

NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN ICKWELL VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 28TH JULY 2008 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Councillor C Hawkes (Chairman), Councillors A Bird, J Coutts, G Gilbert, M Hall, D Milton, H Papworth, J Yatchisin and the Clerk Mrs L Trevena

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

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors P Maudlin and W Momen and District Councillor P Turner.

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

Councillor Papworth declared a personal interest in item 15.

3. **STANDING ORDERS WERE SUSPENDED AT 7.31 PM TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL IN RELATION TO THE BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA OR REQUEST MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING**

Mr Weller of Ickwell expressed concern at the following wording "This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed" included at the end of Council emails. He was reassured that this was normal practice in both the private and public sector and emails from BCC and MBDC have similar wording. He spoke on matters relating to Ickwell Green track and the Council web site before the Chairman informed him that he should address the meeting only on matters in relation to agenda items or request matters to be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

STANDING ORDERS WERE RESUMED AT 7.41 PM

4. **POLICE REPORT FROM CONSTABLE PATERSON**

None.

5. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16TH JUNE 2008**

The minutes of the meeting of Northill Parish Council held on 16TH June 2008 were taken as read.

Councillor Papworth advised that the interest declared under item 2. page 220 should be a personal interest and not pecuniary interest.

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

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

6.1 **REQUEST FOR ERECTION OF MARQUEE ON ICKWELL GREEN ON 21ST JUNE 2008 (see minute 6.1 page 220)**

The Clerk reported that she had visited the site at 7.30am on the day the marquee was erected, the morning and evening of the day the event took place and again on the day the marquee was taken down. No problems had been encountered and the holding cheque had been duly returned.

Councillor Papworth said that the Playgroup Leader had expressed concern that she was asked by the Clerk not to park on the green on the morning that the marquee was

erected. The Clerk informed members that this was due to the fact that two large vehicles and other vans/lorries were involved in the erection of the marquee and needed access to and from the site.

RESOLVED that a letter be forwarded to the playgroup leader apologising for any inconvenience caused whilst the marquee was being erected.

6.2 NORTHILL POND (see minute 6.3 page 220)

The Clerk confirmed that the Contractors had put chemicals in Northill pond to kill of the irises.

6.3 IVY ON HATCH RAILINGS (see minute 12.iv page 223)

Councillor Papworth expressed concern that the railings had still not had the ivy removed. It was agreed that the Clerk should not contact the Highways department, for a week or so, until the current road works in the area had been completed.

7. COMMITTEE MINUTES

7.1 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17TH JUNE 2008

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 17th June 2008 were adopted.

7.2 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8TH JULY 2008

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 8th July 2008 were adopted.

7.3 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22ND JULY 2008

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 22nd July 2008 were adopted.

8. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

County Councillor Scott reported that progress was being made with the unitary authorities. An economic development team was now in place and two extra local growth delivery vehicles have been commissioned. The government is concerned at the turndown in the housing market and the minister for housing recently confirmed that the government may have to step in and support existing targets. The extra housing for the proposed Eco-town at Marston Vale has now been withdrawn. Unfortunately Centre Parks and Nirah project were not progressing as well as expected. Bridleway 14 bridge/culvert work should be completed within the next week.

District Councillor Davison advised members to look at the MBDC web site in order to keep up to date on the progression of Central Beds Authority. The management structure is in place and recruitment underway for the new authority directors. It has been agreed that service delivery will be shared with Central Beds Authority and Bedford Borough for certain services.

