

MINUTES OF YARDLEY GOBION PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 5th August 2008

- Present** Cllrs R Westlake (Chair), C Turl, T Adey, C King, Ms L Stephenson & Mrs S Tapp, District Cllr McCord, resident (later Cllr) Mr B Tite.
- 3153** 1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr G Crisp.
- 3154** 2. **Council Matters:**
- a) Declaration of Interest: Cllr Stephenson declared an interest in Agenda item 6.1 I).
- b) Co-option of Mr B Tite as new Councillor. Cllr Stephenson proposed and Cllr King seconded that Mr B Tite be co-opted as a Councillor. All in favour.
Cllr Tite signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- 3155** 3. **Previous Meeting:**
- 3.1 The Minutes of Meeting held 1.7.08 were then agreed/signed as a correct record.
- 3.2 Matters Arising: None.
- 3156** 4. **Open Forum:** Comments attached.
- 3157** 5. **Planning:**
- 5.1 Applications received:
- a) S/2008/0992/P, 18High Street. Replacement of existing conservatory and single storey extension. Cllrs had 'no observations.'
- 5.2 Amendments: None.
- 5.3 Applications granted:
- a) S/2007/0778/P, Wharf Lane Stables, Grafton Road. Retention of temporary static caravan to provide ancillary living accommodation to stables for a period of 2 years (Retrospective). 2 conditions. Cllr Westlake read these out to the meeting.
- 5.4 Applications refused: None.
- 5.5 Applications withdrawn: None.
- 5.6 Other:
- a) Report from SNC Planning Forum 24th July.
Cllrs Crisp, Westlake and Stephenson had attended the forum and were disappointed that the re-organisation of the planning department seemed to overshadow the items. However, information was given concerning the new Heritage Bill, the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit and the electronic submission of planning applications to SNC.
- 3158** 6. **Finance:**
- 6.1 **ACCOUNTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT:**
- a) Clerk's salary July 08 £343.94 (001624).
- b) Clerk's expenses July 08 £5.34 + 13p VAT (001625).
- c) A H Contracts – dog bin emptying service July 08 £76.80 + £13.44 VAT (001626).
- d) N J Blackwell Garden Services – contract mowing June 08 £978.43 + £171.23 VAT (001627).
- e) e.on – electricity charges q/ended 30.6.08 £716.23 + £125.34 VAT (001628).
- f) Mr Perry – caretaking of play areas and pocket park – July 2008 – £50.00 (001629).
- g) Close Invoice Finance Ltd for Monster Play Systems Ltd – Refurbishment of School Lane play area to include equipment and installation £24,113.22 + 4,219.84 VAT (001630).
- h) Broker Network Ltd for Came & Company/Norwich Union – additional premium to insure new play equipment to 31.5.09 £51.10 (001631).
- i) Anglian Water – allotment water charge 12.2.08 – 11.7.08 £10.24 (001632).
- j) Mr P Neal t/a Keepers Pest Control – treatment of playing fields to remove moles (£350.00).
Cllrs discussed payment of this invoice at length and the Clerk was asked to advise Mr Neal as follows – 'mole activity has been constant this year, 37 new mole hills have been counted recently in the Coffee Pot playing field, and one Councillor whose garden backs on to this field has checked every morning and confirms that mole activity has not been eradicated. There is also evidence of new activity in the School Lane playing field. Councillors would like to know when the treatment and when the spot checks were carried out, and also what guarantees you provide against the re-occurrence of mole activity after the playing fields have been treated.'
- k) Enterprise Inns – Coffee Pot field rent 1.7.08 – 30.9.08 (£10.00 + £1.75 VAT) paid by Standing Order.
- l) Ms L Stephenson – mileage (Towcester tip x 3, Old Stratford) 50 miles at 52p per mile £26.00 (001634).
- 6.2 **PAYMENTS RECEIVED:**
- a) A & L Henson – Horse Field rent - £30.00.
- b) Scottish Widows – interest to 1.7.08 - £367.73.
- 6.3 **TRANSFERS:**
- a) Scottish Widows to Nat West - £31,000.00.
- 6.4 **OTHER:**
- a) Mr Richard Weston's assistance with dismantling and removing the dangerous and obsolete play equipment from School Lane field play area was discussed and it was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent by the Clerk, and the sum of £25.00 be paid to him next PC meeting on receipt of an invoice. Proposed by Cllr Westlake and seconded by Cllr Stephenson. All in favour.
- 3159** 7. **Committee Reports**
- 7.1 **HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY/MOWING**
- a) e.on – receipt of new unmetered supply certificate. Cllr Westlake had checked the details and discovered the certificate had been prepared on out of date information. He now had a 28 page

document of codes – but no code for some of the current lamps! However, the matter had now been rectified and a new correct certificate had been provided.

- b) SNC – Confirmation of diversion order for footpath SH26. Cllr Westlake read out the details of this to the meeting.
- c) Report concerning investigation into flooding experiences in Eastfield Crescent/Hesketh Road – Cllr Westlake reported that he had not completed his investigations as he was waiting for the farmer to harvest the crop from the field concerned, but he was making progress.
- d) It was noted that 3 of the 4 village footpaths had not been cleared recently. The Clerk was asked to make contact with N J Blackwell and ask for the work to be carried out as a matter of urgency.

