

NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN CALDECOTE CHURCH ROOMS ON MONDAY 29TH JUNE 2009 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Councillor J Franklin (Chairman), Councillors A Bird, R Brinkley, J Coutts, S Mandley, P Maudlin, D Milton, M Morgan, and the Clerk Mrs L Trevena

Also present were Central Bedfordshire Councillors P Turner and C Maudlin and four 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. **OPEN FORUM**

Standing orders were suspended at 7.31 pm.

Mr Weller asked if the Clerk or members were aware of any work being planned down the Sheepwalk. He was informed that the Sheepwalk did not come under the jurisdiction of the Parish Council. Mrs Papworth asked if a meeting of the Parish Plan Working Party had been arranged. She was informed that Councillor Milton would be Chairing and arranging these working party meetings. Councillor Milton agreed to organise a meeting in the near future.

Standing orders were resumed at 7.34 pm.

4. **POLICE REPORT FROM PC PATERSON**

Constable Paterson provided members with details of the latest crime report. He said that the crimes in Upper Caldecote had, unfortunately, increased. He interpreted the figures by outlining the actual crimes that had taken place. Councillor Maudlin asked if more speed checks could be carried out in Biggleswade Road and Hitchin Road, Upper Caldecote. Councillor Morgan asked if Bedfordshire were operating a Lorry Watch Scheme. Constable Paterson said he was unaware of such a scheme but would make some inquiries and report back to the Clerk. He was also asked if the Police Van could be sited on Ickwell Green during the May Day celebrations. Again Constable Paterson said that he would look into this matter. Constable Paterson was thanked for his report before he left the meeting at 7.51 pm.

5. **COUNCIL MINUTES**

The minutes of the Northill Parish Council Meeting held on 18th May 2009, were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a true record.

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

6.1 **JURY SERVICE**

The Clerk informed members that she had been called for Jury Service for two weeks beginning Monday 12th July 2009. Unfortunately this was directly after her annual leave booked for Monday 6th July to Friday 10th July inclusive. After discussion with the Chairman, prior to this meeting, she had agreed to carry out her duties with the Council as far as practically possible during this time.

6.2 ALTERATION TO PARISH COUNCIL BANK ACCOUNT (see minute 13.4 page 279)

Unfortunately, NALC Accounts and Audit Advisor are not FSA registered so are unable to give investment advice other than to say that councils should have a risk assessment and management policy for all its investments, including current accounts. Parish Councils are not covered by the terms of the Financial Services Compensation Act see Bedfordshire Bugle advice May 08 and November 08.

However, an article has just been published (June 2009) in the SLCC magazine by **Barrie Woodcock, National Financial Advisor**. It stated that with regard to the local council sector, there are rules, regulations, codes or "guidance" which covers what we can do with surplus monies and advice on this is contained in Appendix 8 of the Practitioners Guide (a copy of which we should all have!). The main Statute is the Local Government Act 2003, Section 15(1)(a) and the Guidance issued by the Secretary of State under that Act. This Guidance will **"in certain cases apply to parish councils depending upon the level of investments they expect to have in a particular financial year"**

RESOLVED that this item be referred to the Establishment Committee for further investigation and discussion.

6.3 POWER OF WELL-BEING TRAINING

The Clerk confirmed that a two hour training course can be run by Louise Ashmore on the Power of Well-being on Monday 28th September 2009. It will require at least ten members to be present. The cost of the course is £80.

RESOLVED that a training session on the Power of Well-being is booked for 28th September 2009. Venue to be arranged and members to be informed in due course.

6.4 HILL LANE – REPAIR TO VERGES (see minute 15 page 274)

Correspondence from Tarmac confirms that Tarmac is required to carry out some highway improvements to Hill Lane. This will comprise of works to 'iron out' the bends between G & M Growers roundabout and Gypsy Lane. Discussions are currently ongoing with the planning authority, but the improvements will only occur at the time the development commences and not before. Councillor Maudlin confirmed that some of these improvement works have commenced in Hill Lane.

