

## AYNHO PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 1st October 2007 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall**

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

In Attendance: John Townsend (District Councillor), Steve Jones (RFO), and Peter Cole (Clerk).

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

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

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

None.

#### **3 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2007**

It was proposed by Cllr. Phillips, seconded by Cllr. Bellamy and agreed that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2007 should be approved and signed, subject to the following amendments: -

Page 1, line 5 – omit “James”.

Page 4, paragraph 8, line3 – insert full stop after “hill”, and delete the rest of the sentence.

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

The Clerk had established that the Belcher family own the old Home Guard hut. Cllr. Phillips mentioned that it was not the HQ, but merely a look-out post. The Clerk was asked to contact David Belcher to see if he was happy for us to clean it, by sanding it down.

At this point the Chairman invited Cllr. Townsend to speak, as he had another engagement shortly. He started by explaining that the latest application for Wensden Buildings has nothing to do with the one that caused problems almost two years ago. He will however try to look at the storage position.

He then turned to the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy – Issues and Options Consultation Paper, which he said had serious implications for the whole district. It was therefore important for Aynho Parish Council to make its views known. There is a risk that a new unitary authority of West Northamptonshire could be formed, but in that case it would be dominated by Northampton itself, and there would be little or no money for us out in the sticks. We are facing applications for huge developments, and if we get it wrong there could be one big mass of housing in the A43 corridor between Brackley and Northampton, which would destroy our lovely part of the county. Look at the figures for housing in South Northamptonshire rural areas, and press for this to be restricted to 330 per annum, as originally planned. Also “No houses without infrastructure” should be our watchword. We should also mention the need to address the badly planned M40 junction 10, which must be sorted out before any

major planning along the A43. Cllr. Macklin pointed out that the Banbury Guardian had quotes that the Highways Agency is currently consulting Cherwell District Council about a possible new junction for the M40 at Aynho, which is not in the Cherwell District area! John Townsend said that when the M40 was being built, the Inspector at the Enquiry had emphasised that it was a corridor for transport, and not a corridor for development.

John readily agreed to support our bid for funding for a second Village Plan.

## 5 Finance (including a first look at the Budget)

The RFO reported that the bank balances at 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007 totalled £10,565.05.

The final half of the precept (£8,260) was received on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

It was proposed by Cllr. Bradford, seconded by Cllr. James and agreed that the following cheques totalling £4,010.45 be authorised for payment: -

Cheque	VAT(£)	Cost(£)	Total (£)	Payee	Detail	Power
100428	5.53	31.60	37.13	Shurville Signs	4 Neighbourhood watch signs	(a)
100429	22.58	129.00	151.58	Playsafety	Annual playground inspection	(e)
100430	16.87	96.39	113.26	ABB	Electricity maintenance	(d)
100431	0.00	30.05	30.05	Anglian Water	Sports field water	(e)
100432	2.60	17.44	17.44	A H Contracts	Dog bin emptying	(f)
100433	0.00	245.92	245.92	P Cole	Sept. salary (235.20) & expenses (10.72)	(b)
100434	0.00	2740.87	2740.87	M Whitehouse	Final payment for sports pavilion work	(e)
100435	0.00	39.20	39.20	S Jones	RFO September fees	(b)
100436	0.00	635.00	635.00	M Dempsey	Grasscutting Village 465 & sports field 170	(c)

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
(e)	Equip recreational buildings	Local Government (Misc. Provisions) Act 1976, s1
(f)	Provision of litter bins	Litter Act 1983, ss 5, 6

Regarding the budget Steve Jones said that we need to consider what income we shall get in, i.e. from ASRA. The Clerk said that it was always agreed that ASRA would contribute something towards the cost of the pavilion work, and the amount can be decided when the grant from S.N.C. has been claimed, which will be done as soon as possible.

The RFO produced the budget figures for last year, and suggested that everyone should think about it, and come back with ideas for the next meeting. He was concerned about the cost of utility bills for next year.

On the subject of insurance, the Clerk had received an email from Came & Company, offering a minimum saving of 15% on our last insurance renewal premium. They would need to see a full copy of our last insurance schedule, and details of any claims made during the last three years, before the end of this year. An officer of Hampshire Association of Parish & Town Councils has apparently endorsed them. The Clerk will follow this up.

