

NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN CALDECOTE CHURCH ROOMS ON MONDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2009 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

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

Also present were Central Bedfordshire Councillors C Maudlin and P Turner (late) and ten members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors J Franklin and W Momen. Central Bedfordshire Councillor P Turner forwarded apologies for lateness.

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

None.

3. OPEN FORUM

Standing orders were suspended at 7.32 pm.

Thanks were passed to Council for its representation at the Gypsy and Traveller Task Force meeting, and also to the Clerk and Council for work on this matter. Report was made of a white post(s) broken at Northill Pond and also for missing highway signs at the junction of Hill Lane and Warden Road, Ickwell.

Councillor Yatchisin arrived at 7.36 pm.

Mr Weller informed that Ickwell Green residents had recently met to discuss the request/offer by the Council to set up a working party. He reported that the proposals were not acceptable and the residents would like to meet with the Highways & Open Spaces Committee.

Standing orders were resumed at 7.39 pm.

4. POLICE REPORT FROM PC PATERSON

Constable Paterson was not in attendance.

RESOLVED that Constable Paterson be asked to forward a written report if he is not going to be in attendance at the meeting.

5. COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the Northill Parish Council Meeting held on 26th October 2009, were taken as read. The minutes were amended to show that Councillors Hall and Bird had asked for their names to be recorded against item 11.4. The minutes were then signed, as amended as a true record.

6. CLERK'S REPORT & MATTERS ARISING

6.1 ICKWELL GREEN EASEMENT 'A' (see minute 6.2 page 300)

Correspondence from Solicitors stated they understand from their clients that there may still be issues outstanding between their clients and the local residents concerning the maintenance of the track. They, therefore, wish to see these resolved before they proceed any further. This was noted.

6.2 ICKWELL & NORTHILL BALL 2010 (see minute 11.4 page 303)

The Clerk reported that she had written and subsequently spoken to the organisers of the Ball and they are happy to comply with the Council's requests.

6.3 ICKWELL GREEN MATTERS

The Clerk reported that she was in receipt of a rough estimate from David Granger regarding the proposal to clear out the ditch alongside Ickwell Green behind the Maypole area in the sum of £1800 plus VAT.

She was also in receipt of a rough estimate from David Granger regarding digging out hardcore, install gravel soakaway and reinstatement of grass area outside Colemoreham Farmhouse in the sum of £1500 plus VAT. As this is not ongoing maintenance, according to Financial Regulations and Standing Orders a specification will need to be drawn up and the work put out to tender.

RESOLVED that:

- a) tenders to be obtained from three individuals/organisations for the ditch clearance work to be carried out after 1 April 2010;
- b) tenders to be obtained from three individuals/organisations for the reinstatement of the grass area and installation of soakaway outside Colemoreham Farmhouse. Contractors should be informed that work should commence as soon as practically possible after 15th February 2010.

7. COMMITTEE MINUTES

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2009

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 17th November 2009 were adopted.

8. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE REPRESENTATIVES

As Councillor P Turner was not yet in attendance, the Chairman said that he would take this item later in the meeting once Councillor P Turner had arrived.

9. FINANCE

9.1 TO APPROVE PAYMENTS MADE

Mrs L Trevena	Salary + expenses Nov 2009	£981.87
D J Granger Grounds Maint. Ltd	Remove leaves from cemetery + rake gravel	£635.95
D J Granger Grounds Maint. Ltd	Grounds maintenance + remove wreaths	£282.67
D J Granger Grounds Maint. Ltd	Extra work, war memorial work, Northill pond sluice, repair church gate, clean bus shelter	£827.43
A R Worboys Ltd	Grounds maintenance	£690.81

RESOLVED that approval be given to the payments made.

9.2 TO APPROVE PAYMENTS TO BE MADE

D J Granger Grounds Maint. Ltd	Grounds maintenance – extra work	£90.85
Anglian Water	Water Caldecote Cemetery	£27.32

RESOLVED that approval be given to the payments to be made.

9.3 INCOME

Seamers	Interment Buck N.P.262,263,264,265	£194.00
Seamers	Interment Heath N.P.340	£86.00

9.4 TO CONSIDER CEMETERY CHARGES FOR 2010/2011

Details of current fees were circulated to members prior to the commencement of the meeting. Members were advised that the last increase in charges was 2006/07.

