

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DEEPING ST NICHOLAS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 19TH NOVEMBER 2007, AT THE COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 7.00PM

PRESENT Mr D Chappell (in the Chair)

Mr P Barrett; Mr G Fitzgerald; Mrs G Scholes; Mr I McDonald; Mr John & Mr Julian Davis; Mr D Branton; Mrs E Firmager; Mrs L McGuinness; Mrs E Williams and the Clerk
Cllr S Williams (LCC, SHDC) and Mr Bruce Wakelin (SHDC Economic Development Officer)

APOLOGIES

Non received

MR BRUCE WAKELIN – SHDC

The Chairman welcomed Mr Wakelin to the Meeting and invited him to the floor, Mr Wakelin went on to give details of the other Members involved in the projects and the aims of their brief, covering business, tourism, local and the green economy, further education and transport. They were looking at improving the business climate for small and large businesses by locating suitable sites for development (with the assistance of the East Midlands Development Agency); farm diversification; improving good quality farm house and self catering accommodation, locating a suitable site for a Marina, and possibly further development of rail freight. After answering a few questions, the Chairman thanked Mr Wakelin who then left the Meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non declared

POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk had received a letter and form to complete from the Lincs Police Authority. In the event that additional funding does not come from the Government to cover their deficit they wish to know what the Parish would support in terms of a council tax increase. Whilst the Council would like to see improvements in all areas of police work, Members did not support further increases in Council Tax, to either bridge current deficits or invest in future improvements. It felt that as most resources went to larger urban areas in the district, small rural areas would still not benefit from any increase.

The Chairman reported Police (a cross border team) attending a recent hare coursing incident

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17TH SEPTEMBER

Signed as a correct record

MATTERS ARISING

Lucks Road Crossing – The Clerk had received a further letter from Network Rail stating that having spoken further with East Midlands Ambulance Service, it was confident that the location of this site was not a problem. As Councillors agreed that the site was wrongly named and Network Rail are unwilling to change it, Mrs McGuinness would chase the matter further, up to Ministerial level.

PLAYING FIELDS

Campains Lane site meeting -

Following the site meeting and taking into consideration local opinion, it was decided to leave this Field in it's present location. However, the Clerk to write to Network Rail again, and Rospa, concerning the poor condition of the railway fencing (sending a copy to John Hayes)

Hop Pole site meeting

Mr Barrett, Mrs McGuinness and Mr John Davis had met for a site Meeting with Karen Johnson from SHDC on 3rd October to discuss this area. She said that 3 quotes would be required for any funding applications and that they prefer the community to be involved in the process. It was agreed for the School to ask children for their views, and that an invitation for Parishioners to come to the January Meeting had been placed in the next Parish Magazine.

St Nicholas Park play area

Allisons had written to say that they had fulfilled their obligation to provide play equipment for Toddlers, although they were investigating why the sea-saw had not been installed; they had not been required to provide equipment for Juniors. They were looking into the path surface, but the responsibility of the green rested with Persimmon Homes. Mr Davis felt that as the Field was and would be the responsibility of SHDC, we should chase them, and it was agreed to write to Steve Williams, requesting a copy of the Conditions of Planning 106, and to invite him to a site Meeting.

Bike nuisance, Tongue End

The Insurance Company had stated that, provided the Field was well maintained, in the event of an accident the onus would be to prove that the Council had been negligent.

HIGHWAYS

A16 – new anti skid surface – The Clerk had received a complaint from the residents at the old Post Office concerning the disturbance they were now getting from this new surface. The Clerk to write and say that although the surface should settle down, the Council can only advise them to contact the Environmental Health Dept.

A1073 – LCC are expecting written confirmation at any time now. On completion the road will be re-designated the A16, and the current A16 down graded, which should mean further improvements.

Carrington Drive – the feasibility of an anti skid strip is being looked into by Highways

Campains Lane passing bay – further to the site meeting attended by Ian Edgar (LCC Highways) there is now a possibility of getting a passing bay; some money is available and there are only 3 applications for the district.

