

NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN CALDECOTE CHURCH ROOMS ON MONDAY 2ND MARCH 2009 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Councillor C Hawkes (Chairman), Councillors A Bird, J Coutts, J Franklin, G Gilbert, M Hall, S Mandley, P Maudlin, D Milton and the Clerk Mrs L Trevena

Also present were 16 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors W Momen and J Yatchisin.

2. DECLARATION FROM MEMBERS IN RELATION TO PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST IN ANY AGENDA ITEM

None.

3. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

None.

4. OPEN FORUM

Standing orders were suspended at 7.32 pm.

Mr Weller asked if the Council agendas could be placed on the Council web site.

Mrs Papworth handed copies of the parish plan to members. There had been an error in the printing which the printers had accepted. THINC had asked for both the stakeholder copies and the parishioner copies to be completely reprinted. The printer had suggested no reprint and a discount of £200. This was refused by THINC. He then offered to reprint the stakeholder's copies only, not the parishioner's copies, and offered a £350 discount. Mrs Papworth was informed that this matter would be discussed under item 16.1 on the agenda.

Standing orders were resumed at 7.36 pm.

RESOLVED that agendas for Council and Committee Meetings are published on the Council web site.

5. POLICE REPORT FROM PC PATERSON

None.

6. COUNCIL MINUTES

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26TH JANUARY 2009

The minutes of the meeting of Northill Parish Council held on 26th January 2009 were taken as read.

The following amendments were made:

- a) page 250 second word delete 'alternatively' and insert 'alternately'
- b) page 252 paragraph 12.11 delete 'the amount'
- c) page 252 paragraph 12.13 delete 'speaks' insert 'speakers'

The minutes were then confirmed as amended and signed by the Chairman.

7. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NORTHILL PARISH PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON 2ND FEBRUARY 2009

The minutes of the meeting of Northill Parish Public Meeting held on 2nd February 2009 were taken as read and initialled by the Chairman. Councillor Hawkes passed on her thanks to the Clerk for these minutes.

8. CLERK'S REPORT & MATTERS ARISING
8.1 EASEMENTS

The Clerk reported that the easement document had been signed, as requested, and returned to the Solicitors.

8.2 CALDECOTE CEMETERY

The Clerk reported that she had received several phone calls regarding the fact that Caldecote Cemetery was flooded and then, due to extreme weather conditions had frozen over. She visited the site and then spoke with the local adjacent landowner who confirmed that he would look at the possibility of a blocked culvert/drainage ditch further up Vinegar Hill. The landowner, after investigation, later confirmed that a section of the culvert pipe had collapsed and would be repaired.

9. COMMITTEE MINUTES

9.1 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2009

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 10th February 2009 were adopted.

Councillor Milton expressed his concern over MBDC decision to approve planning applications 08/02213/FULL and 08/02214/LB the Barns at Home Farm, Northill Road, Ickwell. District Councillor Davison said that she had been asked by the Clerk to 'call in' these applications. However, Northill Parish Council's comments and objections were not valid planning reasons and therefore the applications did not warrant going to committee.

9.2 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24TH FEBRUARY 2009

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 24th February 2009 were adopted.

10. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

County Councillor Scott reported that the Executive Committee are due to meet on 10th March and would be discussing a proposal for the first educational academy in Bedfordshire which would help to improve the failing schools achievement figures. He also reported that the Development Control meeting would be discussing the HGV petition from local residents, this item was recommended for approval and if agreed the work would be carried out by the new authority council.

District Councillor Davison reported that the proposed eco town site had now been withdrawn by the developer. She confirmed the submission of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies. This submission had not included the Gypsy and Traveller document which had been put on hold due to a government request to the new authority to increase the proposed number of sites from 25 to 28.

District Councillor Turner confirmed that the Local Development Framework task force would, on 18th March, be recommending to the executive that the Gypsy and Traveller document decision should be deferred. There are only twenty-nine days to put in place everything in readiness to enable the new authority to take over. If there are any outstanding issues then District Councillor Turner asked to be notified of these. She informed that where decisions have been taken by the County Council these recommendations will be considered by the new authority. A new capital programme with recommendations from the three outgoing authorities will be put into place for the new authority. The Council tax and budgets need to determine which services have to be

delivered but it is expected that despite loss of income from investments, Council tax increases will be kept to an absolute minimum.