RESOLVED that the fees for Cemetery charges are increased as follows:

	FROM	TO
For the interment in a grave		
The body of a child whose age at the time of death did not exceed 12 years	£22.00	£25.00
The body of a person whose age at the time of death exceeded 12 years	£50.00	£55.00
For the interment of cremated remains	£22.00	£25.00
For the exclusive right of burial in perpetuity, in an earthen grave	£36.00	£40.00
For the exclusive right of burial in perpetuity, of cremated remains in an earthen grave, 18 inches by 24 inches	£22.00	£25.00
For the right to erect or place on a grave in respect of which the exclusive right of burial has been granted,		
a) A headstone to incorporate if required a base and vase, not exceeding 4 feet 6 inches high	£28.00	£30.00
OR a stone flower vase, not exceeding 8 x 8 x 12 inches high	£13.00	£15.00
b) A flat stone for cremated remains 15 x 15 x 2 inches high to ground level	£28.00	£30.00
For the right to construct a walled grave	£66.00	£75.00
The fees indicated for the various heads in this part include the first inscription.		
For each subsequent inscription the fee shall be	£14.00	£15.00
All other terms and conditions relating to interments remain the same		

9.5 TO CONSIDER PRECEPT FOR 2010/2011

Estimates were circulated to members prior to the commencement of the meeting and are appended to these minutes on page 315. Members were advised that the increase in projected overall expenditure for the current financial year was due mainly to Ickwell Green track repair work. The proposed running costs for 2010/2011 are £46,300 and it was agreed that in order to keep the actual precept increase to a minimum the sum of £4,300 should be taken from general reserves.

RESOLVED that this Council request a precept of £42,000 from Central Bedfordshire Council for 2010/2011

10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

10.1 DATES FOR 2010 COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COUNCIL MEETINGS	Monday 15 th February 2010 – Ickwell Village Hall
Annual Parish Meeting	Monday 29th March 2010 – Caldecote Church Rooms
Annual Parish Council Meeting	Monday 12 th April 2010 – Ickwell Village Hall
	Monday 17th May 2010 – Caldecote Church Rooms
	Monday 7 th June 2010 – Ickwell Village Hall
	Monday 26 th July 2010 – Caldecote Church Rooms
	Monday 13 th September 2010 – Ickwell Village Hall
	Monday 25 ^h October 2010 – Caldecote Church Rooms
	Monday 6 th December 2010 - Ickwell Village Hall
HIGHWAYS & OPEN SPACES	Monday 18 th January 2010 – Time/venue t.b.a.
	Monday 19 th April 2010 – Time/venue t.b.a.
	Monday 12 th July 2010 – Time/venue t.b.a.
	Monday 11 th October 2010 - Time/venue t.b.a.
CEMETERY	Monday 18 th January 2010 – Time/venue t.b.a.
	Monday 19 th April 2010 – Time/venue t.b.a.
	Monday 12 th July 2010 – Time/venue t.b.a.
	Monday 11 th October 2010 - Time/venue t.b.a.

10.2 CARBON EMISSIONS AND THE NEED TO MEET GOVERNMENT TARGET (REFERRED FROM 26.10.09)

RESOLVED that in the absence of Councillor Momen this item be deferred until the next meeting on 15th February 2010.

10.3 THE POSSIBLE REMOVAL OF THE WILLOW TREE ADJACENT TO NORTHILL POND (REFERRED FROM 26.10.09)

Correspondence from Central Bedfordshire Council Arboricultural Officer was read to members. It stated that the pond wall is now starting to show signs of leaning and there appears to be some cracking. There is also some evidence that the base is cracked due to lowered water levels and in recent years. This may also be due to roots lifting the concrete as they increase in diameter. It suggested that the tree be removed to lessen the risk of further damage to the wall and pond and allow repairs to be carried out. As the tree is an important feature in the street scene and within the Conservation Area and suggestion was that a replacement weeping birch or weeping ash could be planted on the grass area north of the pond.

Members discussed the matter and a question was raised as to the actual ownership of the grass verge, willow tree and retaining pond wall.

RESOLVED that the Clerk make enquiries to ascertain the exact area of ownership of the retaining wall, tree and adjacent grass verge in relation to Northill Green and pond.

10.4 LOCAL BUS SERVICE REVIEW 2009/2010

CBC correspondence was circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting. Central Bedfordshire Councillor C Maudlin updated members on the review taking place. This was noted.

