

BYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held on

THURSDAY 9th AUGUST 2012 in BYFIELD VILLAGE HALL at 7.30pm

PRESENT - Cllrs J Gillic (Chairman), A Bailey, J Cannell and E Marsh
Also present – Cty Cllr Mrs Ogden and District Cllr Bob Patchett

DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS – None

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were accepted from Cllrs Buckley, Jones and Shepherd.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING(S) –

12th July 2012 Cllr Marsh proposed the minutes be adopted as a true record; seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed by all who had been present.

24th July 2012 Cllr Bailey proposed the minutes be adopted as a true record; seconded by Cllr Cannell and agreed by all who had been present.

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

a) Council website. A demonstration would now be given before the meeting on 13th September. The Chairman reported that one of the volunteer webmasters had agreed to again look at the post and that he, the Chairman, would convene a meeting with Mark Challice, the volunteer webmaster and Cllr Buckley before the 13th September. **JG**

b) Land at Fiveways Further information had been sent to the County Council, who would contact the District Valuer. On-going.

c) Registered Village Greens and Land Registry Still be to done. **CIK**

d) Draft Village Design Statement Still await comments from DDC. The Clerk will ask for a likely date for any comments. **CIK**

Cllr Cannell advised he would look into preparing a 'mini-plan' for the village, which he would circulate to all councillors.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) The Chairman reported he had attended the DDC Planning Committee the previous evening and spoken against the proposed expanded waste transfer station on Boddington Road mainly on the grounds of the impact of increased traffic movements within the village. The Committee had agreed to advise the County Council (responsible authority) that they objected to the application.

b) The Chairman had received correspondence from a lobby group against wind farms. This would be placed on the agenda for September. **Sept agenda**

c) The Chairman had received a request from Byfield Bowls Club for help with purchasing a stair lift. This had arrived too late for inclusion on the agenda. Some councillors expressed support for the request but it was agreed that other village organisations should be given the opportunity to apply to the Council for grants and therefore the Bowls Club request, and any others, would be considered at the October meeting. The Chairman would write to the Bowls Club. **JG**

Village organisations seeking any grants would be advised via the local papers to apply by the end of September. **CIK**

- Closure of meeting for reports. Cllr Ogden advised that NCC was aware of the traffic problems that could arise with the proposed waste transfer station.
- Cllr Patchett advised a White Paper is going through Parliament containing a possible 1000m exclusion zone between onshore wind farms and habitation. With regard to the parking issues in Jubilee Close he suggested that maybe ideas could be gleaned from residents and a Working Party set up.

4. MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM THE LAST MEETING

a) Boundary Commission - recommendation for changes to size of County Council

Councillors were equally divided in their views on this. Two felt that a reduction of 16 councillors could reduce democracy whereas two others felt that a smaller and therefore less expensive Council could be more effective.

The Chairman advised he would use his casting vote to propose that while Byfield PC welcomed the review of ward sizes it also felt that reducing the size of the Council could result in limiting the availability of those able to stand as members to those who could either afford to do so or who had employment which enabled them to do so.

The Clerk would advise the Boundary Commission.

CIK

b) Daventry DC - Consultation on Tenancy Strategy. The Chairman reported he had read the document, which set out the ethical standards for those who provide housing in the District. He proposed that Council offer 'No Observations' as a comment. Agreed.

c) Northants CC - partial review of the Minerals and Waste Development Framework Cllr Cannell advised there was no effect on Byfield parish. Agreed no need to make any comments.

d) Insurance cover from 1st October The Clerk would check the insurance values for property against the Register of Assets; although the Clerk reminded Council that the values on the Assets Register must now only show the original purchase cost and not the replacement value.

Clerk for September

5. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, requiring a decision and not covered elsewhere on the agenda

a) DCLG - consultation on revoking the requirement for payments to be made by 2 councillors signing cheques It was agreed that for Byfield PC the retention of the present system is ideal, is simple to use and gives protection for public money. The Clerk would advise DCLG.