11. FINANCE

11.1 TO APPROVE PAYMENTS MADE

Ickwell Village Hall	Hire of hall	£10.00
Northill Village Hall	S.19 Grant Aid	£100.00
Beds Branch of SLCC	One day Conference for Clerk	£30.00
Ace Pest Control	Caldecote Cemetery – moles	£138.00
Ickwell Village Hall	Public Meeting	£10.00
Mrs L Trevena	Salary + expenses February 2009	£969.16
D J Granger Landscapes	Extra Cemetery work (remove mole hills etc)	£52.90
	Delivery of sand bags in Northill & Hatch	£36.80

RESOLVED that approval be given to the payments made.

11.2 TO APPROVE PAYMENTS TO BE MADE

None.

11.3 INCOME

None.

12. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

12.1 REQUEST FROM P3 GROUP FOR INTEREST FREE LOAN OF £300 TOWARDS THREE GREENS WALK LEAFLET

The Clerk had received confirmation from P3 Group that they are applying for external funding towards the Three Greens Walk leaflet and would like to request an interest free loan towards the design and printing costs. They asked also if the Parish Council could hold the funds and pay relevant invoices when submitted.

RESOLVED that the P3 Group be offered an interest free loan of £300 and that Northill Parish Council hold their funds and pay relevant invoices as requested.

12.2 VIEWS OF THIS COUNCIL ON GYPSY AND TRAVELLERS PLOTS IN HATCH (REFERRED FROM COUNCIL 26.1.09)

This matter was discussed at Planning Committee on 10th February 2009 and the minutes give a brief history of decisions taken as below.

a. MBDC Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document Issues and Options Consultation – March 2007

Northill Parish Council replied to the consultation in a letter dated 26 April 2007 commenting on options 14.2 (plots 7 & 28), 14.3 (plot 16), 14.4 (plot 2), 14.5 (plot 2a) and option 14.6 (plot 3). Objections were raised to all these plots.

b. MBDC Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document Second Issues and Options Consultation – October 2007

Northill Parish Council did not reply to this consultation since none of the additional sites listed were within, or in close proximity to, Northill Parish.

c. MBDC Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document Preferred Options – December 2008

The Planning Committee, on 16th December 2008, considered this document and recommended that having previously commented on and not supported sites R1: 7, 16 & 28 Woodside Caravan Park, Hatch and R2: 2, 2A & 3 Woodside Caravan Park, Hatch and, being in agreement with MBDC rejection, agreed that there was no reason to make any further representation. These recommendations recorded in the Planning Committee Minutes were adopted by the Parish Council on 26th January 2009.

RESOLVED that this Council has no plans to propose or support any further Gypsy and Traveller sites or pitches in Hatch at the present time.

Members expressed concern over recent problems at Magpie Farm and Councillor Milton said that it did appear that more travellers were on the site than the planning permission allocated. District Councillor Turner reported that she had asked the Enforcement Officer to visit the site on a regular frequency and she will report back his findings to the Clerk. She said that since the notification of increase in the number of pitches to be provided, the executive will look and consider the best way forward on a range of sites. The decision process had been halted in order to look across the whole district strategically. There has been a great deal of information received from the Gypsy and Traveller consultations and this will be made available, probably in the autumn time. The Local Plan taskforce will look at Mid Beds and South Beds areas separately until 2011.

12.3 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND REPRESENTATIVES

This item had been included on the agenda again due to the recent difficulty in the planning committee forming a quorum.

RESOLVED that Councillor Gilbert is elected to serve a member of the Planning Committee

12.4 RESOLUTION FROM COUNCILLOR YATCHISIN TO INCREASE GRANT AID FROM £100 AWARDED 26.1.09 TO £300 FOR NORTHILL VILLAGE HALL

This project was agreed, goods ordered and work carried out prior to the submission/receipt of the grant application. However, Councillor Yatchisin has asked for this item to be reconsidered as he believed the grant application was not retrospective. The Clerk informed members at the meeting that Councillor Yatchisin had since apologised to her and had rescinded this request as the information he had received was incorrect and the application was indeed retrospective.

RESOLVED that the resolution from Councillor Yatchisin to increase grant aid from £100 awarded on 26th January 2009 to £300 for Northill Village Hall is withdrawn.

12.5 SPEAKERS FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 30.03.09

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Cheryl Joyce of the Forestry Commission and PC Paterson to ask if they could each give a 10 - 15 minute talk at the Annual Parish Meeting.

