

# NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING/WALKABOUT HELD ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010 COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM.

**Present:** Councillor J Coutts (Chairman), Councillor R Brinkley, J Franklin, D Milton and the Clerk Mrs L Trevena

### 1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor P Maudlin.

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

None.

### 3. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & OPEN SPACES MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2009**

The minutes of the Highways and Open Spaces Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2009 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a true record.

### 4. **TO VISIT AND CONSIDER ANY WORK REQUIRED:**

#### 4.1 **Caldecote Green - The Green**

All work previously requested had been carried out and the Green was looking good considering the recent wet and snowy weather conditions.

Whilst leaving The Green, the Clerk reported on the Allotment Working Party meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010 and three prospective areas for consideration for allotments. It was generally agreed that more information should be sought on all sites and reported to Council in due course.

#### 4.2 **Pound Close - Amenity Area**

Site satisfactory.

#### 4.3 **Lower Caldecote – Milestone**

This site was not visited but the Clerk reported that the site was satisfactory when she visited the noticeboard adjacent to the milestone last week.

#### 4.4 **Hatch – Common and footpath**

Site satisfactory apart from a large pothole at its junction with Thorncote Road.

#### 4.5 **Northhill – The Green and pond**

The Green – site satisfactory.

Northhill Pond – The working party had begun maintenance work on the pond. The pond water level was back to normal after the recent snow and rain. The Clerk reported that she is still awaiting confirmation from Central Bedfordshire as to the actual ownership of the grass verge, willow tree and pond brick retaining wall.

Unfortunately, there was evidence of dog fouling on the verge it was agreed that an item on dog fouling should, once again, be put in the Council newsletter.

#### 4.6 **Ickwell Green - The Green**

Members looked at the drainage ditches but were unsure if clearance work had taken place on Ickwell Green by the Harpur Trust. Councillor Brinkley said that she would make local enquires to ascertain whether or not they had carried the work on their property.

Members discussed the condition of Ickwell tracks after the extreme weather conditions. Councillor Franklin will give an update at the Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010 on correspondence received regarding the possibility of local residents forming a working party to help fund raising for future repairs to the tracks.

The Clerk reported that tenders for the drainage work and work in relation to Colemoreham Farm House entrance will be reported to the Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

#### **4.7 Other worked required**

**RECOMMENDED** that:

- a) Highways to be informed of several deep potholes in Hitchin Road, Upper Caldecote outside village shop, house nos. 52, 88, 120, 123 and G & M Growers.
- b) Highways be reminded that the following matters reported in October 2009 are still outstanding
  - i) 'Road junction' sign on B658 near Kings Hill Cottages, Upper Caldecote hidden by tree growth;
  - ii) Potholes in B658 near Bidlake Memorial junction, Hatch;
  - iii) Verge markers to be erected between Hatch Turn and Bidlake Memorial, Hatch on left hand side heading north (this was reported to Highways in January 2009);
  - iv) Hatch embankment needs further building up between Hatch Turn and Bidlake Memorial to prevent danger to vehicles ending up in the stream after an accident;
  - v) Ivy to be completely removed from safety railings at junction of Hatch Common/Thorncote Road, Hatch;

#### **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

#### **6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.15 am.