

**MINUTES OF YARDLEY GOBION PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 1<sup>st</sup> March 2005**

- Present** Cllrs R Westlake (Chair), Mrs M Benge, L Potter, C King, Ms L Stephenson, Mrs S Hill.
- 2644** 1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Crisp, Bates, Turl, Morris & Dist Cllr Wilson.
- 2645** 2. **Council Matters:**
- a) Declaration of Interest: Cllr King declared an interest in Agenda item 9.1.
- 2646** 3. **Previous Meeting :**
- 3.1** Minutes of Meeting held 4 2 05 were agreed/signed as a correct record.
- 3.2** **Matters arising:**
- a) Discussion ensued re Cllr Mrs Benge's Parish Council article in February's issue of The Old Mail which had been heavily edited. A letter of complaint had been received from one resident, and this was read to the meeting, together with the Clerk's response. It had been expected that an apology and retraction would appear in March's issue of The Old Mail but unfortunately this did not happen. The PC rely heavily on The Old Mail as a useful forum for disseminating information and highlighting areas for concern and Cllrs requested that the Clerk write in the strongest terms to the Yardley Gobion editor (with copies to the other editors) demanding that Cllr Mrs Benge's December and January articles be printed in full, together with the requested apology and retraction on the same or an adjoining page, or the PC would withdraw its financial support for The Old Mail. Papers placed on circulation.
- b) Min No 2609 8.2 a) – Cllr Bates had advised the Clerk that 9 moles had been caught so far during the mole catcher's visits.
- 2647** 4. **Open Forum:** None.
- 2648** 5. **Planning:**
- 5.1** APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: None.
- 5.2** AMENDMENTS:
- a) S/2005/0033/P, 38 Hesketh Road – two storey extension to rear. This amendment had been received too late to include in the Agenda so the Planning Committee agreed to consider it after the meeting, bearing in mind that Cllrs had had 'no observations' concerning the original application. **Plan Com**
- 5.3** APPLICATIONS GRANTED: None.
- 5.4** APPLICATIONS REFUSED: None.
- 5.5** APPLICATIONS WITHDRAWN: None.
- 5.6** OTHER:
- a) Illegal dumping of waste at former proposed Green Waste site, Moorend Road – County Cllr Walker had advised the Clerk that this matter was being dealt with by NCC. Cllr Westlake was meeting a representative from NCC to view the land near Mount Pleasant Farm and the Water Tower and would then also discuss the land near Homestead Farm off A5. **RW**
- b) 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.
- 2649** 6. **PROPOSED CLOSURE OF VILLAGE POST OFFICE.**
- a) Clerk had written to Rt Hon T Boswell to request his involvement.
- 2650** 7. **Finance:**
- 7.1** ACCOUNTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT:
- a) Clerk's salary Feb 05 £265.33 (001268).
- b) Clerk's expenses Feb 05 £21.08 + £1.63 VAT (001269).
- c) A H Contracts – dog bin emptying service Feb 05 £44.00 (001270).
- d) Mr D Saxton, caretaking duties for play areas Feb 05 £18.00 (001271).
- 7.2** PAYMENTS RECEIVED:
- a) A & L Henson £40.00 (Feb 05).
- 7.3** TRANSFERS: None.
- 7.4** OTHER:
- a) Membership of Campaign for Protection of Rural England – after their attendance at a recent forum Cllrs Crisp and Ms Stephenson recommended the PC join CPRE. Cllr Crisp had mentioned that CPRE may offset the joining fee against the cost of the forum and the Clerk had written to investigate this possibility and was awaiting a response.
- b) Request from YGRC for contribution (c £600.00) to the cost of improving the driveway and car park area of the premises. The request was read out but Cllrs felt a great deal more information was required with regard to estimates and specification before a decision could be made and the Clerk was asked to refer the letter to Cllr Turl, a Trustee of the Recreation Centre, for his advice. **CT**
- 2651** 8. **Committee Reports:**
- 8.1** HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY/MOWING:
- a) Reports to CLARENCE: Clerk reported that problems were still outstanding but the website had crashed repeatedly and she had been unable to obtain any updates -
- 1) 164377 being the sign on the island at the turning from the A508 into the Potterspurty Road. Work instructed 26<sup>th</sup> October. Closed 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Re-opened 30<sup>th</sup> January as no action appears to have been taken.
- 2) 164378 being the white lines by the Village Hall which had not been repainted after the re-surfacing had been carried out last year. Referred to 'Schemes' 14<sup>th</sup> December. Chased 30<sup>th</sup>

