

BYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 8th DECEMBER 2011 in BYFIELD VILLAGE HALL at 7.30pm

PRESENT - Cllrs J Cannell(Chairman), A Bailey, M Buckley, J Gillic, D Jones, E Marsh and S Shepherd
Also present - County Cllr Mrs Ogden

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were accepted from – None; all present.
Apologies for not being able to attend had been received from District Councillor Bob Patchett.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING(S) –

10th November – Cllr Bailey proposed the minutes be approved as a true record; seconded by Cllr Cannell and agreed by all who had been present.

Change of agenda order It was agreed to amend the order of the agenda to bring forward the closure of the meeting to hear a report from the County Councillor and also to deal with item 10 Highways.

- Meeting closed for a report from County Councillor Ogden. She stressed the need for the branch library at Woodford Halse to be used, otherwise it might be closed. The County had received £22M less in grant funding from central government. Financial support for providing PCSOs is under threat.

10. HIGHWAYS

a) A361 speed limit - consideration of making a request to have the 30mph limit extended further south
A proposal to have the 30mph limit extended out to The Twistle was lost and a counter proposal was made that the limit be extended to a point on the village side of the bend beyond Marley Farm. This was agreed. It was further agreed to carry forward this item to the January meeting and in the meantime Cllr Bailey would draft a precise recommendation to NCC and speak with NCC. **AB/Agenda**

b) Matters reported to Street Doctor Cllr Bailey advised that MGWSP had reported that potholes had been filled in Westhorpe Lane. He had checked this and found that 21 of 30 holes had been filled. MGWSP had been asked to attend to the footpath from High Street to Jubilee Close (EF16 in part) and had offered to look at this within 6 months. Cllr Bailey will press for earlier attention. The metalled path off EF16 to Jubilee Close is the responsibility of D&DH (ex DDC) and they are also due to inspect and arrange for remedial work. Both sections of path are badly worn and could be hazardous, especially to older residents.

The zebra crossing beacons had failed but been reported to Balfour Beatty (who now care for NCC lights) and repaired.

2. REPORT ON MATTERS OUTSTANDING not covered elsewhere on the agenda

a) Council Website Cllr Buckley reported that unfortunately this seemed to be going backwards. Some material had been lost and needed to be re-written before it could be added to the site and he now has less time due to work commitments to give to this.

Clerk to check with DDC as to wording that needs to be included regarding privacy. **Cik**

Cllr Gillic proposed that in the New Year the Council consider advertising for a volunteer who may be interested in being the webmaster for the site. Agreed. **Agenda**

b) Village Design Statement Cllr Cannell reported that Byfield PC has signed an agreement with DDC for use of OS maps in the VDS and DDC had provided 2 maps of different scales. Cllr Cannell will produce a draft VDS for the January meeting. **JC**

c) Vehicle access licence for 42 Church Street The Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to the present owner advising that any licence must be with the named owner and not just with the property.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Gillic reported he had attended a course on grant funding at NCALC. The only source covered had been Awards for All which offers grants of up to £10K for projects up to £25K. There had also been an update on the recently passed Localism Act which is due to take effect in April 2012. This will give qualifying local councils a General Power of Competence, which could allow them to do anything which is not outside the law. At present local councils can only do what is within the law. The Act also allows for a Community Right to Challenge a higher authority when it is felt that answers to questions have not been satisfactorily answered. There is also a Community Right to Buy within the Act. This could allow a local council to, for example, purchase the only public house if the owner decided to close it.

4. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE requiring a DECISION

None.

6. DIAMOND JUBILEE 2012

- a) Update on village sign Tony Pearson has produced a first draft. The Chairman had discussed this with him and hoped to arrange a meeting in the near future.
- b) Village celebrations The Chairman reported that a committee is up and running with Brigid Hurn of the Cross Tree as chairman. The next meeting is due on 13 December, but he is not able to attend. Any other available councillor may attend instead.

7. MAINTENANCE OF THE CLOSED CHURCHYARD

- a) Update on the possibility of DDC devolving the function to Byfield PC It was reported that District Cllr Patchett continued to press for this and he had advised that DDC would be arranging a meeting with their contractor, Enterprise, and BPC in the very near future. Cllr Gillic offered to draft a response to the letter from Simon Bovey of DDC to Cllr Patchett, which had been copied to BPC. **JG**

8. FINANCE

- a) FINANCIAL STATE The Clerk reported that the financial state at 23rd November 2011 showed total liquid assets of £75,538.51 including £51,968 in the NatWest reserve accounts of which £11940 is ring-fenced and £1298 is ear-marked.

