

MINUTES OF YARDLEY GOBION PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 7th March 2006

- Present** Cllrs G Crisp (Chair), Ms L Stephenson, C Turl, R Westlake, L Potter, C King, A Hutchin, Ms E Dennis, Ms L Rottier, Ms S Stevens, PC Goddard & Sgt Lowe.
- 2808** 1. **Apologies for Absence:** Dist Cllr Wilson.
- 2809** 2. **Council Matters:**
- a) Declaration of Interest: Cllr Potter declared an interest in Agenda item 6.4 (a).
- 2810** 3. **Previous Meeting :**
- 3.1 Minutes of Meeting held 7 2 06 were agreed/signed as a correct record apart from a technicality regarding Minute No 2800 6.4a) which would be addressed during the current meeting and Cllr King's declaration of interest in Agenda item 7.2 c) which was minuted as No 2801 7.2 d). P C Goddard & Sgt Lowe arrive 8.10pm.
- 3.2 **Matters arising:**
- a) Cllr Westlake gave a brief report of the WNDC forum on 20th February. It appeared that the DC would have a major impact on Towcester itself and every aspect of YG residents lives could be affected by development at Towcester/Daventry and Northampton. Interested parties were urged to consult the website for information – www.wndc.org.uk.
- b) Cllr Hutchin gave an overview of the Planning Appeal Meeting on 28th February which he and Cllr Crisp had attended. The Planning Inspector took comments from both parties and visited the site in question. A decision would be forthcoming within 7 weeks and the PC would be informed accordingly.
- 2811** 4. **Open Forum:** Comments attached.
P C Goddard and Sgt Lowe leave 9pm.
- 2812** 5. **Planning:**
- 5.1 **APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:**
- a) S/2006/0172/P, Land on corner of Moorend Road, Yardley Gobion - Polytunnels for the protection of growing organic PYO vegetables and soft fruit with access to buildings. Cllrs observed as follows 'We **STRONGLY object** to the application for the following reasons: There appears to be no justification for the proposal, including the size and proposed positioning of the polytunnels in an open isolated position and is therefore considered to be unjustified and unsightly development in the open countryside. The development would be out of place in terms of the scale, height, form and appearance of the tunnels. The proposed screening trees will not fully block out the view of the 3.71 metre high tunnels from the footpath. They will also have an unfavourable impact on the small established wood to the south and would therefore spoil the visual amenity of the area. There is also the problem of vehicles exiting onto a narrow country lane. No traffic survey appears to have taken place and the application makes mention of the site generating some extra 200 vehicle movements per week. Councillors feel that any additional traffic on this lane should be discouraged and would like to know how the problem of the additional vehicles would be addressed as the junction with the A5 is not suitable for any increase in traffic. Additionally, Councillors have noted that there appear to be no planned facilities on site for staff or visitors'.
- b) S/2006/0225/P, 76 Hesketh Road – A detached garage at rear – Retrospective. Cllrs had **No Objections** to this application and commented that this was not an unreasonable development.
- c) S/2006/0227/P, Homestead Farmhouse, Watling Street, Potterspurty (YG Parish) – Demolition of existing farmhouse and erection of replacement building. Cllrs observed as follows 'We have **No Objections** to the application, but we do have the following comments; Whilst acknowledging the poor structural state of the current building, we have a concern about the mass of development on the site, which is in close proximity to, and will be visible from, one of the county's named footpaths'.
- 5.2 **AMENDMENTS:** None.
- 5.3 **APPLICATIONS GRANTED:**
- a) S/2005/1264/P, Manor Farm Barns (A2 & A3) High Street – Change of use and conversion of two barns to two dwellings (amendment to S/2000/0988/PO). 11 conditions. Placed on circulation.
- b) S/2005/1265/LB, Manor Farm Barns (A2 & A3) High Street – Conversion of barns to dwellings. 7 conditions. Placed on circulation.
- c) S/2005/1595/P, 5 High Street – To replace the existing flat and shallow pitched roofs at rear with pitched tiled roofs. 2 conditions. Cllr Crisp read the decision out to the meeting.
- 5.4 **APPLICATIONS REFUSED:** None.
- 5.5 **APPLICATIONS WITHDRAWN:** None.
- 5.6 **OTHER:**
- a) Cllr Westlake mentioned Application No S/2006/0265/P – Badgers Farm, Northampton Road, Cosgrove. Full Planning Application – Erection of a detached building to provide boarding cattery and formation of car park. Whilst this is in Cosgrove Parish the traffic element along the A508 impacts greatly upon YG Parish and the Clerk was asked to contact SNC in order that the PC's comments could be taken into account. The Council's main concern was access and proposed vehicle movements along the very busy and dangerous A508.