January.

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. Referred to Anglian water 4<sup>th</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. Chased 30<sup>th</sup> January.

6) 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. Closed 12<sup>th</sup> January.

7) 173540 being the Yardley Gobion sign at the entrance to the village in Grafton Road, which had been spray painted. Referred to R Woodhouse 17<sup>th</sup> January.

89) 177032 being a pothole in Moorend Road on opposite side of road to The Meadows Care Home sign.

9) 177110 being the leaning 'Give Way' sign along Stratford Road at the junction with Potterspurpy Road.

- b) Maintenance and provision of street lighting – Cllr Westlake advised that there was not much variation in costs of the energy supply as it was unmetered and based on the type and usage of lights, but currently the lights themselves were maintained on a quarterly warranty basis by ABB who visited annually to clean the lights and replaced all bulbs at 3 year intervals as part of the contract, and also operated on a call out basis. Aylesbury Mains operated a 'pay as you go' call out system. Cllrs agreed that it was worth investigating another maintenance supplier and obtaining quotes etc. Papers passed to Cllr Westlake for his recommendations. RW
- c) Replacement Globes - Cllr Westlake mentioned that the 10 new visors fitted on 28<sup>th</sup> February had made a considerable difference to the lighting in the village.
- d) Overhanging Vegetation - Clerk had chased SNC again as Atkins had yet to deal with the overhanging vegetation at 13 Hortonsfield Road. The property in Hesketh Road was now in the hands of SNC.
- e) Mowing Season 2005 – Cllr Westlake had analysed the responses received to the tender. Of 7 sets of documents sent out only 4 responses had been received, and one of these had declined to quote. Cllr Westlake advised the meeting that of the three quotations received, the current contractor, N J Blackwell Garden Services, had quoted the lowest at £4,530.15. The F & GP Committee therefore recommended that N J Blackwell Garden Services be awarded the contract for the 2005 mowing season. Proposed by Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Mrs Bengé. All Cllrs in favour. The Clerk was requested to send out the necessary paperwork.
- f) Moorend Road (between Water Tower and Aurora) – surface water on road. The Clerk had received a letter from Atkins/NCC noting her comments and advising that all Yardley Gobion's roads were scheduled for an inspection in July; when Cllrs assumed the problem would have 'dried out'. In the meantime Cllr Westlake offered to take photographs of the road after heavy rain. RW
- g) Bonfires in the village – Cllr Westlake read out a letter from a resident in Moorend Road complaining about bonfires of horse manured waste in the grounds of Yardley House. The clerk had taken advice from SNC, who, as there were no laws pertaining to bonfires, required a log of not less than one month detailing the times, duration and date of the bonfires in order to investigate the matter. The Clerk had prepared a response which was read out to the meeting and approved by Cllrs. Papers placed on circulation.

