

NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN CALDECOTE CHURCH ROOMS ON MONDAY 14TH APRIL 2008 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

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

Also present were County Councillor J Scott, District Councillor J Davison, PC Paterson and one member of the public

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor C Hawkes and District Councillor P Turner.

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

Councillor Papworth declared a pecuniary interest in item 15.

3. **POLICE REPORT FROM CONSTABLE PATERSON**

Constable Paterson expressed his concern that the crime figures he had been given were inaccurate and said he would forward corrected figures onto the Clerk. Six crimes had been recorded in Upper Caldecote during March, three of which had been theft from a motor vehicle. He advised on the need to make sure when leaving a vehicle it was secure with nothing left on display. He had been in the district with the hand held speed gun recently and will continue in Upper Caldecote especially but said he could be contacted if members believe there are other areas where speeding is of concern. Currently the force is looking into the provision of speed strip but there would be some cost to the parish council if they are implemented. Further information will be forthcoming on this. A short question and answer time took place after which Pc Paterson left the meeting.

4. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3RD MARCH 2008**

The minutes of the meeting of Northill Parish Council held on 3rd March 2008 were taken as read.

The following amendments/typographical corrections were made:

- a) Item 5.1 page 197 line 4 delete 'site' and insert 'side'
- b) Item 7 page 198 line 2 insert 'minerals extraction' after Development Control
- c) Item 9.1 page 199 end of line 2 insert 'which was not received with the original application'
- d) Item 9.7 page 200 under resolution delete 'increased' insert 'increase'
- e) Item 10.23 page 203 resolution (a) delete 'and' insert 'an'

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

5. **CLERK'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING**

5.1 **REQUEST FOR ERECTION OF MARQUEE ON ICKWELL GREEN ON 21ST JUNE 2008 (see minute 5.1 page 197)**

Now in receipt of signed Hire Agreement and awaiting final documents 30 days prior to the event taking place.

5.2 **LAND REGISTRY - EASEMENT OVER CALDECOTE GREEN (see minute 10.5 page 201)**

The Clerk confirmed that the Council, when Caldecote Green was registered under the Commons Registration Act, was not required at that time to register the land with the Land Registry. No further contact from Mr Hall or his solicitors.

RESOLVED that no further action be taken to register Caldecote Green with Land Registry.

- 5.3 PARISH COMMUNITY SAFETY PRIORITIES (PCSP) (see minute 10.18 page 202)**
Clerk forwarded covering lettering informing that Councillor Papworth would complete relevant form. Councillor Papworth has now forwarded the completed document.
- 5.4 POST OFFICE CLOSURES (see minute 10.20 page 203)**
Councillor Hawkes has now placed a book in post office.
- 6. TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF NORTHILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 31ST MARCH 2008**
The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 31st March 2008 were adopted.

STANDING ORDERS WERE SUSPENDED AT 7.55 PM TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Mr Weller said that he did not think the "open session" where members of the public speak should be moved to the end of the agenda. He expressed his concern, once again, that he and other parishioners had not received replies to letters in the past. He also spoke of the cricket club members and others using the Ickwell Green perimeter track.

STANDING ORDERS WERE RESUMED AT 8.03 PM

- 7. COMMITTEE MINUTES**
- 7.1 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11TH MARCH 2008**
The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 11th March 2008 were adopted.
- 7.2 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18TH MARCH 2008**
The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 18th March 2008 were adopted.
- 7.3 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF ICKWELL GREEN SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17TH MARCH 2008**
The report of the Ickwell Green Sub-Committee meeting held on 17th March 2008 was adopted.
- 7.4 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE HIGHWAYS & OPEN SPACES MEETING HELD ON 7TH APRIL 2008**
The report of the Highways & Opens Spaces meeting held on 7th April 2008 was adopted.
- 8. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES**
District Councillor Davison reported that the first shadow council meeting had been held. District Councillor Turner was elected leader of the Shadow Executive. No date had been set for the new elections. The Local Development Framework concerning the Gypsy and Traveller consultation has received around 4000 responses. The final document for preferred sites will be issued during May. Documentation regarding recycling and the proposed food waste recycling had been included with council tax demands sent to all households.

County Councillor Scott was sorry to report that the E8 bus service through Ickwell, Northhill and Hatch to Biggleswade, due to lack of use, would be withdrawn from June 2008. Bedfordshire County Council will continue to deliver services and work towards the establishment of the new unitary authority. It was hoped that the majority of staff will transfer to the new authority under TUPE regulations but there will inevitably be certain areas where external competition for positions will be required.

9. FINANCE

The Clerk report that the cheque, following the account closure of NS&I, received on 31.3.08 was made payable to the incorrect payee. The cheque had therefore been returned to NS&I and assurance given that interest up to the date of the new cheque will be included.

