

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DEEPING ST NICHOLAS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER 2008, AT THE COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT** Mr P Barrett (in the Chair)

Mr John Davis; Mr Julian Davis; Mrs E Firmager; Mr G Fitzgerald, Mr I McDonald, Mrs G Scholes

Mrs L McGuinness and Mrs E Williams arrived at the meeting at 7.04pm and Mr D Branton at 7.16pm

The Clerk; Cllr S Williams (SHDC, LCC), Cllr B Alcock (SHDC, Crowland) and a PCSO

A large number of Parishioners

**APOLOGIES**

Non received. Mr Chappell was not present.

At a request from a Parishioner, Councillors introduced themselves to those present

**POLICE**

Mrs McGuinness and Mrs Williams arrived at the meeting

The Clerk reported that Councillors wishing to accompany police officers on Friday /Saturday night patrols to contact Inspector Timmins

Mrs Williams reported that several St Nicholas Park residents had been disturbed by noisy late night parties. The PCSO replied that although it was a non emergency, the Police would come out. Mr Williams said that Environmental Health also responded to these incidents.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr McDonald declared an interest in the routing of drains over Community Centre land.

**TO APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15TH SEPTEMBER 2008**

It was proposed by Mr Fitzgerald, seconded by Mrs Scholes and AGREED that the Minutes be signed as a correct record with the following amendments:-

P.147/08	Mrs Chappell to read Mr Chappell
P147/08	Paul Forward to read Paul Fullward

**MATTERS ARISING**

**Campains Lane Passing Bay**

A site meeting had been arranged for Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October, and attended by Paul Rusted, Ian Edgar (LCC), Mr Steve Williams, Mr Barrett, Mr Fitzgerald and several Elizabeth Crescent residents who wished to protest against the passing bay. The Chairman reported that Paul Rusted stated that although the site did not qualify for this work, the Parish Council could still reapply in the next financial year. Elizabeth Crescent residents would not object to filling in the dyke opposite for a bay, as this might lessen the rat problem; however, as well as being a very expensive solution, this would still not qualify. The Chairman summed up by saying that he did not feel it to be in the Parish Council's best interest to continue pursuing an issue that did not have the support of residents. It was proposed by Mrs Firmager, seconded by Mrs McGuinness and AGREED not to pursue this issue further.

**Banks Drove & Hop Pole hedges**

It was reported that the trees at **Banks Drove** had now been trimmed back, although Mr Davis felt that they needed to be removed altogether.

Mr Branton arrived at the Meeting

LCC had written and thanked the Council for trimming the shrubs at the **Hop Pole Playing Field**. The Council took this as confirmation that they were LCC's responsibility.

LCC also reported overgrown vegetation at Littleworth Drove and Policeman's Corner, and asking for information as to who the owners were. As they belonged to Dennis Estates and CE Richardson respectively, it was agreed that the Clerk write to them both.

It was also agreed that the Clerk write to Steve Willis at Boston asking for a plan of the boundaries showing who is responsible for maintenance of trees

### **Application to route drains on Community Centre land**

Mr McDonald had consulted a Surveyor and now provided a set of draft plans for inspection indicating a suitable route that would also provide a free connection for Nurses Bungalow if they wished. There would be no issue over pipe fall for Spinney Rewind or Coppers End, only for Nurses Bungalow.

It was proposed by Mr Branton, seconded by Mrs McGuinness and AGREED that any undertaking would need to include a safeguard that, in the unlikely event of a Community Centre being built, it would get precedence over any drains. Mr McDonald agreed to provide another set of plans.

### **Banks Drove crossing**

The Clerk had written to LCC Resilience Forum asking for its assistance on this matter and they had replied, only to refer the Parish Council back to SHDC. Mrs McGuinness agreed to discuss this further with Paul Fullward.

### **Rats**

The scale of this problem was once again discussed. With the onus now resting on landowners and not local authorities, there is very little recourse for action. Sonic devices would simply move them on, and SHDC are unlikely to provide wheely bins as a suggested improvement.

### **HIGHWAYS**

LCC had written to say that subsidence at Barr Farm and Blue House Farm would be repaired when funds available. The Council felt the delay to be unnecessary and the Clerk to write further.

**Speed Limit at CP School** – Highways will be reviewing all 'Red Routes', followed by 'A' Class roads after October, but were unable to give any more specific details of time scale. The Council agreed to write again as it was not happy with this reply.

The PCSO stated that the new equipment spanning the road at Randalls is for **Automatic Number Plate Recognition**, and will only be triggered by stolen, untaxed or uninsured vehicles.

The Clerk to report that the **Interactive Speed Sign** is still not working efficiently, and 2 road signs also needing maintenance. It was agreed to provide Steve Willis at Boston with a detailed list of all outstanding matters needing attention.