RW

7.2 PLAYING-FIELD/POCKET PARK/VILLAGE TREES

- a) Cllr Stephenson advised that Monster Play Systems Ltd representatives had spent 6 days on site installing the new play equipment and had finished the work at the end of July. The fencing had been taken down and the children were allowed on the equipment on 1st August. Since then it appeared to have been used constantly by a broader age group than previously. Cllr Westlake wished to record formal thanks to Cllr Stephenson for all her hard work in achieving a refurbished play area in time for the school summer holidays. Thanks were also due to Mr Geoff Dickens who provided metal pegs at very short notice to anchor down the matting to provide a safety surface in the play area.
- b) A discussion ensued concerning fencing of the area – ideally securing the new equipment, keeping dogs out and children safe. Cllr Crisp had obtained 3 quotations – the lowest being £7,500.00 + VAT and the highest £17,500.00 + VAT. It was suggested that local companies be approached for quotations.
- c) One quotation had been received for resurfacing the path from the Recreation Centre to School Lane field entrance to make it suitable for disabled access, another was still awaited.
- d) The Clerk was asked to investigate the possibility of the PC obtaining a loan of a maximum of £15,000.00 to cover the cost of the fencing and the path.
- e) Monthly play-area inspection report. Mr Perry's play area inspection report was read out to the meeting by Cllr Westlake, which indicated no problems in both playing fields.
- f) Pocket Park - Mr Perry's inspection report was read out to the meeting by Cllr Westlake which indicated no problems. Cllr King wished to record thanks to the kind donor of an oak tree for the Park.
- g) Cllrs Turl and Westlake had viewed the spinney area mentioned in a letter from resident regarding trees in the Coffee Pot field. Cllrs agreed that as the properties from 13 – 25 Eastfield Crescent would be affected if any work was carried out the residents concerned should be asked their views on the following actions 1) Do nothing. 2) Clear the boundary footpath so that it is open and usable. 3) Carry out minor tree work – removing hanging branches and any dangerous trees. 4) Clear the spinney completely down to ground level and allow to regenerate over a period of time.

7.3 ALLOTMENTS

- a) Cllr Westlake advised that no allotments were causing problems, but the horse field was somewhat overgrown. He confirmed that the asbestos would be removed and disposed of correctly. It was agreed that allotment holders could take what action deemed necessary to deal with the rabbits and pigeons which were eating their crops. With regard to the derelict shed on plot 20, Cllr Turl proposed that Mr Perry be asked to remove it, and tidy up the plot, for the sum of £50.00. Cllr Stephenson seconded the proposal. All in favour.
- b) The Clerk had received reports of 2 thefts from plots recently – Cllr Tite confirmed there had been another. Whilst the plots are relatively secure from the road, anyone wishing to get in from the other sides could do so. Cllr Tite agreed to monitor the situation.

BT

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8. Y G VILLAGE HALL & Y G RECREATION CENTRE

- a) Y G VILLAGE HALL (CK) Report from PC representative. – Nothing to report.
- b) Y G RECREATION CENTRE (CT) Report from PC representative – Unfortunately BIFFA had refused the grant application to resurface the car park as they did not consider it would benefit the villagers, who should generally be able to walk to the club! The new Rec News was being delivered to all houses in the village and plans for the smoking shelter were being drawn up prior to being submitted to SNC for approval.

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9. COMMUNITY ITEMS

- a) Yardley Gobion Parochial Church Council - Condition report on village War Memorial. A 5 year inspection report had been carried out which indicated that the bed joint to the top section was broken and the top 'rocked' when pushed. Additionally the brass plate recording the names of the Canadian airmen required refixing. Councillors agreed to obtain advice and quotations to enable the work to be carried out.
- b) Housing needs survey – response from PC to SNC. All Councillors had seen this document and the Clerk was asked to summarise their views.
- c) Cllr King asked that the topic of Neighbourhood Watch be placed on the next agenda.

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10. CORRESPONDENCE - Literature for circulation – action required.

- a) NCC – Transport & Highways – Communicating with our customers. Cllr Westlake agreed to complete this, with any assistance appreciated.
- b) Northamptonshire ACRE – Ways to tackle Climate Change – 10th September 6.30 – 8.30pm at The Guild Hall, Northampton.

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- c) NCALC – Insurance & Risk Assessment – 10th September 7.00 – 9.00pm at Hunsbury Hill Centre, Northampton. Cllr Crisp had indicated an interest in attending. The Clerk was asked to book one place. **GC**
- d) South Northamptonshire Forum – Community Speed Watch programme 25th September 4 – 6pm at Syresham Village Hall.
- e) NCALC Update. This had indicated that weekends and bank holidays could not be counted when calculating the ‘3 clear days’ for agenda setting for PC meetings. Correspondence was on hand, together with the PC’s Standing Orders, to confirm that this was not the case, and Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays could be counted.

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- 11. **Date of next meeting:**
 - a) **2nd September 2008 8pm in the Village Hall**
Meeting closed 10.38pm.

Open Forum

District Cllr McCord advised that Silverstone Circuit had withdrawn its plans to build new houses on the site, but still intended to upgrade circuit facilities. A restructure was in progress at SNC, with new Heads of Service being appointed. He reported that 1 High Street was on the agenda for the Development Control Committee meeting on 7th August.