Central Bedfordshire Councillor P Turner arrived at 8.40 pm

10.5 BOUNDARY COMMITTEE FOR ENGLAND – ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

Notification that the Boundary Committee for England has commenced the first consultation stage for warding arrangements for Bedfordshire. The Committee has consulted on the proposed council size for the new council and is currently minded to recommend a council size of 59 for the council, in addition to the elected mayor. The Committee requested any views on new warding arrangements by 11 January 2010, more information can be obtained by visiting www.boundarycommittee.org.uk. CBC have forwarded two suggestions, one from Conservative Group and the other from the Liberal Democrats Group for the pattern of wards. These suggestions were circulated to members prior to the meeting. Central Bedfordshire Councillor P Turner updated members of the proposals.

RESOLVED that this Council advise Central Bedfordshire Council that it wishes to remain warded as present with two Councillor representatives.

10.6 REQUEST FOR PROVISION OF ALLOTMENT SITE IN UPPER CALDECOTE

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter, signed by six people requesting provision of an allotment site in Upper Caldecote. She updated members on the Allotment legislation and land acquisition.

RESOLVED that an Allotment Working Party is formed with the Clerk taking notes. Members to be Councillors S Mandley, M Morgan together with Mr I Robinson and other interested parties. Clerk to arrange a meeting as soon as practically possible.

10.7 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR NORTHILL POND

Correspondence from Mr Rix concerning proposed management plan for Northill Pond was circulated to members prior to the commencement of the meeting.

RESOLVED that the proposed management plan is accepted with the proviso that the Group come back to Council with actual details and risk assessments for the proposed work before any work is undertaken.

10.8 ICKWELL GREEN WORKING PARTY

Correspondence had been forwarded to every property around Ickwell Green with the response to be returned to the Chairman regarding the setting up of Ickwell Green Working Party and the way forward. Unfortunately, Councillor J Franklin not being in attendance (at very short notice) no information was available at the meeting.

RESOLVED that this item be deferred until the next meeting on 15th February 2010.

8. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor C Maudlin reported that the Police were promoting "Ring Master" an information service which will give general information of crimes committed. Anyone wishing to sign up to the service should, in the first instance, email her with a request to be included. The LDF consultation for additional housing up to 2026 did not promote any additional housing sites within Upper Caldecote or within this parish. However, the proposals for other sites still require planning approval.

Councillor P Turner informed members that the potential sites for housing, industrial and Gypsy and Travellers are all being determined under the same process which will go out to public consultation during 2010. The Gypsy and Traveller sites require 40 pitches in the northern area of the county up to 2011 after which more sites will be required. The initial process began with a shortlist just over a week ago with two of the sites within this parish. The next opportunity for the Council to speak will be on 4th January 2010, later in the year there will be a six week consultation that will conclude with the Inspector making the final decision in 2011. The budgets are being determined for the next financial year which will require considerable changes one of which will be a reduction in staffing. A further cost saving in waste management will be required and the authority is looking into a different means of disposal of residual waste.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

11.1 PARISH PLAN HIGHWAY ISSUE (1)

TRAFFIC CALMING OR PINCH POINTS CALDECOTE ROAD, ICKWELL

Correspondence stated that this Council's request will be forwarded for consideration in the next five-year programme in 2011.

11.2 PARISH PLAN HIGHWAY ISSUE (2)

FOOTPATH BETWEEN UPPER CALDECOTE AND ICKWELL

Correspondence stated that this Council's request will be forwarded for consideration in the next five-year programme in 2011.

11.3 PARISH PLAN HIGHWAY ISSUE (3)

NORTHILL HORSE WARNING SIGNS

Correspondence stated that horse warning signs in Central Bedfordshire will only be provided in the vicinity of a bridleway. As the signs of this nature do not rank highly on their assessment system they suggested that this Council could look at funding them next financial year from the parish partnership fund allocation.

11.4 OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – MRS WINGFIELD

Correspondence from Mrs Wingfield informed that a group of residents of Northill and Ickwell were packing shoe boxes for disadvantaged children in Kyrgystan in conjunction with the Samaritans Purse, Operation Child Shoe Box Appeal. They asked for a donation towards postage costs. The Clerk had informed her that unfortunately, although a worthwhile appeal, the Council is unable to award funding that is not of benefit to the community or its inhabitants.

11.5 BEDFORDSHIRE BUGLE – ISSUE 6 NOVEMBER 2009

This item of correspondence was circulated to members.

11.6 THE PLAYING FIELD NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2009

This item of correspondence will be circulated to members.

11.7 WAR MEMORIALS TRUST NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2009

This item of correspondence will be circulated to members.

