

COGENHOE & WHISTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 2nd November 2009 at 7.30 pm, in Cogenhoe Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Mrs. E. Packer	Mr A Stanton	Malcolm Scott
Mr Aubrey Carter	Mr David Murray	Mr Roger Brown
Mr Geoff Carverhill	Mrs Jean Grubb	
Mr James Biggs		

ATTENDING: Steven Hollowell, Michael Clarke

APOLOGIES: Karen Gerrard, Carole Clarke

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: E Packer – Village Hall

PUBLIC SESSION – Meeting closed for this item:

Mrs Mary Padbury has applied to join us as a Parish Councillor. She has lived in the village for 30+ years and has an interest in all aspects of village life. Parish Council discussed her application and it was unanimously agreed to invite Mary to join us.

Clerk to find out next Flying Start Course dates for Mary to attend.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT: Steven Hollowell has received complaints regarding noise and motorbike issues around the seat in Station Road and is writing to the Police regarding this. Clerk is going to invite police representatives to attend next meeting in December to discuss this and any other issues that give cause for concern.

Steven has researched the ownership of the hedge outside 34, Station Road, which has been the subject of some confusion for a long period of time. It appears that it is clearly South Northants' responsibility and Steven will be contacting them to ensure they maintain it. He is also going to mention some other trees, which have been brought to his attention and need to be trimmed back.

Changes are afoot within the Rights of Way Department. We also need to replace our Path Warden and enquiries are to be made to the new walking group, which has been set up in the village.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: In spite of the postal strike, tickets for speeding motorists will still be issued and sent by courier.

Budget for next year is going to be very tight. This is in part because local authorities have had to spend large amounts in Social Services to ensure the "Baby P" tragedy is never repeated. Council are looking at the effects that different percentage increases of Council Tax will make on services, from 0% upwards. Any Council Tax payer can look at the options and make comments on the County Council website.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: These had been previously circulated & were duly proposed by Jean Grubb, seconded by Roger Brown and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

MATTERS FOR REPORT arising from the Minutes:

- ❖ Nene Rise Vacant Plot: Development seems to have been halted – possibly due to accident involving builder.
- ❖ Allotments – Geoff has consulted with a representative of Bowens Travel Group. Unfortunately there is no land available for allotments at this time but he has promised to bear it in mind, as there are possible changes, which could release some land in the future. Elizabeth Packer has also had conversations with another landowner in the village who advised the process of obtaining land through compulsory purchase could prove very expensive for the Parish Council. Elizabeth is to find out information about other suitable land, which is currently handled by Land Agent.

PUBLICITY & COMMUNICATIONS:

PARISH MATTERS:

- a) **Amenities:** All Councillors looked at aesthetic ways of improving village. Several ideas were presented – one is to arrange for hanging baskets to be planted. Clerk to contact A.H. Contracts regarding their watering service and also ask Billing Garden Centre for quote to provide and plant baskets. It was also suggested that as the poplar and birch trees around the Playing Field are becoming elderly, it would be good to grow new trees alongside to eventually replace them. Also, shrub hedges could be planted to protect boundary of Playing Field by ditch.
- b) **Minerals and Sewerage Plant:**
- c) **Highways & Transport:**
 - ❖ Litter Pick to be organised – Jean Grubb liaising with School.
 - ❖ Snow Warden. This vacancy is still open and we need to find a volunteer.
 - ❖ Beech Hedge – western end of Station Road – arrangements have been made to cut back. Clerk has contacted MGWSP regarding the puddles in kerb by hedge. Clerk has chased up but nothing seems to have happened. Also mentioned the similar problem on the other side of Station Road towards leaving the village.
 - ❖ Slab retaining wall – 99 Station Road – this is not highway responsibility. Clerk to ask them to send letter to householder. Clerk to ask MGWSP as Highway contractors placed these slabs here. Nothing heard back but Mark Gatland is currently off sick so will re-chase when he is back.
 - ❖ We have received a complaint regarding the ditch adjacent to the footpath along York Avenue. Apparently it is constantly littered and used for fly tipping. Both ditch and footpath are overgrown with stinging nettles and briars. Clerk reported but nothing heard as yet – again will chase when Mike Gatland returns.
 - ❖ Football Lights – reports received that lights are still blinding drivers on Brafield Road. Clerk to inform Ken Vaughan at SNC and ask him to progress.
 - ❖ Footpaths: Rights of Way Officer at MGWSP has arranged for path TE10 (Packhorse Bridge) to be cleared and has added it onto his Rights of Way Mowing Programme for future years.
 - ❖ We have received letter from NCC asking if we need any repairs to the street lighting before they adopt the road. Inspection to take place and report back.
 - ❖ Clerk to report hedge in Station Road causing restricted vision to drivers.
 - ❖ We have received e-mail from concerned Parishioner about rubbish accumulating in a front garden with possible vermin implications. Clerk to report to Ken Vaughan at SNC.

d) Crime & Disorder:

- ❖ Lead has been stolen from Church Porch roof. It has been treated with Smart Water so may be recovered.

e) Finance:	Bank Balances:	a) Current a/c	£ 862.47
		b) Deposit a/c	£31,545.33

It was proposed by Roger Brown, seconded by Albert Stanton and unanimously agreed that the following accounts be paid:

1309	Geoff Carverhill	Expenses re WJPU	£ 123.99
1310	A H Contracts	Dog Bins	£ 73.05
1311	Brayfield PC	Printing WJPU	£ 49.19
1312	Eon	Lighting supply	£ 707.02
1313	Elizabeth Packer	Skip licence & binders	£ 143.66
1314	Heather McNicol	Wages & expenses	£ 485.90
1315	BDO	Audit Fee	£ 184.00

Elizabeth Packer bid on e-bay successfully for two locking binder minute books.

Aubrey Carter has basic template of Clerks contract from NALC and is liaising with Albert Stanton on how best to tailor it to meet our needs. Finance Meeting to be arranged to discuss further and next year's pre-cept to present to Parish Council on December 7th.

f) Lighting:

Clerk has reported light in Telephone Kiosk in Whiston as out of order, also lights Nos. 25 and 44. Phone box was attended but they needed a special key to complete the job. I e-mailed the BT people to ask for a key to be either sent to me or E-on but have heard nothing as yet. Also reported 2 lights past Nene Rise (left) on Station Road as being out.

g) Playing Field & Village Hall:

Unsafe middle section of skateboard ramp has been removed.

Had a general sale, which raised c. £200. Red Cross will receive excess stock from this sale.

Playground items have been maintained and repaired where necessary. Bin has been stolen.

Clerk to get updated regulations for Dog Warden.

AGM takes place in 2 weeks.

h) Planning:

S090704/FUL	50 York Avenue	2 Dormer windows to front & 2 storey extn. to side.	PC no object
S090737/LBC	49 Church Street	Demolish lean-to & Construct 1.5 storey extn to side & detached garage to front	PC no object
S090849/FUL	Adj.37 Station Rd	Detached dwelling	PC no object

S090932/FUL	10 Glebe Way	1 st floor extn over garage	
S091012/FUL	107 Station Road	Single storey front, 2 Storey side & single Storey rear extns	PC No object

Letter from concerned Parishioner regarding inappropriate use of adjoining land. Clerk to contact Ken Vaughan at SNC for him to investigate. Ken Vaughan will keep us posted but feels it isn't a S215 case but he is trying to make contact with site owners and Steven Hollowell is assisting him with this. Elizabeth Packer has sent him some other information to help – ongoing.

Ken Vaughan is also looking into the possible requirement for residential moorings on the river. It seems to be determined that it would be required if it could be proved that this is the owners sole residence – i.e. mail being delivered, on electoral register etc. Any info would be helpful.

WNJPU EMERGENT CORE STRATEGY:

This application is for the building of some 18,000 homes in South East Northamptonshire before 2031. This would effectively destroy several picturesque nearby villages and come right up to Cogenhoe & Whiston borders.

Geoff Carverhill has had discussion with interested Parishioners regarding the formation of the Action Group. Albert Stanton and David Murray will also join this group, along with Geoff. There is a lull in action whilst waiting for the WJPU to make a decision on their next move. David Murray reported that the meeting on 26th October was well attended and the quality of fellow objectors was impressive. Flooding, Highways and Infrastructure are the 3 main points of contention. Some 6,000 responses were received by the WJPU. Plans were discussed to take marquee at Northants Show to reach wider audience – hopefully people who live in Northampton Town will attend – not just countryside/village people.

Parish Council to continue with arrangements for signage – Steven Hollowell has artwork and Roger is to organise printing.

i) Pocket Park:

Working Party was successful. 16th November is next meeting. Quotes for new gate/gate repair have been requested but not yet received. Geoff is pursuing all options. Liability issue will be discussed at next meeting once Pocket Park Committee has met.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letters Received:

1. SNC – Planning
2. SNC Planning
3. SNC Planning
4. A.H. Contracts – invoice & letter
5. E-on – lighting supply
6. Barclays Bank – statements
7. BDO – audit complete and Invoice
8. Geoff Carverhill – expenses
9. Brafield-on-the-Green PC – share of expenses invoice
10. Elizabeth Packer – invoice, binders
11. Barclays Bank – cheque book
12. Barclays Bank – change to Deposit Account (in correspondence folder)