6. Finance:**6.1 ACCOUNTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT:**

- a) Anglian Water – charge for allotments 4/8/05 – 31/1/06 £37.80 (001370)
- b) Clerk's salary Feb 06 £295.78 (001371).
- c) Clerk's expenses Feb 06 £23.25 + £4.06 VAT (001372).
- d) A H Contracts – dog bin emptying service Feb 06 £44.00 + £7.70 VAT (001373).
- e) Mr D Saxton – caretaking duties for play areas Feb 06 £18.00 (001374).

6.1 PAYMENTS RECEIVED:

- a) A & L Henson – Horse Field rent - £40.00.
- b) NCC – Mowing contribution 2005 - £471.11.

6.3 TRANSFERS:

- a) Nil.

6.4 OTHER:

- a) Letter and update from Friends of the School re the school play area. Please See Open Forum notes. In addition Cllr Westlake had the following concerns and proposed that the offers of financial assistance towards the provision of play equipment at the School via the Friends of the School be deferred until during the next 2006/7 financial year (commencing April 2006) and that clarification is sought as follows: -
 - i) 1) The Parish Council seeks confirmation in writing from the National Association of Local Councils in respect of :-
 - a) Can a Parish Council grant aid an organisation whose sole aim in this case is to provide play equipment to be located within the grounds of the local school? This equipment would also be used by other organisations with permission from the school.
 - b) If such funding is permissible, under what power can this be done?
 - c) If the Parish Council funds the provision of an item of play equipment that is to be installed in the School premises and maintained and insured by the School Authority, can the VAT element be reclaimed? Seconded by Cllr Stephenson. Cllr Potter abstained - all others in favour.
 - ii) 2) The Parish Council seeks written assurance that the whole play equipment scheme is supported by the School's Governing Body – ensuring that the project can proceed when all the funding is available. Seconded by Cllr Stephenson. Cllr Potter abstained - all others in favour. Ms Dennis, Ms Rottier and Ms Stevens leave.

7. Committee Reports**7.1 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY/MOWING:**

- a) Reports to The Street Doctor: There were no outstanding reported problems.
 - b) There was no overhanging vegetation causing problems.
 - c) Nothing further had been heard from Anglian Water re reference 2325632, a stopcock sunk in the pavement outside 36 Hesketh Road.
 - d) Parking on grass verges was still evident in Hortonsfield Road. Cllr Potter had delivered slips to offending vehicles in Brownsfield Road and Hesketh Road which had resulted in telephone calls to the Clerk. Vehicles parking in the bus stop lay by outside Prospect Court and causing an obstruction had also been noted.
 - e) NCC/Atkins – Proposed 7.5 tonne amenity weight restriction. Due to time constraints the PC had responded prior to the meeting as follows – Cllrs generally supported the weight limit restriction as they considered that, apart from the village itself benefitting, Moorend and Yardley Roads would also benefit as they are little more than small country lanes with a current 60 mph speed limit. They understood that delivery lorries would be allowed access and it would only be through traffic that would be affected. They were concerned as to how the weight limit restriction would be policed – could, for example, residents report the licence number of a vehicle that they felt was using Moorend Road as a shortcut between the A508 and the A5? If so, who would they report it to and what action could result? Finally, they were also concerned about the new street signs that would be required, but understood that there would only be 3 in the vicinity of Yardley Gobion – at the two A508 junctions and at the A5 junction and that thus they may be able to be fitted to existing signs and would not blight the scenery too much.
 - f) NCC/Atkins – C49 Footway resurfacing. The Clerk had received a letter concerning the resurfacing of Footway C49 during the coming year.
 - g) Water Ponds – response from NCC/Atkins. The Clerk had received a letter advising that further inspections would be carried out in the village. She was asked to advise the residents of nos 49 – 51 Hesketh Road accordingly.
- 7.2 PLAYING FIELDS/POCKET PARK/VILLAGE TREES:**
- a) Mr Saxton's play area inspection report was read out.
 - b) Play Area Improvements – Yardley Gobion Kids Zone now had regular meetings and were actively looking at ways to raise funds.
 - c) NPFA Deed of Dedication – the Clerk reported there had been no comments from residents to the proposal to protect School Lane field with a Deed of Dedication. However, a letter had been received from the PC's solicitor, Linda Mason, which made comments and raised queries. The Clerk was asked to clarify these with the NPFA prior to the PC discussing the matter further.