## 8.2 PLAYING FIELDS/POCKET PARK/VILLAGE TREES:

- a) Cllr Westlake read out Mr Saxton's report which indicated no action was required.
- b) Play Area Improvements – Cllr Bates had advised the Clerk that good progress was being made.
- c) Request from PCC for Car Boot Sale to be held on Coffee Pot field – it was agreed that the Clerk confirm to Mrs Westlake the terms and conditions applicable to the use of the field.
- d) Cllr Westlake noted that extensive hedge clearing had taken place in the area around Manor Farm, including the Coffee Pot field hedge. The Clerk was asked to thank the Keeves family for their public spirited attitude and confirm the PC's appreciation of their action.
- e) Cllr Westlake agreed to ask Mr G Cave for a quotation for trimming the highway hedge along the length of the allotments in Potterspurpy Road. RW

## 8.3 ALLOTMENTS:

- a) It was agreed that the Allotment Meeting be held prior to the PC Meeting in the Village Hall on 5th April at 7.00pm. Clerk to advise allotment holders accordingly. MB

## 9. Special projects:

- 9.1 WOODVILLE CRESCENT - Linda Mason, the PC's solicitor, had received a letter from the Treasury Solicitor in which he seemed to indicate he required all monies in the event of the sale of the land. It was agreed that it was not therefore in anyone's interest to dispose of the land and the Clerk was asked to confirm this position with Linda Mason, expressing the PC's disappointment that previous correspondence agreeing a 50% share of sale proceeds appeared to have been ignored.

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MM  
LP
- 9.2 REVIEW OF BUS SERVICE – No further information. The provision of new bus shelters at Grafton Regis was noted.
- 9.3 VILLAGE DIRECTORY – Cllr Potter confirmed that he was awaiting a proof copy from the printer. Cllrs agreed to distribute the Directories themselves when they were ready, if necessary.
- 9.4 TADD RELOCATION ISSUE – The Clerk had received a letter advising that TADD had been asked to move from their current premises in Towcester Health Centre and asking for support. Cllrs were in favour of assisting wherever possible, having supported TADD extensively in the past, and the Clerk was asked to write to TADD to ask if there was any action the PC could take to help.
- 2653 10. **Y G Recreation Centre and Y G Village Hall.**
- a) Report from PC representative (YGRC). No report.
- b) A letter from a resident had been received by the Clerk detailing an incident at the Recreation Centre on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2005. This was discussed by the meeting and it was agreed that the letter be referred to Cllr Turl, a Trustee of the Recreation Centre, to ascertain what advice the Trustees had given and what action, if any, had been taken by the Recreation Centre Committee. In any event, Cllrs categorically stated that they could not condone acts of violence by an elected officer of the Club.
- c) Report from PC representative (YGVH). Cllr King advised that a quote for refurbishing the kitchen was awaited.
- 2654 11. **Neighbourhood Watch.** No report.
- 2655 12. Correspondence.
- a) SNC – Animal Welfare Service – Satisfaction Survey. It appeared from a recent summary that the dog warden had not visited the village in the last few months. Cllr King had been told by a resident that fouling had increased recently and he confirmed that the situation in the Pocket Park was bad. Cllrs found this increase disappointing in view of the provision of dog bins and the majority of responsible dog owners in the village and considered the use of the Pocket Park unacceptable. Prior to completing the survey, the Clerk was asked to contact the dog warden and ask for patrols and suggestions as to what action could be taken to stop the problem.
- b) Standards Board – a Code for the Future. Those Cllrs present agreed to complete a survey form each.
- c) SNC – Planning Forum for Parish/Town Councils – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2005. This letter was read out and Cllrs agreed that one representative from the PC would attend. The Clerk was asked to book one place.
- d) East Midlands Regional Assembly – Consultation on the Draft East Midlands Regional Freight Strategy. Placed on circulation.
- e) East Midlands Regional Assembly – Consultation on the Draft East Midlands Regional Waste Strategy. Placed on circulation.
- 2656 13. **Any other business:**
- a) Cllr King spoke about the new Licensing Laws and how the PC may be involved in these in the future.
- 2657 14) **Date of next meeting:**
- a) 5<sup>th</sup> April 2005, 8.00pm in the Village Hall, preceded at 7.00pm by the Annual Allotment Holders meeting. All Cllrs are welcome to attend this meeting.  
Meeting closed 10.25 pm.
- CT