11.8 MRS BEST – CALDECOTE CEMETERY MATTERS

Correspondence from Mrs Best asked:

- a) for sign to be erected near wheelie bin stating “when wheelie bin is full, please use the black bags provided”;
- b) are there any plans for the surplus soil at the end of the cemetery as its mounting up;
- c) have there been any plans to clear ditch, which runs alongside the homes in Pound Close from the crossroads down to the entrance of Pound Close.

RESOLVED that this item of correspondence be passed to the Cemetery Committee when they next meet on 18th January 2010.

11.9 CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (LDF)(NORTH AREA)

Notification that CBC had adopted the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD). Two further documents are due to be consulted on between January and March 2010, the Site Allocations DPD and the Gypsy and Traveller DPD. The Clerk had emailed the Chairman of the Planning Committee to let her know of the proposed G&T meeting on 14th December subject to Northill’s proposals being included. Further information on this matter will be discussed under item 11.16.

11.10 CBC – MEET THE PARTNERS

Central Bedfordshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) invited a representative of the Council to attend a public event to ‘Meet the Partners’ on Tuesday 19th January from 18.00 to 21.00 at Chicksands. The statutory partners consist of Police, Police Authority, Central Bedfordshire Council, NHS Bedfordshire, Combined Fire Authority and in April the addition of the Probation service.

RESOLVED that Councillor Yatchisin represent the Council at this meeting.

11.11 NORTHILL PAROCHIAL CHARITIES – THE PATHS CHARITY

Correspondence concerning new scheme for charity funds was circulated to members prior to the commencement of the meeting. Councillor G Gilbert updated members on the charity information and advised that anyone can write to the Clerk of the Charity if they know of a worthwhile cause.

RESOLVED that this Council give their support to the proposal for this small fund to be used towards any community based project which benefits elderly or sick Northill Parish residents.

11.12 LOCAL COUNCIL REVIEW – WINTER 2009

This item of correspondence will be circulated to members.

11.13 MILESTONE SOCIETY – NOVEMBER 2009

Update from Michael Knight on Bedfordshire milestone information will be circulated to members.

11.14 PARISH PLAN HIGHWAYS ISSUES – NPC No. 4, 5, 6 & 7

One item of correspondence received from the Highways Agency in connection with four issues

Issue 4 - Upper & Lower Caldecote further road signs on A1/reservation gaps

Have already commissioned a study to review the safety of the gaps between Biggleswade North roundabout and Sandy and our concerns will be considered as part of this review. Hope to complete review in spring 2010 and will forward a copy of the report's recommendations and conclusions when available.

Issue 5 - A1 Roundabout, Biggleswade review of traffic flows and access

Hope to commission a study within 2010/2011 programme to consider congestion alleviation at the roundabout

Issue 6 – A1 Lower Caldecote provision of exit slip road

No current economic justification in terms of accident savings, or congestion reduction, to enable us to promote/develop improvements to the service road

Issue 7 – A1 Biggleswade Road footbridge

Identified a study to consider accessibility issues for non-motorised users including cyclists and pedestrians. Study has been provisionally included in 2010/2011 programme

11.15 BRCC – PARISH PLAN

Correspondence from BRCC concerning completed Action Plan Monitoring table and CBC process with regard to Action Plans was circulated to members prior to the commencement of the meeting. This was noted.

11.16 CBC – LDF DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY TASK FORCE MEETING

Email received regarding this meeting which will include Gypsy and Traveller Site proposals was copied to members informing them that a representative of the Council can attend and speak at this meeting. Copies of two speeches read out at the Task Force meeting were circulated to members during the meeting.

RESOLVED that a Council representative attends and speaks at the Gypsy and Traveller DPD Consultation during January 2010. The content of the representation to be based on the two speeches already made.

12. GENERAL WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT/COMPLAINTS

Councillor D Milton informed members that he had been advised by the Clerk that the repair work to the retaining wall and subsequent road closure of Warden Road would not now be

taking place. The Clerk was currently awaiting written confirmation from Highways as to the exact reasoning behind this decision.

Clerk to check the situation regarding requested improvements at Hatch turn to Bidlake Memorial.

Post(s) require repair/replacement around Northhill Pond.

13. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE PROPOSALS FROM COUNCILLORS

None.

14. REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Minutes of the P3 Group meeting were circulated to members.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 15th February 2010 at Ickwell Village Hall

Councillor D Milton thanked all members for their hard work during the year and wished everyone a Happy Christmas before the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.