7. COMMITTEE MINUTES

7.1 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19TH MAY 2009

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 19th May 2009 were adopted.

7.2 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 2ND JUNE 2009

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 2nd June 2009 were adopted.

7.3 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23RD JUNE 2009

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 23rd June 2009 were adopted.

8. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Franklin welcomed both Councillor Turner and Councillor Maudlin to their first meeting with this council since the new authority elections had taken place.

Councillor Turner informed members that 66 councillors had been elected to the new authority which had now held its annual meeting. She went on to explain the make-up of the various committees and portfolio holders. The new Chief Executive for the authority will be appointed early July.

9. FINANCE

9.1 TO APPROVE PAYMENTS MADE

Lloyds TSB Bank	Bank charges	£15.00
Ickwell May Day	Grant Aid S.137	£250.00
Friends of St Mary Northill	Grant Aid S.137	£250.00
Caldecote Methodist Church	Grant Aid S.137	£200.00
Caldecote Methodist Youth Club	Grant Aid S.137	£200.00
Upper Caldecote Scout Group	Grant Aid S.137	£125.00
Caldecote Friendship Club	Grant Aid S.137	£100.00
Bradford & Bingley BS (Christmas Lunch	Grant Aid S.137	£250.00
St Mary Virgin Church Northill	Grant Aid S.137	£200.00
Northill Village Hall	Grant Aid S.19	£250.00
Ickwell Cricket Club	Grant Aid S.19	£250.00
Ickwell & Old Warden Football Club	Grant Aid S.19	£450.00
Ickwell Village Hall	Grant Aid S.19	£250.00
Caldecote Playing Fields Association	Grant Aid S.19	£250.00
Caldecote Cricket Club	Grant Aid S.19	£250.00
Mrs L Trevena	Salary + expenses May 2009	£965.68
Mrs L Kendrick	Paint for bus shelter	£49.48
D J Granger Landscapes Ltd	Grounds Maintenance	£671.14
A R Worboys Ltd	Grass cutting	£1221.42
E-On	Energy charge street lighting	£13.42
Johnston Press Midlands Division	Biggs Chronicle advert – tender	£76.45
A R Worboys Ltd	Grass cutting	£797.87
D J Granger Landscapes Ltd	Grounds maintenance	£335.80
D J Granger Landscapes Ltd	Grounds Maintenance	£289.57
Olive Press	Newsletter printing June 2009	£174.00
Anglian Water Services Ltd	Water – Caldecote Cemetery	£26.25
D J Granger Landscapes Ltd	Grounds Maintenance	291.87
Mrs L Trevena	Salary + expenses June 2009	£1051.04
Northill PCC	Hire of Hall (planning Apr-Jun 09)	£20.00
Anglian Water	Water Northill Cemetery	£24.98
D J Granger Landscapes Ltd	Grounds Maintenance extra work	£82.80
Mrs C M Brown	Internal Audit 2008/09	£100.00
HM Revenue & Customs	Tax & NI April – June 2009	£717.21
Ickwell Village Hall	Hire of Hall (Council Apr-Jun 09)	£10.00

RESOLVED that approval be given to the payments made.

9.2 TO APPROVE PAYMENTS TO BE MADE

D J Granger Landscapes Ltd	Repainting seats/noticeboards/posts	£2892.25
Steve Dear Tree Services	Emergency tree work Ickwell Green	£862.50

RESOLVED that approval be given to above payments.

9.3 INCOME

Lloyds TSB Bank	Interest	£10.35
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10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

10.1 TENDERS IN CONNECTION WITH REPAIRS TO ICKWELL GREEN TRACKS

The Clerk reported that together with Councillor Coutts she had opened the sealed tender on Tuesday 16th June 2009. Unfortunately, although five specifications had been sent out only one had chosen to tender for the proposed work. This tender was for the sum of £7,900 plus VAT.

RESOLVED that the tender for £7,900 plus VAT is accepted.

Councillors A Bird and S Mandley wished to have their names recorded against the resolution.