	7.3	ALLOTMENTS:	826
	a)	Report from PC Representative. No report.	
	b)	Cllrs agreed the annual Allotment Holders meeting would be held in the Village Hall on 4 th April at 7pm. The Clerk was asked to notify ploholders accordingly.	ALL
2815	8.	Y G Recreation Centre and Y G Village Hall.	
	a)	Report from PC representative (YGRC). The Minutes of the meeting on 6 th February were passed to the meeting, together with the latest quarterly accounts. Placed on circulation.	
	b)	Report from PC representative (YGVH). Nothing to report.	
2816	9.	Special Projects.	
	9.1	VILLAGE DIRECTORY 2006 – No progress. Cllr Potter leaves 10.42pm.	LP
	9.2	yGPC.org.uk – Cllrs acknowledged that Cllr Hutchin had spent a great deal of his own personal time on the project and proposed their thanks to him. It was very encouraging to see it up and running and suggestions were discussed as to the way forwards.	
2817	10.	Neighbourhood Watch.	
	a)	A new co-ordinator is urgently required for the village. The Clerk was asked to put posters on the Notice Boards and mention the benefits of NW in the Old Mail.	ALL
2818	11.	Correspondence.	
	a)	SNC – Invitation to Civic Dinner at Whittlebury Hall 7 th April 7.30pm for 8pm. Interested Cllrs were asked to contact the Clerk. Cllr Crisp emphasised that Cllrs would have to cover any costs incurred themselves.	
	b)	SNC – Invitation to reception at Towcester Town Hall 29 th March 7.30pm. Interested Cllrs were asked to contact the Clerk.	
	c)	Daventry & South Northants NHS – Consultation on new Strategic Health Authority, Primary Care Trust and Ambulance Trust – meeting 14 th March at 7pm at Magdalen College School in Brackley. No interest in this item.	
	d)	Invitation to Patient & Public Involvement Forums – 9 th March at the Guildhall, Northampton; 21 st March at 109 St James Road, Northampton & 24 th March at Roade Village Hall. No interest in this item.	
	e)	Patient & Public Involvement Forums – request from support worker to give a presentation to PC. Cllrs were in favour of this if residents were interested. Invitation to CPRE Northants Planning Roadshow – 25 th April at Cranford Hall, Kettering. Placed on circulation.	
	f)	BTCV – Invitation to Megahedge 2006, 11 th & 12 th March at Brooke Weston College, Corby. No interest.	
	g)	A letter from former Cllr Mrs Bengel was read out to the meeting in which she thanked Cllrs for their letter and bouquet of flowers in recognition of her 7 years service on the PC.	
2819	12.	Any other business: None.	
2820	13.	Date of next meeting:	
	a)	4 th April 2006, 8.00pm in the Village Hall.	

After Allotment Holders Meeting at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 11.00pm.

Open Forum

P C Goddard introduced his Sgt, Dave Lowe, who would be overseeing the handover of work as PC Goddard retires on 11th April. He thanked the PC for their help and support over the last 5 years, and also thanked Mr & Mrs Rogers for their hard work for the village Neighbourhood Watch. He stressed the importance of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. He reported a 20% increase in crime in the village in the period April 05 – Feb 06 – 53 crimes against 44 in the previous period. However, 12 of those crimes were the acid attacks on vehicles carried out during one night. He then analysed the crime report, saying that criminal damage was prevalent, and also discussed the recent spate of car key theft. Cllr Potter proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the PC.

Ms Dennis, Ms Rottier and Ms Stevens advised they were attending the meeting on behalf of Friends of the School. Ms Stevens outlined the main points of her letter to the PC and Cllrs discussed the letter, clarified the issue of who was paying for the removal of the current equipment and asked whether the school governing body were aware of the implications of the proposed new equipment and the additional responsibilities it would place on the school.