The Clerk had also provided details of expenditure against the budget.

b) Internal control

Cllrs Gillic and Jones had checked the account books against minutes/statements for the last 2 months and found them in order.

b) Banked INCOME since last meeting to 23 November

J&M Humnphris	Burial fee Edward R Jones	£196.00
Lloyds TSB	Interest for October	£1.08

d) Setting of the PRECEPT for 2012-13

Based on the budget set at the November meeting (£47,384), the Clerk had prepared a discussion paper suggesting that Council seek a precept of £41,766 with the remaining funds coming from anticipated income and use of reserves. The precept would rise by £1000.00 which would equate to less than £2 per household for the whole 12 months. The £1000 is the additional sum in the budget towards a village sign to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. £4000 for a sign has already been ring-fenced in the reserve funds and is not included in the precept. The precept in 2011-12 is the same as it was in 2010-11. Cllr Cannell proposed that a precept be requested of **£41,766**; seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed by all.

e) Payment of membership of the Clerk of the Society of Local Council Clerks and the Institute of Local Council Management.

Cllr Cannell proposed that the membership fees of £97.00 and £50.00 respectively for 2012 be paid; seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed by all.

f) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Cllr Cannell proposed that the following accounts be paid including the retrospective reimbursement to the Clerk for the new computer and printer; seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed by all.

Cheque No		£	VAT	Authority
NW04	Byfield PC			
	Transfer to LTSB a/c to cover payments In the past for Parish Plan work and playground	2814.00		N/a
NW05	N&J Draper)			
L2923	ditto)	101.96	16.99	s144 LGA 72
2924	Main Line Timber	131.42	21.90	Small Act 1908
2925	ESPO	13.26	2.21	s111 LGA 72
2926	Tyzack Computing	224.00	nil	ditto
2927	Grenbarnes Ltd	139.15	23.19	s144 LGA 72
2928	Flore PC	41.36	nil	s 111 LGA 72
2929	Design to Print Ltd	397.80	nil	s145 LGA 72
2930	RD Landscapes Ltd	466.80	77.80	s 96 High A 80 s19LG(MP)A 76
2931	Woodford Tool & Plant	128.40	21.40	ditto
2932	Hancox Solicitors			
	Security fence hire 1-24 October	1200.00	200.00	s 111 LGA 72
	Legal advice - BRGA, incl vehicle access licence and RVGs	25.00	nil	s4 LG(MP)A 53
2933	Mrs R Jeacock	78.00	nil	s19LG(MP)A76
2934	Mrs C White			
2935	Mrs A Weller			
	Honor'm Litter collection Nov'	84.98	9.23	s111 LGA 72
	Clerk's expenses: room as office, b'band,, Software, mileage.	94.00	nil	s112 LGA 72
2936	HMRC	375.77	nil	s112 LGA 72
2937	Mrs A Weller	22.05	nil	s 111 LGA 72
2938	Byfield village hall	69.30	nil	s19LG(MP)A 76
2939	Mrs C White	310.00	nil	Small Act 1908
2040	Lee Collett	2085.05	nil	n/a
DD	PWLB			
	Loan repayments – 17 of 20 + 4 of 20			

9. PLANNING**a) APPLICATIONS**

i) 2011/911 - 1 Banbury Lane to enclose car port to create garage. There had not been time to call a meeting with sufficient members to be quorate before the consultation period expired. The Clerk had advised DDC that no comments could be submitted.

b) APPROVAL(S)

- i) 2011/601 - 26 Lovett Road for various side and rear extensions and front porch.
ii) 2011/721 - 3 Bell Lane for single storey rear extension.

c) REFUSALS None

d) APPEALS The Hearing for the appeals for 2011/407 and 408 would be held on Wednesday 4th January at the DDC offices. Cllrs Cannell and Gillic hoped to attend.

e) Daventry Masterplan to 2040. Consultation to 21 December. It was agreed not to comment because this related primarily to the development of Daventry town.

f) NCC Planning. Notification of adoption of part of the Minerals and Waste Framework. Noted.

g) Northampton BC - consultation to 22 December on Central Area Action Plan. Agreed no comments to be sent.

h) Any urgent planning matters to be brought to the attention of the Council.