Members were informed that the successful tender was submitted by Adrian Sinfield Contracting of Kempston who had carried out work with Bedfordshire County Council and in particular worked on Marston Vale.

RESOLVED that once a start date has been agreed by the contractor, then a note to this effect should be delivered to those properties adjacent to Ickwell Green tracks that may be inconvenienced by the proposed works.

10.2 PROVISION OF ALLOTMENTS IN UPPER CALDECOTE (COUNCIL 18.05.09)

Councillor Mandley had requested this item to be included on the agenda for discussion. The Clerk informed members that she had spoken with Ian Robinson who is organising the allotment programme, his report on the provision of allotments from the Community Allotment Working Party Group was circulated to members prior to the commencement of the meeting. It stated that the group were in the process of investigating sites for suitable allotment land in Upper Caldecote. Councillor Mandley confirmed that no final decision had been taken by the group at the present time.

RESOLVED that no action is taken by the Parish Council until further information from the Group is forthcoming.

10.3 EDITOR FOR COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

The Clerk reported that she had currently been writing/deciding upon the majority of articles for the newsletter in conjunction with Councillor Hall who has also been helping with articles, proof reading and assisting with the layout out of the newsletters. Councillor Hall originally agreed to continue for just the March and June newsletters. The Clerk confirmed that she would continue to write some articles and that Councillor Hall would also be willing to continue writing articles and assisting with the proof reading and layout. However an editor of the newsletter should be appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mandley be appointed editor for the newsletter with assistance being provided by Councillor Hall and the Clerk.

10.4 REQUEST FOR SECTION 137 GRANT AID OF £200 FROM NORTHILL & ICKWELL CARE SCHEME

Request from Northill and Ickwell Care Scheme in the sum of £200 towards administration costs.

RESOLVED that the Council in accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 should incur the sum of £200 for Northill & Ickwell Care Scheme 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.

10.5 REQUEST FOR SECTION 137 GRANT AID OF £200 FROM DILLAMORE BEQUEST

Request from Dillamore Bequest (Caldecote Church Rooms) in the sum of £200 towards annual maintenance costs running and upkeep.

RESOLVED that the Council in accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 should incur the sum of £200 for Dillamore Bequest 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.

10.6 REQUEST FOR SECTION 137 GRANT AID OF £150 FROM CALDECOTE VILLAGE NEWS

Request from Caldecote Village News in the sum of £150 towards village newsletter production costs.

RESOLVED that the Council in accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 should incur the sum of £150 for Caldecote Village News 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.

The above three payments total £550 leaving £375 allocation for 2009/2010 for further Section 137 Grant Aid requests.

10.7 REQUEST TO ALLOW PARKING ON CALDECOTE GREEN IN CONNECTION WITH A WEDDING ON 25TH JULY 2009

A request had been received from Mr Beynon asking for permission to allow parking on Caldecote Green for the guests attending his daughters wedding on 25th July 2009. The wedding is at 3.00 pm and the reception will be held at Attertons Farm, Biggleswade Road, Upper Caldecote and finishes at midnight. Mr Beynon would provide marshals to control parking during the day.

The Clerk reminded members that permission should not be given to allow parking on a village green. This Council had recently sent letters to this effect to local residents around Caldecote Green. Members discussed the matter before it was:

RECOMMENDED that permission is not given to allow parking on Caldecote Green for this private function.

Voting took place and this was lost. Councillors A Bird, J Coutts and S Mandley wished to have their names recorded against this recommendation.

RESOLVED, therefore that permission is given to allow parking on Caldecote Green for this private function and that the Chairman takes executive action to contact Mr Beynon to confirm this.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

11.1 CALDECOTE CRICKET CLUB

Correspondence from Caldecote Cricket Club thanked the Council for grant towards the cost of the artificial cricket mat.

11.2 CALDECOTE METHODIST CHURCH

Correspondence from Caldecote Methodist Church thanked the Council for grant aid towards redecoration costs.