Cllr. Phillips mentioned that it was important for the Council to pay the peppercorn rent for the Village Hall, which is five guineas every five years, and is due next June. No reminders are issued, but if it is not paid on time, the Hall and the land it sits on could revert to the Cartwright family.

The RFO said that we ought to consider re-categorising some of the items which are not logical, so that for example the true cost of the sports field is not made clear, since some payments come under grass cutting, others under electricity, etc. It was agreed that this should be put down as an Agenda item for next time, to include a review of who pays for what, etc.

It was agreed that Cllrs. Brook and James should meet the RFO to gain some understanding of how the financial system works.

The Clerk said that he now had updated quotes for supplying and laying hardcore for a specific area behind the pavilion, and for putting a tarmac surface on top as well. There were also figures for resurfacing the track from the gate to the pavilion.

## **6 Planning**

S/2007/1166/P – Replace existing windows and doors with white uPVC at 3 Portway – Number three is in the middle of a block of three properties. Both the other two have had the doors and windows replaced in the same style and format as that proposed. It was therefore agreed to support this application.

S/2007/1193/P – New agricultural building at Nellbridge Farm – It was agreed that this should be supported, as the building will be in keeping with the existing buildings, and will not be intrusive. The proposed screening will enhance the area, which is situated at the end of a long private drive. It will also be beneficial to the welfare of the animals on the farm.

S/2007/1078/P – Four two-storey detached houses at land adjoining Aynho Wharf – has been refused on several grounds.

West Northamptonshire Development Corporation had sent a copy of their “Planning Principles 2007 – A Consultation Guide”, which is likely to be recommended for use throughout the County. Cllr. Bradford said that this did not apply to Aynho, as it was intended for developments of more than 50 houses.

The Chairman mentioned that this afternoon James Perkins had invited Members to a meeting at Park House, to see his revised plans for Ryelands Wood. Having taken the comments from our last meeting into account, a fresh application is being prepared to site just a workshop and storage facility for his plastercast collection, (which is the largest private collection in the world) roughly in the middle of this area. It is likely to be an attractive but affordable building, about 50 metres by 20 metres and 7 metres high. It was agreed that we would be sent a set of plans as soon as they are submitted, and invited to a site meeting before the next Council meeting at which we would discuss the application.

## **7 Highways and Transport**

Following a letter from the Chairman complaining about the lack of any response or acknowledgement to our petition, a meeting was arranged on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September with Councillor Tavener, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, and Ron Sawbridge, attended by the Chairman and Cllr. Macklin.

Cllr. Macklin said that he and the Chairman had met Cllr. Liz Tavener and Ms. Strong from N.C.C. about our petition. They had apologised for the delay in replying, and it appears that they now realise that we do have a problem here. Liz Tavener will be coming to Aynho at 4.30 pm on Wednesday afternoon to see the problems at first hand. We have a chance of making a good case. We focused on all the local roads, including parking in the village and the school bus problems on Charlton Road corner.

The speed camera gun has been booked for next week.

A suitable letter was sent to Amey’s about our highways problems.

We have received the Annual Parish Questionnaire from Atkins, which Cllr. Macklin completed on the spot.

The blue bag on the grass outside the cottages in Croughton Road has at last been removed. The Neighbourhood Watch signs have been received. Two have been placed at the entrance to Cartwright Gardens and The Glebe, and one at the Station Road entrance to the Village. The other was going to be kept as a spare, but the Clerk had learned of a meeting down at the Great Western Arms to form a Neighbourhood Watch group there, and he had attended and left the fourth sign with them to put up wherever they chose.

A failed light on a traffic bollard by College Fields has been reported to the Street Doctor, as has the bank on Blacksmiths Hill, which has grown out forcing rainwater away from the drain, and the saltbox in Charlton Road, which is disintegrating.

## **8 Playground Matters**

The playground inspection report has now been received. It is the best one for several years, in that there are no actual problems, although they do refer as always to equipment, which was satisfactory when installed, but subsequent Regulations mean that when items come due for renewal, they will have to comply with stricter rules. The report will be circulated.

The Clerk had examined the southerly seat in the small children's playground. One leg has definite signs of rusting, but the corners of the rectangular box shape are still in good condition, so he bought a tin of car filler, and put it all in the hole in layers over several days, and it should now last for a good long time.