9.1 TO APPROVE PAYMENTS MADE

Dillamore Bequest	Hire of Hall	£12.00
Northhill PCC	Hire of Hall Jan-Mar 2008	£33.75
Mrs L Trevena	Salary + expenses March 2008	£1006.51
HM Revenue & Customs	Tax/NI Jan-Mar 2008	£706.98
Olive Press	Newsletter Printing – March 2008	£174.00
Northhill PCC	Grant Aid S.137 (approved 21.1.08)	£1000.00
Ickwell Village Hall	Hire of Hall	£10.00
D J Granger Landscapes Ltd	Grass cutting + extra work	£164.50
D J Granger Landscapes Ltd	Grass cutting + extra work	£425.94
D J Granger Landscapes Ltd	Extra work	£103.40
BATPC	Extra copies of Bugle	£12.50

9.2 TO APPROVE PAYMENTS TO BE MADE

BATPC	Affiliation Fee 2008-2009	£423.00
Mr C Rose	Reimbursement for Fasthost Web Site	£51.57
MBDC	Non-Domestic Rates 2008/09 U/C Cemetery	£69.30

The Clerk informed members that she was concerned that the payment to Mr C Rose was for a community web site that was not Parish Council owned and the Parish Council had no input or control over its content. Taking this into account there are no powers under the Local Government Act to make this payment.

Councillor Franklin declared a pecuniary interest and took no part in the discussion or voting.

RESOLVED that:

- a) the payment to Mr C Rose, for this year only, be paid from THINC monies
- b) Councillor Papworth inform THINC members of this payment and ask for views and proposals for continued support for this community web site in future years

9.3 INCOME

Seamers	Interment U/C P.161 Darnell	£50.00
Quince	Memorial U/C P.130 Woods	£28.00

10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

10.1 REQUEST BY COUNCILLORS MILTON, YATCHISIN AND MOMEN FOR RESCISSION OF RESOLUTION OF 21ST JANUARY 2008 “RESOLVED THAT THE CONFIDENT COMMUNITIES ALLOCATION BE COMPLETED TOWARDS PROVISION OF A VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN IN BEDFORD ROAD, NORTHILL”

Councillor Milton said that this item had been included as he did not believe that Council would be spending this money wisely if a vehicle activated signed was erected in Bedford Road, Northhill rather than other locations.

RESOLVED that as no new evidence was forthcoming this request is declined.

10.2 SUGGESTED WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT UNDER THE PARISH PARTNERSHIP SCHEME 2008/2009 REFERRED FROM COUNCIL ON 3RD MARCH 2008.

The following sites were put forward for consideration for kerbing:

- i) approximately 30 metres of kerbing in front of the properties in Cow Hovel Row in Thorncote Road, Northill
- ii) approximately 240 metres of kerbing around the triangular part of Caldecote Green and either side of this area

RESOLVED that:

- a) item (i) be accepted
- b) item (ii) be refused
- c) a final decision on this matter be deferred until next Council meeting on 19th May in order to obtain further information from THINC documentation

10.3 REQUEST FROM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING THAT NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL MOVE THE PUBLIC OPEN SESSION AT FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS FROM 8.00 PM TO THE END OF THE AGENDA

Discussion took place and it was generally agreed that the open session should not be moved to the end of the agenda as decisions on agenda items would have already been taken.

RESOLVED that the following agenda item be included on Council agendas, directly after the 'Declarations from members' agenda item:
'Standing Orders will be suspended for a period of up to 10 minutes to allow members of the public to address the Council in relation to the business on the agenda or request matters to be discussed at a subsequent meeting'.

10.4 COUNCILLOR SURGERY LIST FOR 2008/2009

Meeting Dates		Councillors
Monday 19 th May 2008	Ickwell Village Hall	H Papworth & D Milton
Monday 16 th June 2008	Caldecote Church Rooms	J Franklin & S Mandley
Monday 28 th July 2008	Ickwell Village Hall	M Hall & C Hawkes
Monday 8 th September 2008	Caldecote Church Rooms	P Maudlin & J Yatchisin
Monday 27 th October 2008	Ickwell Village Hall	W Momen & G Gilbert
Monday 8 th December 2008	Caldecote Church Rooms	J Coutts & A Bird

11. CORRESPONDENCE

11.1 BATPC – PARTICIPATE

Handbook for Town/Parish Councils and Community Groups on Involving Young Children. This was passed to Councillor Momen for information.

11.2 MR WELLER – ICKWELL GREEN PERIMETER TRACK

Further email from Mr Weller (sent to Clerk on the evening of Ickwell Green Sub Committee Meeting) concerning Ickwell Perimeter Track and Council law and procedure.

RESOLVED that the Ickwell Green Sub Committee arrange to meet to consider the information obtained from Insurers by Councillor Yatchisin

11.3 MR C HALL – NEWSLETTER & PRECEPT

Email from Mr C Hall, Northill regarding lack of precept details in newsletter. Mr Hall was sent a copy of the December precept details plus covering letter of explanation.

11.4 MR C HALL – NORTHILL VILLAGE HALL SPRAYING

Email from Mr Hall asking if Parish Council would be willing to ask contractors to weed spray around village hall in conjunction with parish weed spraying. Reply sent that

Parish Council is not the owner of the village hall and therefore does not have any powers under the Local Government Act to agree to this work being carried out. Suggested that he contact Council contractors direct to ask if they would be willing to carry out this work.