CIK

b) Northants Police - 'Have your say' on Police and Crime Commissioner - election in mid November. Individual councillors to respond if they wish to. No comments from the Council.

ALL

c) Request from Vitalise (charity) for funds to help with respite care for people in the County. It was agreed not to make any donation.

6. NEW CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCILLORS

The outcome of the Nolan Report is that Parish Councils have to adopt a new Code of Conduct - either the one adopted by Daventry DC for its' members or the model template offered by NALC.

Cllr Marsh proposed that the Council adopt the NALC model Code; seconded by Cllr Cannell and agreed by all.

The new Code comes into effect from 1st July and requires councillors to complete a new Register of Interests (Rofl). New Rofl forms were handed to those councillors present plus guidance notes from DCLG.

The Standards Committee run by Daventry DC will cease to operate and all councillors will be expected to abide by the standards of the Nolan Enquiry.

7. FINANCE

a) Financial state The Clerk reported that at 27th July 2012 the Council had total financial assets of £73,649.22. £49441 is now held in a NatWest Bonus Saver a/c + Ca/c of which £13,353 is ring-fenced. Fund balances Information provided by the Clerk.

b) Internal Control Cllrs Gillic had checked the account books against minutes/statements and found them in order. No other councillor was available when this was carried out.

c) INCOME banked since the last meeting –

Western Power Distribution	Wayleave across BRG	£23.21
NatWest bank	Bonus Saver a/c interest (qtr)	£123.55
Lloyds TSB	Interest for June	£0.57
Lloyds TSB	Investment interest	£12.74
J&M Humphris	Burial fee - Mr A McClelland	£196.00
Ditto	Burial fee - W Henning and Mrs E Henning	£241.00
Ditto	Memorial fee - A Fitzerman	£104.00
Ditto	Memorial fee - E R Jones	£104.00

d) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Cllr Marshl proposed that the following accounts be paid; seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed by all.

Cheque		£	VAT	Authority
No				
3065	Byfield Village hall Hire – July	22.05	0	s111 LGA 72
3066	Green Thumb War memorial grass	67.98	11.33	s19LG(MP)A76
3067	RD Landscapes Mowing in July	943.68	157.28	ditto
				s96 High A 80
3068	G F Cross Installing posts at Pocket Park	45.00	nil	s19LH(MP)A76
3069	Northants CALC Training course - Localism Act	60.00	nil	s111 LGA 72
3070	Canon UK Photocopier rent Aug-Oct	36.76	6.13	ditto
3071	Playsafety Ltd (RoSPA) Annual playground inspection	100.80	16.80	s19LG(MP)A76
3072	Cllr J Cannell Mileage - training course	23.40	nil	s111 LGA 72
3073	Mrs C White Playground maintenance July	69.30	nil	s19LG(MP)A76
3074	Mrs R Jeacock Cleaning bus shelters July	25.00	0	s4 LG(MP)A76
3075	Ian Tompkins Litter collecting July	104.00	0	s 19 LG(MP)A76
3076	Mrs A Weller Clerk's expenses – room, b'band June and July	28.32	2.56	s111 LGA 72
3077	HMRC PAYE August 12	70.40	nil	s112 LGA 72
3078	Mrs A Weller Clerk's net salary August 12	399.37	nil	ditto
3079	Anglian Water Burial ground water Feb-July	96.35	nil	s214 LGA 72

7. PLANNING**a) Applications**

i) DA/2012/516 - 43 The Twistle for an extension to the front porch. It was agreed to offer 'No Observations'.

b) Approval(s)/Refusals none to report

c) DDC - Consultation on updated interim guidelines on Assessing Proposals for the Development of Wind Turbines. It was agreed not to comment.

d) West Northants Joint Planning Unit - consultation on the proposed changes to the Joint Core Strategy Pre-submission. As consultation runs to 26 September it was agreed to carry this forward to the September meeting. **September agenda**

e) CPRE Roadshow - November Seeking possible topics to be covered. Nothing to suggest.

f) Any URGENT planning matters to be brought to the attention of the Council. Planning application 2012/572. It was agreed to meet on 22nd August.