### **PLANNING**

#### **Applications dealt with between Meetings**

<b>HO3/0972/08</b> Mr J Weston	Replacement dwelling with detached double garage at Homeleigh, Tongue End	NO OBJECTIONS
<b>HO3/0969/08</b> D & T Jackson	Proposed vintage vehicle stores, Porters Workshop off Littleworth Drove	NO OBJECTIONS

HO3/1076/08 Mr K Brown

proposed 2 storey detached dwelling with attached single garage, adjacent 14 Wren Close – NO OBSERVATIONS

**CHAPPELL ROAD ALLOTMENTS**

Further to the Council's letter to the Secretary of State, a reply had now been received from the Dept for Communities and Local Government. In brief it stated that temporary allotment land owners, including local authorities, can make use of their land as they see fit, and that the DCLG was unable to intervene in these situations. However, PPG17 states that existing space should not be built on unless the planning authority has clearly shown the open space to be surplus to local requirements. Planning Policy Statement 3 Housing is clear that new housing development should not be at the expense of local recreational open space. In the light of this information, the Clerk had written again to SHDC.

**DONATIONS – TRANSPORT FORUM FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Mrs McGuinness and Mrs Williams declared an Interest and left the meeting

A letter had been received from Mrs A Etherington of St Nicholas Park asking the Council to assist the Spalding Transport Forum with funding for a further feasibility study, as a worthwhile cause that would benefit the whole community.

A letter from Mr Watts, with suggestions for the campaign, was read to the meeting.

As those Parishioners present had an interest in this matter the Chairman gave Andrew Etherington permission to speak. The question they wished to ask the Parish Council was whether it supported the Transport Forum's campaign to open Littleworth Railstop; and if it was prepared to donate further funds, together with the Wind Farm Committee, for the necessary Feasibility Study? The Chairman replied that the Council did support the campaign, but pointed out that he could not answer for Wind Farm Committee policy or decisions as it was an independent group from the Parish Council, although the Committee was presently holding £3000 for the Forum, waiting for matched funding from them. The Parish Council was not in a position to donate large amounts without prior budgeting, as all its annual running expenses came from SHDC and were raised through additional parish council taxes. Due to a responsibility to its Parishioners, it was not happy donating further funds to the Forum without seeing a comprehensive report, detailed quotation, or improved matched funding from the group itself. Cllr Alcock also pointed out that the Parish Council cannot give money to an organisation that is not legally constituted.

Mrs McGuinness and Mrs Williams returned to the room.

**ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

It was proposed by Mr Fitzgerald, seconded by Mrs Scholes and AGREED to pay the following accounts:

Clerk's salary & expenses Oct/Nov	430.76
School Hire	20.55
Petty Cash	25.00
Sneath & Sons – grass cutting	527.58
British Legion poppy wreath	15.50
Custom Fencing repair	1234.63
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2254.02</b>

**TRANSPORT FORUM UPDATE**

There had been a meeting at the Jubilee Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> October to make a presentation on the recent survey, the results (showing positive on a 2 mile radius) being presented to, among others, National Rail, EMT, Passenger Focus Group, LCC and SHDC. Further to a meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> October, EMT is to hold talks with SHDC.

The Feasibility Study is the main problem at the moment, as without it they are unable to proceed. The next Public Meeting will be in January, and the AGM in April.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Assorted periodicals and circulars

**Communities & Local Government** – consultations on byelaws and Codes of conduct

**SHDC** – Code of Conduct training on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at the Council Offices at 6.00pm

**SHDC** – Confirmation that the Church & Chapel have now been approved as Polling Station venues

**East Midlands Regional Assembly** – review of the Regional Plan details

**COMMUNITY CENTRE FUNDS UPDATE**

With the current financial turmoil, Mr Branton reported that he was waiting for the situation to settle down before reinvesting. The money is protected and still getting a good return in short term Treasury Reserve.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

19<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 7.00pm

**OPEN SESSION**

\*Mrs McGuinness queried a previous item concerning the whereabouts of previous village Funds. The Clerk to check back as this has already been minuted.

\*Mr McDonald produced a sample of underground electric cable being installed by Eon on his and a neighbouring property. He was concerned that not only was it not ducted, it was not up to the specification laid down by Central Networks (Eon). This could also mean that the underground cable laid through the village a few years ago may be below specification. The Clerk to write to Central Networks.

\*It was decided to put the Councillors annual dinner item on the January Agenda

The Chairman thanked Parishioners for attending the meeting, and wished all those present a Happy Christmas and New Year.

**CLOSURE 9.29PM**

**CHAIRMAN.....**

**DATE.....**