9. FINANCE

9.1 TO APPROVE PAYMENTS MADE

Ickwell Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch (Bradford & Bingley a/c)	S.137 Grant Aid	£200.00
Ickwell Masked Ball	Refund of holding deposit	£1000.00
Mrs L Trevena	Salary + expenses June 2008	£1010.95
HM Revenue & Customs	Tax & NI April-June 2008	£766.81
Olive Press	Newsletter printing June 2008	£174.00
D2D Distribution	Newsletter delivery	£264.38
Anglian Water	Water - Upper Caldecote Cemetery	£18.61

Dillamore Bequest	Hire of hall	£12.00
Anglian Water	Water – Northill Cemetery	£20.33
Phil Edwards	Install bench on Ickwell Green	£90.00
E-on	Energy charges - Street lighting	£6.71

9.2 TO APPROVE PAYMENTS TO BE MADE

D J Granger Landscapes Ltd	Cemetery Grass Cutting	£281.77
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Mrs L Trevena	Salary + expenses – July 2008	£949.65
D J Granger Landscapes Ltd	Grass cutting, hedge cutting + extra work	£778.79
D J Granger Landscapes Ltd	Grass cutting + extra work	£281.77
BDO Stoy Hayward LLP	External Audit 2007/08	£499.38
A R Worboys Ltd	Grass cutting	£976.54

9.3 INCOME

Seamers	Interment – C.P.167 Adams	£86.00
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9.4 END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS 2007/08

Notification received from external auditor. There were no matters that had come to the Auditors attention giving cause for concern. They did, however, wish to draw Council's attention to the fact that a grant to Nertainers was paid incorrectly under S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 which should have been paid under S.145, provision of entertainment and support of the arts. The notice for conclusion of audit will be posted on noticeboards this week.

10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

10.1 REFURBISHMENT OF VILLAGE SIGNS IN NORTHILL PARISH (REFERRED FROM COUNCIL 16.6.08)

Councillor Hall distributed to members photographs of the Northill village signs together with photographs of refurbished signs in other parishes. It was suggested that the Clerk contact Clerks in other parishes to ascertain who/how refurbishment of their signs had taken place.

RESOLVED that the Clerk find out about the possibility of refurbishment of the three signs and report back to the next meeting.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

11.1 MR WELLER – ICKWELL GREEN TRACK

Email from Mr Weller regarding Ickwell Green. Clerk had replied to Mr Weller and updated members on her response at the meeting.

11.2 BCC/MBDC - POST OFFICE CLOSURES IN BEDFORDSHIRE

Correspondence had been received giving information regarding the proposed closures of Post Offices within Bedfordshire. The Upper Caldecote Post Office was not on the closure list.

11.3 MBDC – PLAY RANGERS

MBDC Play Rangers are coming to Ickwell Green on 28th July, 11th August and 27th August. Notices had been placed on notice boards throughout the parish.

11.4 BAPTC – BEDFORDSHIRE BUGLE ISSUE 5 JULY 2008

This item is attached for members.

11.5 BCC – LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING

BCC update on the restructuring of Bedfordshire from Councillor Madeline Russell Leader of the Council. This item of correspondence is available from the Clerk.

11.6 BCC – HIGHWAYS TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE – THORNCOTE GREEN, NORTHILL

Notification of temporary road closure Thorncote Green, Northill which extends from the junction with Hatch Lane south west to a point approximately 250m south of the junction with Budna Road. The work is expected to take three days from Tuesday 29th July between 7.30 am and 6.00 pm.

11.7 CARILLION-URS – A1 TRUNK ROAD – ROADWORKS

Notification of road closure overnight on A1 between Biggleswade North and Black Cat Roundabouts from Monday 21st July to Saturday 26th July and Monday 28th July to Saturday 2 August.

11.8 ST MARYS VIRGIN CHURCH – PERIMETER WALL

Correspondence from the PCC expressed concern at the condition of the churchyard perimeter wall. The PCC suspect damage may be caused by parents parking on the grass verge in front of the wall. They express concern that the last repair to the wall 'appeared to be less than satisfactory'. They ask that the wall is repaired to a good standard and ask if the Council could find some means of preventing cars parking on the grass verge. Members were advised that the wall was last repaired in September 2006.

RESOLVED that this item be included on the next Cemetery Committee agenda for a site visit.

11.9 MRS BONE – GARNER CLOSE

Correspondence complaining about untidy appearance (weeds) of footpaths in Sand Lane and Garner Close. The Clerk had inspected the area and reported to highways problems of weeds actually growing in the footpaths and gutters.