8. JUBILEE

a) Use of balance of funds allocated for Jubilee events (excluding village sign). To be carried forward to October.

9. HIGHWAYS and RIGHTS OF WAY

a) Parking in Jubilee Close It was agreed to invite the residents of the close to offer suggestions as to how the parking issues could be best addressed. Some properties have been purchased but some are managed by Daventry and District Housing. The verges between the properties and the road are the responsibility of Northants CC. There would seem to be no funds available either at DDC or D&DH for providing any improvements for parking.

The Chairman would draft a letter to be delivered to all residents in Jubilee Close inviting them to a meeting with the Parish Council. **JG**

b) Update on matters reported to May Gurney Cllr Bailey reported that the Parish Enhancement Gang had recently visited the village and had carried out a number of the requested tasks - removed soil from the gullies on The Green, cleaned out a grip at the Church St/Farndon Road junction to allow surface water to run into the stream and cleaned a number of signs.

c) Rights of Way Cllr Bailey reported he had cleared overgrowth beside a number of paths - High St to Whitecroft, beside the recreation ground and the overhanging trees behind Clock Meadow. However, a fallen tree is still blocking the bridle way EF14 (Muddy Lane), but it would seem that walkers and any riders are able to go around the tree.

10. BURIAL GROUND, ALLOTMENTS, POCKET PARK

- a) Water meter readings Not available but will be provided soon. **EM**
- b) Allotments Clerk to write to plot holders with details of rent increases from 1 October 2013. **CIK**
- c) Pocket Park Cllr Marsh reported it had been too wet to do much work. Some planting had been done in the roundabout by the burial ground entrance.
- d) Burial Ground
- i) Memorial stone. The Clerk reported that the stone with a colour image of a train on the front had already been delivered to the monumental masons. It was agreed that the memorial stone could be installed but that this should be the last one including colour images or pictures.
- ii) Revision of rules relating to memorials. Cllrs Marsh, Gillic and the Clerk to meet. **EM/JG/CIK**

11. PLAYGROUND

- a) Regular inspections New forms needed for Cllrs Marsh and Bailey. **CIK**
- b) Annual report from Playsafety Ltd (RoSPA) Cllr Cannell reported that the two main items for consideration are algae growth on the rubber surface under the junior swings and some slight movement on the bearings on the new roundabout. For the rubber surface it was suggested that Mrs White be asked if she could brush the surface with a suitable solution - a site meeting to be arranged with her, Cllr Cannell and the Clerk. **CIK**
For the roundabout Cllr Cannell advised that a special spanner would be needed and the Clerk should ask Wicksteed Leisure about this. **CIK**
- c) Wording for an information sign Cllr Cannell and the Clerk to work on this. **JC/CIK**
- d) Installation of a lower basketball post and hoop. The Clerk advised that the height for a hoop for 'mini-basketball' is 8ft 6in. She would seek prices for supply and installation on one post and hoop. **CIK**

12. BRIGHTWELL RECREATION GROUND

- a) Management – the way forward Cllr Cannell reported that the BRG Association secretary is to write to the Charity Commission explaining that they wish to transfer trusteeship to the Parish Council.

13. COUNCIL PROPERTY

- a) War memorial gardens The Clerk had advised Cllr Marsh that two residents near to the war memorial had expressed an interest in planting and maintaining the two flower beds which the Council had decided to grass over. Cllr Marsh will aim to contact the two residents. **EM**

14. LIGHTS and UTILITIES

- a) Non working lights PLs 1, 25, 64 and 72 all reported to Aylesbury Mains.

15. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

- a) BRGA (Cllr Cannell) A request had been received from the Cricket Club for plantain to be sprayed.

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

Date of next meeting –Thursday 13th September for Full Council

Items for September

Review Standing Orders and Financial Regulations