Notification had been received that the application for a single wind turbine near Boddington reservoir would be considered by the DDC planning committee on 14th December. It was agreed that Cllr Cannell would attend and speak.

11. PLAYGROUND

a) Playground inspections One had been missed but nothing untoward noted on latest inspection.

b) Rota from 1st January 2012 To be organised by the Clerk.

Cllk

12. BRIGHTWELL RECREATION GROUND

a) Legal advice regarding future management It was agreed that Cllrs Gillic and Cannell prepare a report for a future meeting. **JG/JC**

13. RIGHTS OF WAY

a) Report of any new problems

- Cllr Bailey advised that the RoW on bridle path EF14 had still not been re-instated. Clerk to write again to NCC/May Gurney **Clk**
- Waymarkers needed. Clerk to request a stock from NCC/May Gurney **Clk**

14. BURIAL GROUND, ALLOTMENTS, POCKET PARK/NEW WOOD

a) Water meter readings Main 2958 Sub 2651

b) Burial Ground

i) **Fees from 1 January 2012.** It was agreed to charge the same fees as those set by the Church of England and also to introduce a small fee for the addition of a second inscription and for permission to be sought for a second (or subsequent) inscription.

The Clerk would advise the usual funeral directors and amend the Rules as necessary. **Clk**

ii) Re-making of stone path. No quote yet received. Clerk to seek another contractor. **Clk**

c) Pocket Park/New Wood

i) Green Flag Community Award. To be carried forward. **Agenda**

d) Allotments

i) Steps/ramp. Very good so far. A further large bag of MoT Type 1 needed to finish the ramp, which had to be made longer. This would be spread on Saturday.

ii) Letting of plots. Final rent now paid. Cllr Marsh expressed concern about a lack of work on plot 7A which had a new tenant. The Clerk would have a word with the tenant. **Clk**

iii) Farndon Road boundary fence. The Clerk advised she awaited a site meeting with RD Landscapes.

15. COMMUNITY

a) Police Community Panel No report available as no one had been able to attend the last meeting.

16. ENVIRONMENT

a) Trees around the Brightwell Recreation Ground

The Clerk had met with Michael Venton of DDC and had produced a report as a result of their detailed inspection of the trees. Mr Venton recommended some felling which it was agreed should go ahead, in particular one near to the playground. The Clerk to arrange this work as soon as possible. **Clk**

b) Bulbs Cllr Jones reported spring bulbs had been planted alongside the Woodford Road.

17. COUNCIL PROPERTY

a) Status of RVG 59 (village hall 'car park') Following legal advice it was agreed to do the following

- Ask NCC if it would consider transferring its land at Fiveways junction to the Parish Council and for this to be a RVG. **Clk**
- Bollards. Sockets and drop-in bollards to be sought so that the parking area can be more easily closed off when necessary. **Clk**
- Cllrs Gillic and Jones to draft suitable words for a second advisory notice for the area. **JG/DJ**
- Land Registry. All the RVGs to be registered. **Clk**

b) War Memorial garden Cllr Marsh advised that it is very difficult to maintain the two small beds beside Banbury Lane. The soil is not good and they need regular watering, which she is not able to do. She proposed that they be turfed over. Spring bulbs are in the beds and these would grow up through the grass. It was agreed to seek a price to turf over the beds but before this was done Cllr Marsh would show Cllr Bailey the two beds in case the RBL wished to take over planting them. **Clk/EM-AB**

c) Repairs to seat by noticeboard The Clerk reported that the seat had been removed so that it could dry out and then be repaired by Tony Judson.

d) Offer of sponsored public noticeboards Information had been received of noticeboards sponsored by TalkTalk. Cllr Jones would consider if this would be appropriate or necessary.

18. LIGHTS

a) Report of any problems None known of.

19. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

- a) BRGA No meetings held recently.
- b) Village Hall New booking form should soon be available. Quiz to be held in February. There has been a request to consider re-starting the Book Exchange.
- c) Combined Charities Nothing. December meeting yet to be held.

**Date of next meeting – Wednesday 28th December for any really urgent planning applications
Thursday 12th January.**

Additional agenda items for the January meeting

None

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.45pm

Chairman

January 2012

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