A letter has been sent to S.N.C. asking for a green bin, and a black bin lid (or new bin) as well.

Cllr. Bradford mentioned that there had been several instances recently where the recycling lorry has chewed up bins.

## **9 Farming and Footpaths**

Gill Phillips has sent a quarterly footpath report, which will be circulated.

It was agreed that Cllr. Oakey should arrange for Mr. Sabin to cut the sports field hedge again this year.

The tree on the corner of Bowmens Lea needs pruning again. The Clerk will get a quote for this.

Cllr. Phillips said that we ought to consider protection for the sports field from future building. The Clerk said that there was an interesting article in this month's The Playing Field magazine on that very topic. He suggested that everyone should read this, and he will put it on the Agenda when it has been circulated.

## **10 The Parish Plan**

The Chairman said that the committee had met twice, and as a result he has more or less completed the form for a grant. It has been approved by Kathryn Smith of ACRE. Ron Sawbridge has offered financial support from his local allowance for it. We now have an impressive range of support from other organisations.

Cllr. Phillips said that following the recent flooding, we ought to incorporate an emergency plan into our Village Plan. This will be looked at as a separate issue.

Approval for the draft form was given. The provisional budget has been estimated at £1.270, with a parish contribution of £63, and a grant totalling £703 to be claimed.

The Shop Committee has met for the second time, to discuss the results of the questionnaire. The next step is to actually visit the premises at the Cartwright Arms, to ascertain its suitability. This will take place this Thursday, and will be followed by a visit on Friday to Sulgrave, where they have a shop of a similar size to ours.

It is planned to follow this up with a Village meeting at 8 pm in the Village Hall on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, to put over the concept to the village, with costed proposals, and get general approval to take things forward. Cllr. Brook will draft something for the newsletter.

## **11 Meetings and Conferences**

The Clerk said that he had still been unable to establish any date for a Ward Meeting which was acceptable to all three villages. He had felt that there was no option but to abandon this one, and for Aynho to host the next one in March 2008.

Northamptonshire Acre is inviting us to a sports field and play areas event at Hunsbury Hill, Northampton on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October from 7pm to 9 pm. Cllr. Anderson had agreed to look at this.

S.N.C. is holding a Climate Friendly Communities Workshop at East Midlands Expo 2007, at Rockingham Speedway, Corby on 16<sup>th</sup> October 10 am to 12 noon. (The EXPO is all day from 8.30 am to 4 pm).

The South Northants Volunteer Bureau is holding a major voluntary and community sector support services exhibition at Towcester Racecourse on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October from 2 pm to 8 pm.

The (Northamptonshire) N.A.L.C. AGM will also be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm at Wootton Community & Sports Centre. The speaker is the National Association Chairman, so we ought to send a representative if possible. The Chairman said that he would try to attend.

South Northants Volunteer Bureau is providing free Pension Information Drop-in Sessions and Workshops, the nearest to us being at Brackley Library on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November between 10 am and 12.30 pm.

## **12 Suggested Meeting Dates for 2008**

. A list of dates for meetings next year was agreed.

## **13 Correspondence**

S.N.C. has sent a letter about the Housing Transfer Project.

They are also setting up a “virtual” focus group of 10 parish councils to help gauge understanding and local awareness of housing needs and issues.

N.A.L.C. has sent an Update, which includes a bit about village shops, and a parish survey.

Defra has sent one copy of a booklet, "Ways to Tackle Climate Change". This aims to give advice how town and parish councils can play a substantial role in the drive to combat and mitigate climate change. It will be circulated.

Banbury C.A.B. has advised that they are making changes to improve waiting times. They plan to give callers a short diagnostic interview, to decide what their needs are, and how best to deal with them. They will then be offered a leaflet, self-help materials, an appointment with an advisor, or referral to another agency, etc.

The South Northants Volunteer Bureau are hoping to bring their Safe'n Sound project to Aynho in November, to inform people about energy efficiency, home security and fire safety measures.

The following have been received and will be circulated: -

Arts News, Croughton Parish Council minutes, Standards Board newsletter, Link-Up – the South Northants Volunteer Bureau newsletter for September and October, Policing in your Community, and The Playing Field.

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

None.

#### **16 Date of Next Meeting - Monday 5<sup>TH</sup> November 2007**

This date was agreed.

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm.