

**MINUTES OF YARDLEY GOBION PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 4<sup>th</sup> January 2005**

- Present** Cllrs G Crisp (Chair), Mrs M Benge, M Morris, T Bates, C Turl, R Westlake, L Potter, Ms L Stephenson, Mrs S Hill.
- 2616** 1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr King.
- 2617** 2. **Council Matters:**
- a) Declaration of Interest: None.
- 2618** 3. **Previous Meeting :**
- 3.1 Minutes of Meeting held 7 12 04 were agreed/signed as a correct record, after Hesketh Road had been noted instead of Lime Road in Min No 2614 13 b).
- 3.2 **Matters arising:**
- a) Cllr Bates advised that the cost of the notice board referred to Min No 2609 8.2 b) was £211.79 + VAT without posts. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Benge that only the board be purchased at this cost. Seconded by Cllr Morris. All Cllrs in favour. Cllr Morris agreed to investigate the possibility of obtaining posts from elsewhere. **MM**
- b) Min No 2609 8.2 a) - Cllr Westlake asked if there was a formal agreement between the PC and the 'Mole Man' and how often he would be attending. Cllr Bates advised once or twice per week for 2 months. Cllr Ms Stephenson asked if a 'method statement' could be provided. **TB**
- c) Min No 2608 7.4 b) - Cllr Crisp said he had had no response from School's Out regarding the queries that had been raised previously by the F & GP Committee.
- d) Min No 2613 12 f) – Cllr Crisp had been advised that the burglary helpline would definitely run until March 2005, and was expected to continue after that date. It was agreed that this information should be included in the Village Directory. Papers passed to Cllr Potter. **LP**
- e) Min No 2614 13 a) - Cllr Westlake noted that the BT phone box had been repaired sometime during the week before Christmas.
- 2619** 4. **Open Forum:** None
- 2620** 5. **Planning:**
- 5.1 **APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:**
- a) Application S/2004/1732/P – 27 Moorend Road, Yardley Gobion. Single storey extension to rear, re-siting of garage. Conversion of roof space to habitable rooms. After discussion Cllrs observed 'this property is in the conservation area, and also unique in the village street scene. Therefore Councillors would like to see new window surrounds match the stonework of the existing house and panelling on the new garage blend in with the existing woodwork, especially where visible from the road. Additionally, Councillors would request that any concerns raised by nearby property owners be satisfactorily addressed and/or resolved.'
- 5.2 **AMENDMENTS:** None.
- 5.3 **APPLICATIONS GRANTED:** None.
- 5.4 **APPLICATIONS REFUSED:**
- a) S/2004/1557/P, Brookfield Barn, Potterspurty Lodge, Nr Towcester (within Yardley Gobion parish) – Conversion of single storey barn to two holiday lets. Cllr Crisp read out the reasons for refusal to the meeting. Placed on circulation.
- 5.5 **APPLICATIONS WITHDRAWN:** None.
- 5.6 **OTHER:**
- a) Illegal dumping of waste at former proposed Green Waste site, Moorend Road – Dist Cllr Wilson had advised the Clerk that this matter was being dealt with by NCC.
- b) No news had been received concerning the land near Mount Pleasant Farm and the Water Tower or the land near Homestead farm off A5. Clerk had followed up with NCC.
- c) Cllr Crisp had spoken to the occupier of the site on the land adjacent to the A508, who had cleared the site, and advised him to contact the police regarding the prevention of future access to his property.
- d) 4 High Street, where a gas flue with metal covering had been erected on the north west wall of this listed property, which was not mentioned in planning application S/2002/1062/P. This had been passed to the Listed Buildings Officer to investigate. Chased by Clerk and still ongoing.
- 2621** 6. **PROPOSED CLOSURE OF VILLAGE POST OFFICE.** Clerk had received no response to her letter to Mr M Poppett, Customer Liaison Officer at P O L Customer Care in Sunderland, so had written to Mr Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail.
- 2622** 7. **Finance:**
- 7.1 **ACCOUNTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT:**
- a) Clerk's salary Dec 04 £265.33 (001254).
- b) Clerk's expenses Dec 04 £15.77 + £2.76 VAT (001255).
- c) A H Contracts – dog bin emptying service Dec 04 £44.00 (001256).
- d) Mr D Saxton, caretaking duties for play areas Dec 04 £18.00 (001257).
- e) ABB Public Lighting maintenance q/e Dec 04 – £200.66 + £35.12 VAT(001258).
- f) Enterprise Inns – Coffee Pot field rent 1/1/05 - 31/3/05 £10.00 + £1.75 VAT (paid by Standing Order).
- g) Powergen Energy PLC – street lighting 1/7/04 – 20/12/04 £988.53 + £172.99 VAT (001259).
- h) Yardley Gobion URC – Use of large meeting room for planning meeting 17/11/04 - £10.00 (001260).
- i) PC had already agreed a donation of £100.00 under Section 137 (Min No 2567 7.4 b) towards the Firework display in the Recreation Centre field and an invoice had been submitted. Cllr

7.2 PAYMENTS RECEIVED:

- a) A & L Henson £40.00 (Dec 04).

7.3 TRANSFERS:

- a) Scottish Widows to Nat West £1,800.00

7.4 OTHER:

- a) School's Out – see Matters Arising above.

- b) Cllr Westlake on behalf of F & GP Committee recommended a precept amount of £22,000.00 for the year 2005/2006 to the meeting – an increase of £1,500.00 (7.3%). Cllr Ms Stephenson commented that she could see no justification for any increase, bearing in mind that at the end of December there was over £25,000.00 in both bank accounts, and there was also the possibility of funds if the land behind Woodville Crescent was sold. She questioned if this increase demonstrated a responsible attitude on the part of the PC as no major projects had been proposed in the budget circulated previously. Cllr Westlake advised that £12,000.00 had been set aside for improving the play areas and replacing equipment that dated from the early 1980's. Cllr Crisp advised that the remaining £13,000.00 had been budgeted as follows – a further £2,000.00 for play area improvements, £5,000.00 for contingencies and £6,000.00 for running costs for the final three months of the year. This would utilise the reserves that had been built up. Cllr Turl questioned whether the PC was allowed to create a contingency fund – Cllr Crisp confirmed this was acceptable provided the proposed use was made clear.

With regard to the improvements planned for the play areas it was noted that the new 'Friends of the Play Areas' committee would endeavour to raise funds not available to PC's and the PC would also make its own contribution, so that a combination of funds would be used.

After much debate Cllr Westlake proposed that the 2005/2006 precept be agreed as proposed.

Seconded by Cllr Morris. In favour – Cllrs Westlake, Morris, Bates, Crisp, Mrs Bengel, C Turl, L Potter, Mrs S Hill. Against – Cllr Ms Stephenson. Proposal carried.

- c) Cllr Potter requested PC agree an amount not exceeding £230.00 for printing the 2005 Village Directory. Proposed by Cllr Morris. Seconded by Cllr Crisp. All Cllrs in favour.

2623

8. **Committee Reports:**

8.1 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY/MOWING:

- a) Reports to CLARENCE: Clerk reported that problems were still outstanding and they had been chased as follows -

1) 164377 being the sign on the island at the turning from the A508 into the Potterspurpy Road. Work instructed 26<sup>th</sup> October. Closed 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

2) 164378 being the white lines by the Village Hall which had not been repainted after the resurfacing had been carried out last year. Referred to 'Schemes' 14<sup>th</sup> December.

3) 156762 being storm water sewer damage to the pavement along Grafton Road. This had been passed to Anglian Water for action on 16<sup>th</sup> October. Comments added by Clerk 27<sup>th</sup> October as a temporary repair had been carried out that was unsatisfactory. Chased 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

4) 159738 being the missing white lines in Hesketh Road opposite Highcroft Close. Referred to N Patel 20<sup>th</sup> December.

5) 161437 being the white lines not replaced after the recent surface dressing. Investigations had been instructed on 29<sup>th</sup> September. Comments added 31<sup>st</sup> October by Clerk as no action appeared to have been taken. Referred to 'Schemes' 14<sup>th</sup> December.

6) 164376 being the Hortonsfield Road sign that had been uprooted near the junction with Hesketh Road. Referred to S Matthews on 18<sup>th</sup> October. Chased 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

7) 166060 being the damaged path on Budge Road near the junction with Malborough Way reported on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Referred to T Gray on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Chased 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

8) 173540 being the Yardley Gobion sign at the entrance to the village in Grafton Road, which had been spray painted.

- b) Footpaths - Cllr Crisp had received a letter from Jim Cosford, Senior R.O.W. Officer at NCC, advising that he had made arrangements for unsafe stiles to be dealt with on SH23, advice and enforcement letters issued regarding the cultivated headland on SH24, and that the gate on SH27 was considered necessary at this particular time, and therefore the conditions of the original diversion order would justifiably be changed. Letter placed on circulation.

- c) Overhanging Vegetation - SNC had yet to deal with the property in Hesketh Road. Clerk to chase.

- d) Wharf Lane R.O.W. – The Clerk understood a meeting had taken place before Christmas between Steven Hollowell from NCC R.O.W., the land owner, and the farmer concerned, but had no further details.

- e) Street Lighting – Cllr Morris had ascertained from ABB that unfortunately no discount was available on the globes as they were a set price and made to order, with a 3 month delivery period. Cllr Westlake proposed expenditure of approx £300.00 + VAT for 10 replacement globes, and this was seconded by Cllr Morris. All Cllrs in favour. Cllr Morris to advise the Clerk of the reference numbers as required.

- f) 13 Hortonsfield Road – It was noted that Atkins had yet to deal with the overhanging vegetation at this property. Clerk to chase.

- g) Parking – Complaints had been received by the PC about the number of vehicles parked on corners and bends in the village, along Grafton Road and the High Street. Clerk had written

MM

- again to PC Goddard for advice but had still not received a response, however, a strong police presence in the village over the Christmas period had been noted.
- h) Sewers – Cllr Crisp had completed the unadopted sewer map and Cllr Westlake circulated copies of his proposed letter which was to inform residents of their responsibilities. Cllr Crisp has spoken to the Monitoring Officer at SNC, Kevin Lane, to ask his advice as to whether the matter could be discussed further, if 9 Cllrs did have a prejudicial interest. Unfortunately Mr Lane’s response only mentioned personal interests, so the Clerk was asked to clarify the position with him and ensure that correct procedures are being followed, as she had been told by the Standards Board that if over 50% of Cllrs had a prejudicial interest then they should apply separately to SNC Standards Committee for a dispensation to allow them to discuss the matter further. In the meantime Cllr Morris agreed to contact an insurance broker to ascertain the current position re insurance for unadopted sewers. Paperwork placed on circulation.
- i) Mowing Season 2005 – Cllr Westlake was in the process of obtaining a base map of the village and preparing paperwork prior to going out to tender for the 2005 season contract. **RW**
- j) Water Ponds - Cllr Westlake had indicated the worst affected areas on the map of the village NCC/Atkins had provided, together with photographs. Paperwork passed to the Clerk for onward transmission to Atkins.
- 8.2 PLAYING FIELDS/POCKET PARK/VILLAGE TREES:**
- a) Cllr Crisp read out Mr Saxton’s report which indicated no action was required. The Clerk mentioned that she had been asked about the child swing seat in the Recreation Centre field play area and was told that although it had been damaged it was safe to use.
- b) Play Area ROSPA Inspections 2005 – Cllr Turl proposed that these be carried out for insurance purposes. Seconded by Cllr Potter. All Cllrs in favour. Clerk to request inspections.
- c) Play Area Improvements – Cllr Bates advised that the ‘Friends of the Play Areas’ had chosen a name and were in the process of being registered as a charity. They had also arranged for play equipment company representatives to visit the sites and provide their proposals for consideration.
- 8.3 ALLOTMENTS:**
- a) Cllr Mrs Bengé mentioned that she had visited the allotments, and they looked in pretty good condition for the time of year.
- 2624 9. Special projects:**
- 9.1 WOODVILLE CRESCENT** - Linda Mason, the PC’s solicitor, had written to the Treasury Solicitor to obtain his requirements in the event the land is sold, but no response had been received to date. Clerk asked to chase.
- 9.2 REVIEW OF BUS SERVICE** – Cllr Morris had prepared a letter to NCC. **MM**
- 9.3 VILLAGE DIRECTORY** – Cllr Potter confirmed that the design for the front cover of the Directory would be a photograph of the Coffee Pot.
- 2625 10. Y G Recreation Centre and Y G Village Hall.**
- a) Report from PC representative (YGRC). Nothing to report.
- b) Report from PC representative (YGVH). No report.
- 2626 11. Neighbourhood Watch.**
- a) Nothing to report.
- 2627 12. Correspondence.**
- In reviewing the correspondence, Cllr Crisp had noted that there had been no previous notice of any of the surveys/audits/questionnaires where responses were required within a short timeframe. He asked if Cllrs agreed that the Clerk should write to SNC, NCC & the Deputy Prime Minister requesting that similar requests for information should not be retrospective as this method was time consuming and possibly inaccurate compared to a request for information in advance, in order that a log could be kept. He added that the requirement for such information should surely be known well in advance of the request. All Cllrs in favour.
- a) SNC Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership Audit 2004. Cllr Morris agreed to complete this on behalf of the PC. **MM**
- b) NCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Parish Council Survey (response due by 10<sup>th</sup> January). Cllrs Crisp and Westlake agreed to complete this on behalf of the PC. **RW**  
**GC**
- c) Northamptonshire Police Authority – Policing 2005/06 ( response due by 31<sup>st</sup> January). Again, Cllr Morris agreed to complete this on behalf of the PC. **MM**
- d) SNC Budget Consultation 2205/2006 – Cllr King was nominated to complete this on behalf of the PC. **CK**
- 2628 13. Any other business:**
- a) Cllr Mrs Hill reported that a resident of Warren Road had complained about the hedges being damaged (see Min No 2614 13 b)), and requesting that a list of all Cllrs be published in every issue of The Old Mail. Cllrs decided that as The Old Mail was circulated to Potterspurty and Cosgrove as well as YG, it was sufficient that the list was published in the Village Directory.
- b) Cllr Crisp mentioned the low flying of military aircraft that had taken place in the village in December. He had written to the MOD and the response had been placed on the notice board by the Post Office. A booklet and leaflets had been supplied and the Clerk was asked to place these on circulation.
- 2629 14. Date of next meeting:**
- a. 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005, 8.00pm in the Village Hall.  
Meeting closed 9.55pm.