Lighting – Mrs Williams asked if it was possible to get extra lighting at Hop Pole. Mr Williams replied that this was not likely in view of the future down grading of this road and the consideration now being given to light pollution.

Banks Drove/A16 Junction – Mr Williams agreed to look into this

PLANNING

H03/1450/07 Mr & Mrs Seaman Conservatory at 31 Chappell Road

NO OBJECTIONS

H03/1479/07 J & P Developments Detached dwelling & dble garage adjacent Orchard Bungalow

NO OBJECTIONS

H03/1408/07 Mr D Stewart Detached garage 'The Old Vicarage'

OBJECTIONS – on the grounds that this is not in keeping with the existing property and to request the Conservation Officer's report.

TRANSPORT FORUM COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATES

Transport Forum

The next Meeting will be held on 30th November, attended by Network Rail, John Hayes and hopefully Anita Ruffles. Mrs McGuinness then raised the issue of the Forum's recent 2nd request to the Wind Farm Committee for £5,000 for a feasibility study, that had again been turned down. £1000 had been awarded following a specially called Meeting at the end of October, but would be held over until the rest of the amount had been raised.

Mrs McGuinness was very unhappy with this outcome and the administration of the Fund itself, feeling that the Committee was acting improperly in favouring its members and not following Standard Board procedure in Declaring Interests. She called on the Council to dissolve the Committee and take over the Fund.

There followed a lengthy, and at times heated discussion, on several of the issues raised by Mrs McGuinness. Whilst the Parish Council would not be able to dissolve a Committee set up by Parishioners at a Public Parish Meeting, it was satisfied that the Committee had not acted improperly. Its request for paperwork (later provided), quotes or a detailed report to accompany the application was not unreasonable before awarding large sums of money and it was also not unreasonable to ask for the Forum itself to contribute to the cost. The Council was also satisfied that no Councillors on the Committee had a Personal Interest to declare or was a member of a group receiving funding.

As the Forum had also written asking the Council for a Donation, it was agreed to put the item on the next Agenda, allowing the Forum time to obtain quotes and provide a more detailed application. The Council support the project and realise that a Feasibility Study is a necessary requirement, but being responsible for public money, as is the Committee, they need more substantial information before awarding funds.

Mr John & Mr Julian Davis apologised, and left the Meeting at 9.05pm

Community Centre

A letter had been received from the Community Centre Committee saying that it had been dissolved on 25th October, and asking if the Parish Council would be prepared to accept and administer the Trust Fund, with the proposal it be distributed back to the Community of Deeping St Nicholas and Tongue End. It was agreed to put this item on the next Agenda for further consideration.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was set for Monday 14th January 2008

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Proposed by Mr Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr McDonald and AGREED to pay the following accounts:

Clerk – Salary & expenses Oct/Nov	411.51
School Hire	18.00
Petty Cash	25.00
British Legion Wreath	16.50
BAGO – Litter pliers	70.50
TOTAL	£541.51

WIND FARM COMMITTEE

Hop Pole Ladies Committee – hire of Hall	7.00
Hop Pole Ladies Committee donation	3000.00
Mrs H Scott – associated work from Nov 04	85.00

HALIFAX SHARES, VILLAGE FUNDS & ASSETS

Halifax Shares – The Chairman would be receiving the necessary form to enable a change of name on the Share Certificate to that of Mr Barrett

Village Hall Fund – The Village Hall Committee will provide a breakdown of the total currently in a monthly Treasury Reserve

This item to go on the next Agenda

CORRESPONDENCE

SHDC – St Nicholas Church Hall Meeting, 20.11.07. - Local Development Framework Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation event

SHDC – Model Code of Conduct - 26th November training evening at Holbeach

SHDC – disposal pouches for cigarette butts

SHDC – Flower parade towable chassis available

LCC – County Flood Fare, 23rd November at Lincoln University Campus

Methodist Chapel – List of dates for 2008

OPEN SESSION

Banks Drove – reports of a great deal of mud at the top of Banks Drove – Mr Branton to look into this.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.39pm with a request for more impersonal debate at the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN..... **DATE**.....