11.5 WOODFINES SOLICITORS – ARCHIVE CLEARANCE

Correspondence received states that Easement E is being archived and a hard copy of the file will be placed in storage and retained for seven years from completion of transaction. The deeds relating to this will be retained in their strong room in perpetuity.

11.6 REQUEST FOR USE OF ICKWELL GREEN FOR DOG SHOW

Email received from Nikki Thurston from The German Spitz Breeders and Owners Club (Proposed) for use of Ickwell Green for a dog show. Terms and Conditions for Use of the Green were forwarded initially but she has now confirmed that she will now find another venue.

11.7 INTERNAL BOARD DRAINAGE REVIEW 2007

The Bedford Group annual document that provides an insight into their work will be circulated to members.

11.8 EXTERNAL AUDIT 2007/2008

Date for the external audit has been brought forward to 20th June 2008. Notification of this date will be displayed on the notice boards throughout the parish on Friday 2nd May 2008.

11.9 CONFIDENT COMMUNITIES FUND

Confirmation received that our application for vehicle activated sign in Northill has been successful and final approval before installation of the sign will be subject to the outcome of the survey work being undertaken.

11.10 ICKWELL VILLAGE HALL TRUST

Correspondence asks if the Council would be willing to supply a letter of support for a funding application to MBDC and if necessary the WREN funding scheme as the village hall roof requires extensive repair in the region of £15,000.

Councillors Papworth and Milton declared an interest.

RESOLVED that a letter of support be forwarded as requested.

11.11 MOBILE POLICE SURGERIES

As requested the Clerk placed notice of the surgeries within the parish on the parish notice boards.

11.12 BRCC - SURVEY OF RURAL SERVICES 2007

Last year parish councils were asked to complete a survey about their parish and community. The information provided has now been summarised and the details will be circulated to members.

11.13 FORESTRY COMMISSION – NEWSLETTER ISSUE 9 2008

This Item of correspondence will be circulated to members.

11.14 BATPC – BEDFORDSHIRE BUGLE ISSUE 2 – MARCH 2008

This item of correspondence is attached for members.

11.15 CALDECOTE ROAD, ICKWELL LAY-BY

Councillor Coutts received letter from Mrs Laurie of Tompions End, Ickwell regarding her disappointment at non-installation of bollards on lay-by Caldecote Road, Ickwell. The

Clerk had acknowledged this correspondence and forwarded it onto BCC for their information.

11.16 NORTHILL POND

Email from Mrs Mullen, Bedford Road, Northill concerning the work being carried out on Northill Pond. Clerk informed her that work is still not yet completed and further turning of the spoil and a final tamping and rolling before another re-seed is still to take place. Work still to be completed at cutting back suckers.

11.17 BRCC – NETWORK APRIL 2008

This item of correspondence will be circulated to members.

11.18 BCC – NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Notification by email that BCC Chief Executive, Andrea Hill is leaving on 18th April. Martin Reeves will be replacing her as Interim Chief Executive with effect from 21 April 2008.

12. GENERAL WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT

The following to be reported to Highways Fault Desk:

- i) pothole in Ashby Drive near the junction with Biggleswade Road, Upper Caldecote
- ii) pothole in Sand Lane near junction with Ickwell Road, Northill
- iii) sunken manhole cover outside no 3 Sand Lane, Northill
- iv) blocked/collapsed drain near Thorncote Farm/Thorncote Green in Thorncote Road, Hatch
- v) pothole at junction with Biggleswade Road/Hitchin Road, Upper Caldecote
- vi) centre highway white lines require repainting outside Village shop (no. 40) Hitchin Road, Upper Caldecote
- vii) street light 3 (outside no 1) Shakespeare Drive, Upper Caldecote out all the time

13. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE PROPOSALS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Coutts said that he was pleased that a book to 'save our post office' had been placed in Upper Caldecote Post Office but thought that perhaps a petition should also be arranged.

RESOLVED that an item to 'Consider organising a petition to 'Save our Post Office' is included on the agenda for 19th May 2008

14. REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

14.1 COMMUNITY PLAN (THINC Action)

Councillor Papworth had copied the draft action plan to all Councillors prior to the commencement of the meeting. After discussion it was agreed that a committee should be set up to consider the final presentation of the document.

RESOLVED that a sub committee be set up with the following members:
Councillors Bird, Milton, Papworth, Hall and Hawkes together with THINC representatives.

14.2 COUNCILLOR LIAISON MEETINGS

The last meeting had not been very well attended although many highway matters had been discussed. The next meeting is due to be held on 9th June in Ickwell Village Hall.

14.3 P3 STEERING GROUP

Not met.

15. **“RESOLVED that under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and in view of the confidential nature of business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw whilst matters pertaining to easements are discussed.”**

Proposed that the cost is £5,000. This was withdrawn.

RESOLVED that Solicitors be informed that in connection with easement ‘B’ the cost is £10,000 plus expenses as previously agreed.

16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
Monday 19th May 2008 at Ickwell Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.17 pm.