11.3 MR LEITCH – GRASS CUTTING COMPLAINT

Email from Mr Leitch concerning lack of grass cutting to the verges in Warden Road. The Clerk reported that she had contacted A R Worboys Ltd and asked them to flail the grass on these verges as per our contract.

11.4 ICKWELL GREEN – TREE PROBLEM

Notification from a resident that a branch had fallen off the large horse chestnut tree (same one that had a fallen branch last year on the western side of the green). The Clerk had contacted Steve Dear Tree Services and he visited the site that day. Central Bedfordshire Council Arboricultural Officer also visited the site and it was confirmed that this horse chestnut tree and another horse chestnut tree both needed to be felled due to disease. Work was carried out during week beginning 1 June 2009. Planning application for work in a conservation area was not required as both trees were considered dangerous and required immediate attention.

11.5 ICKWELL VILLAGE HALL TRUST

Correspondence from Ickwell Village Hall Trust thanked the Council for grant aid towards general maintenance.

11.6 FRIENDS OF ST MARY NORTHILL

Correspondence from Friends of St Mary Northill thanked the Council for grant aid towards repair of lead in church windows.

11.7 BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE – RESTRUCTURING OF COUNTY DIVISION

Details of new Area Inspector 5986 Tania Coulling for Ampthill and Biggleswade. As part of the restructuring additional sergeants posts were established to support the commitment to improve Neighbourhood Policing. Our parish is covered under the Biggleswade and Potton Area Safer Neighbourhood Team headed by Police Sergeant 5289 Russell Glenister email Russell.glenister@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk or phone 01234 842503.

11.8 WAR MEMORIALS TRUST

War Memorials Trust is hosting a half day conference entitled 'Looking After War Memorials' to provide advice and information about looking after war memorials. The conference is free and will be held on 15th July from 10.30 am to 1.00 pm in Aylesbury Civic Centre, Market Square, Aylesbury. This was noted.

11.9 CPRE TRAINING DAY

Following the success of last year's Planning Training Day, CPRE are holding another on 28 September 2009. The venue will again be the Rufus Centre, Flitwick. "The planning system and how to use it to influence local development!" All-day training and practical guidance from expert planning consultant, Michael Brooks. Especially useful for Parish Councils, but also for anyone interested in protecting their local community when faced with planning applications. Cost per delegate – incl. sandwich lunch & drinks: CPRE members (1 per affiliated group) £25.00, additional group members £35.00. Non-members: £50.00. This was noted.

11.10 CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE – ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

Notification that the Boundary Committee for England have announced that they will start a review of the electoral arrangements for Central Bedfordshire on August 2009. The matter is likely to be of interest to this parish council. The Chairman of the Boundary Committee will be attending Priory House, on Monday 20 July and will make a presentation from 6.00pm to

7.00pm. The meeting will be immediately prior to the Code of Conduct and Standards Committee meeting (for Clerk and Chairman) which starts at 7.00 pm. This was noted.

11.12 MR RIX – NORTHILL POND

Correspondence from Mr Rix requesting additional work that would benefit Northill Pond was attached for members. After discussion it was:

RESOLVED that this item be referred to the Highways & Open Spaces Committee to be held on Monday 6th July 2009.

11.13 LOCAL COUNCIL REVIEW – SUMMER 2009

This item of correspondence is available from the Clerk.

11.14 SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS LUNCH CLUB

Correspondence from Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch Club thanked the Council for the grant aid towards the 2009 Christmas lunch for senior citizens.

11.15 CALDECOTE PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

Correspondence from Caldecote Playing Fields Association thanked the Council for the grant aid towards the cost of grass cutting.

12. GENERAL WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT/COMPLAINTS

Highways to be requested to install reflector bollards on B658 Thorncote Road (Hatch turn) adjacent to the edge of the ditch.

13. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE PROPOSALS FROM COUNCILLORS

None.

14. REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

14.1 TARMAC

A report from the recent Tarmac meeting was circulated to members during the meeting. This was noted.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 27th July 2009 at Ickwell Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.