11.10 SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Correspondence thanking Council for grant aid towards Christmas Lunch.

11.11 CALDECOTE METHODIST CHURCH

Correspondence received reapplying for grant aid of £200 towards running costs (see Council minute 11.10 page 222).

RESOLVED that the Council in accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interest of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:

£200 Caldecote Methodist Church towards running costs.

11.12 ICKWELL GREEN – GRASS CUTTING

Correspondence from Mr Ashcroft of Ickwell Green sent to Councillor Mauldin (copy to BCC, Councillors Hawkes and Papworth but not to the Clerk) concerning lack of grass cutting on Ickwell Green. The Clerk reported that the contractors had now cut the grass on this area of Ickwell Green.

RESOLVED that this item of correspondence be included on the next Highways and Open Spaces agenda.

11.13 ATTERTONS CORNER, UPPER CALDECOTE

Correspondence from Mrs Chillery of Taddy Close, Upper Caldecote complaining about conditions of Attertons Corner and asking if Council could write to private owners of the site.

RESOLVED that no further action be taken by the Clerk but Councillor Gilbert contact Mrs Chillery to explain the situation.

11.14 NJC CAR ALLOWANCES 2008/09

Notification that the NJC car allowances have increased from 1 April 2008; the new rate is 46.9p per mile (based on 103.75 per litre). The old rate paid was 40p per mile.

RESOLVED that the new pay rate be paid from 1st April 2008.

11.15 MBDC – CAPITAL SCHEME TO REPLACE STREET NAMEPLATES

MBDC approved a capital scheme for the replacement of street nameplates. They are prioritising as follows:

- (i) signs that are missing if evidence available that a sign was once in place
- (ii) signs which are unreadable
- (iii) locations where there is presently no sign or should be
- (iv) old style signs (ie metal face plates)

They have asked that the Parish Council carry out a survey in our parish which needs to be returned to MBDC by 19th September. The Clerk had split the parish into five sections and copied documentation accordingly. Councillors Bird, Coutts, Hall and Papworth offered to complete the survey and return the information to the Clerk by 31st August 2008.

11.16 HIGHWAYS – HATCH

The reinstatement of the verge in Thorncote Road, Hatch will take place with expected daytime road closure 0730 – 1800 29/31 July.

11.17 LOCAL COUNCIL REVIEW – JULY 2008

This item will be circulated to members.

11.18 BEDFORDSHIRE PLAYING FIELD ASSOC NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2008

This item will be circulated to members

11.19 CLERK AND COUNCILS DIRECT – JULY 2008

This item will be circulated to members

12. GENERAL WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT

- i) nettles need cutting back adjacent to the newly planted hedgerow on Caldecote Green;
- ii) willow tree adjacent to grass/footway by Northill pond requires cutting back;
- iii) Arboricultural Officer be asked to re-survey the horsechestnut trees on Ickwell Green (maypole site)

13. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE PROPOSALS FROM COUNCILLORS

None.

14. REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

14.1 COMMUNITY PLAN (THINC Action)

Councillor Papworth reported that the final draft was close to being completed. She asked if the cost of the extra meetings required in order to finalise the documentation could be met by the Parish Council. A vote of thanks was passed to Councillor Hall for her work proof reading and layout of the document.

RESOLVED that the extra meetings in connection with the Community Plan be paid by the Parish Council upon receipt of relevant invoices.

14.2 COUNCILLOR LIAISON MEETINGS

The Group had not met.

14.3 P3 STEERING GROUP

Minutes of the last meeting have yet to be issued.

14.4 BROOM QUARRY LIAISON MEETING

The Group had 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.”

The Clerk updated members on Solicitors correspondence in connection with new proposed easement and details of clauses pertaining to existing easements on Ickwell Green.

RESOLVED that easement clauses in new documentation should remain as existing easements without change.

Councillor Hawkes updated members on matters pertaining to Ickwell Green track, and it was agreed that when the information requested had been received, a meeting of Ickwell Green Working Party should be arranged to discuss the matter.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 8th September 2008 at Ickwell Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.