12.6 THE WAY FORWARD REGARDING ICKWELL GREEN TRACKS

This item has been included as a result of the Public Meeting. Members were reminded that the meeting was primarily arranged to discuss the track on the southern side of Ickwell Green. However, Peter Onion had produced a specification for southern, northern and western tracks. Members were provided with a copy of that specification together with estimated costing. The Clerk reminded members that she had asked for clarification from NALC on confirmation that the Parish Council could carry out works on the path. An extract from that documentation was circulated to members. Having also now contacted DEFRA she confirmed that their consent would be required for any change in surfacing. However, she advised the Parish Councillors that in accordance with legislation, albeit ancient, that Council would be acting ultra vires (outside its legal powers) if it provided costs towards any works on the track.

A discussion took place in which members generally agreed that the tracks should be repaired in some way although cost was a concern.

RESOLVED that this Council should take some sort of action with regard to repair work being carried out to Ickwell Green southern, northern and western perimeter tracks.

It was further agreed that the Clerk should arrange a Highways & Open Spaces working party site meeting with a contractor to discuss various options for repair work/drainage to the tracks.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

13.1 CALOR'S BEDFORDSHIRE VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Invitation to enter Village of the Year Competition. Completed application to be returned by 24th April 2009. This was noted.

13.2 BCC - TRIANGULAR AREA – WARDEN ROAD INTO HILL LANE, ICKWELL

Correspondence from BCC states that after a site visit to assess the situation they cannot recommend that any action is taken. However, details of this request will be retained and reconsidered if circumstances or regulations change. This was noted.

13.3 EXTERNAL AUDIT

Notification that the deadline for approval of the Annual Return for 2008/09 accounts is 30th June 2009.

13.4 BEDFORDSHIRE PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2008/09

This item of correspondence will be circulated to members.

13.5 BCC – MOBILE LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY LINK SERVICES

Notification that as part of the move to unitary authorities in Bedfordshire, the mobile libraries and Library Link Service are being reorganised. The changes will take place from 6th April and 14th April respectively. Details of the new routes are on www.bedfordshire.gov.uk click Libraries. Further information can be obtained from Barry George Head of Library Services 01234 228752.

13.6 CREATING CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

Notification that Councillors Mrs Tricia Turner will not be speaking at the SLCC Conference for Town and Parish Councils scheduled for 9th March. As a consequence the SLCC have reduced the all day event to half a day and reduced the costs by 50%. However, Central Bedfordshire Council will be organising a conference for Town and Parish Councils on 29th April from 7.30 pm free of charge.

13.7 MRS H PAPWORTH – ICKWELL PRE SCHOOL APOLOGY LETTER

Email from Mrs Papworth stating that the Pre School leader had not received the original letter back in July 2008 was copied to members together with the Clerk's reply concerning letters already sent to the Pre School Group leader. This was noted.

13.8 BATPC – BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN PARTY

Notification that Councillor Hawkes' name was pulled out of the hat to attend Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

14. GENERAL WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT/COMPLAINTS

Councillor Milton express concern, once again, that BCC would not agree to carry out any repair work to road subsidence outside 53 Ickwell Road, Northill.

RESOLVED that the Clerk report the matter to Highways yet again.

Councillor Mandley reported on the recent flooding in Dene Way which as a consequence of remedial action taken at the time had seen the surface of Caldecote Green damaged.

RESOLVED that the owners of the property responsible for the damage to Caldecote Green be asked to carry out the repair work necessary to make good.

15. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE PROPOSALS FROM COUNCILLORS

None.

16. REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

16.1 COMMUNITY PLAN (THINC ACTION)

Members discussed Mrs Papworth's comments regarding the printing error of the Parish Plan. Copies of both the stakeholders' and parishioners' documents were handed out to members by Mrs Papworth during the meeting. Consideration was given to the fact that the printer had commenced printing of the document content on the first page (right-hand side) rather than on the reverse of the front cover (left-hand side). The content of the document was however in order and complete.

RESOLVED that no comment/decision over reprinting of the document is made by the Parish Council as the document printing does not come under its remit but is a matter for determination by the THINC group itself.

16.2 COUNCILLOR LIAISON MEETING

There will be no further meetings as this group had now been disbanded.

16.3 P3 STEERING GROUP

The Group had not met.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 30th March 2009 – Annual Parish Meeting – Ickwell Village Hall
Monday 20th April 2009 – Caldecote Church Rooms

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.03 pm.