced, but it still does not have a direction arrow.

Cllr. Macklin asked if we should approach Ron Sawbridge for a sum of money from his local pot to enable marking out of car parking spaces in The Glebe. The Chairman said that a quote should be obtained first, but Cllr. Bellamy suggested that we should wait until we have spoken to S.N.C.

13 Playground Matters

It was agreed that up-to-date quotes should be obtained for having the area behind the sports pavilion covered with hardcore and tarmac. Cllr. Bradford said that both that area and the approach road should be strong enough to support lorries up to 15 tonnes, so that the septic tank can be emptied when necessary. Grants from various sources can then be as sought.

Cllr. Bellamy said that there had been no problems on his playground checks. He will be handing over the checks to Cllr. Macklin for the next six weeks or so.

The Clerk said that E-on had agreed to send someone to meet him at the pavilion to see whether the electrical box could be re-sited inside the pavilion to reduce the chances of more damage to the box lid.

14 The Parish Plan – Needs Day – Report and Feed-back

The Chairman said the Needs Day Group would meet again to review the Day. A lot of people said how clean and tidy the village is. The apricot tree with its apricot post-it notes of things people like about Aynho, and the post-it note leaves to express dislikes went down well. Letters or emails will be sent to the W.I. for providing refreshments, and other visitors for helping.

15 Meetings and Conferences

The Annual Village Meeting had gone well, but it was suggested that in future rather than putting annual reports on chairs, there should be a “greeter” to welcome residents, take their names and issue the reports by hand.

16 Correspondence

MGWSP Highways have sent a Rights of Way Update, letting us know that our contact is Colin Wicks. He has already contacted the Clerk re Mr Booth’s letter about improving the ford at Souldern Mill. He will get around to visiting the site soon. They have also sent a CD about improving rights of way.

So far the Clerk has not received any contact details about May Gurney’s transport staff.

South Northants Homes has sent a letter about a survey of Council accommodation stock.

The Clerk was asked to write to them asking whether there was any condition that a person renting a garage from them should be obliged to use it to park their car, as opposed to parking it in the Glebe, and if so how this was enforced.

The following have been received and will be circulated: -

Alzheimer’s Society Newsletter, Croughton Parish Council minutes and newsletter, Clerks and Councils Direct, Local Council Review, and S.N.V.B.’s LinkUp magazine.

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

The Chairman asked for an update on the Farm Walk. The Clerk said that he had checked out the first part of the route, before preparing a map for the Needs Day, which had attracted quite a few new potential walkers. He had decided to trim back a number of bushes and brambles in the week prior to the Walk on the stretch of footpath up to the main road by the Souldern Dip. Cllr. Bradford offered to assist with this. Cllr. Oakey will ask the farmers to send quiz questions to the Clerk.

Cllr, Bradford pointed out that there is a piece of land behind 5 Portway, which was originally intended as a car-parking site. He asked if it could be checked whether this is still so. He also asked if small-size goalposts could be purchased for youngsters on the Sports Field. The Chairman advised that Kay already has this in hand.

Cllr. Bellamy asked who is responsible for the raised footway and banks on Blacksmiths Hill and Hollow Way, where vegetation is growing across. Cllr. Macklin said that he had spotted a South Northants workman actually strimming part of this recently. The Chairman said that he would look at it, and if there was a problem he would email the owner of the land by the Causeway.

18 Date of Next Meeting - Monday 2nd June 2008

This date was agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.