

Whatton in the Vale Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday December 8, 2008, at the Jubilee Hall, Whatton in the Vale

Coun. Gregg Redford (Chairman)	
Couns. Ray Dawson	Ernest Parsons
Vikki Harper	Barbara Harris (A)
Carole Key	Malcolm Seagrave

Also in attendance: The clerk Mike Elliott, Coun. Mrs Jackie Marshall (Rushcliffe Borough Council) and one member of the public.

Mr Miles King of Midlands Rural Housing and Angela Doherty from Rushcliffe Borough Council addressed the meeting prior to the opening of the normal agenda. Coun. Ray Dawson chaired this part of the proceedings.

Mr King outlined the scheme of a Parish Housing Needs Survey and said every household in the village would receive a Needs Survey to complete and be given a stamped addressed envelope to return it. He spoke of a similar successful scheme that had been completed in Aslockton and said there had been would-be purchasers from Whatton who had completed forms for that scheme.

Mr King said the survey would show whether there was a need for such a scheme. If so, they would seek help from the parish council to find a possible site for a small development, which he expected would be of no more than six properties. They would be let in perpetuity for local people who could buy up to 80 per cent of the property concerned with the remainder being rented from the Housing Association.

The Borough Council officer said her council were keen to work with residents in the village and would not proceed with a scheme if the local residents said it was not required. Properties would be built on land that would not normally be given planning permission, hence the reason the properties could be provided at a more affordable price than other new-built ones.

The council agreed to support a survey being undertaken.

- Apologies** were received from Coun. Mrs Barbara Harris and Coun. Martin Suthers (Notts County Council).
- Declarations of Interest**
Coun. Malcolm Seagrave declared a prejudicial interest in discussions concerning unregulated traffic on Church Walk.
- Minutes of the meeting held on October 13, 2008**, were accepted as circulated and signed by the chairman.
- Clerk's report** There was nothing to report.
- Meeting open to the public** No questions were raised.
- Planning matters**
Planning Applications
08/02007/FUL Mr J Penniston-Hill; Vehicular access; Scylla House, Grantham Road. No objection
08/02074/FUL Mr G Tate; Two storey side extension, single storey front and rear extensions, porch; 12 Dark Lane. No objection

Rushcliffe Borough Council Decisions

08/01262/ADV Mr R Flintham; Erection of two flag poles; H M Prison Whatton, New Lane. Grant Consent

Proposed Works to Trees

08/00109/CONARE Mr A Porter; Felling of three trees; 5A Conery Lane, Whatton Conservation Area. Rushcliffe Borough Council did not propose to make a Tree Preservation Order.

08/00126/CONARE Mr A Porter; Felling of three trees; 5A Conery Lane, Whatton Conservation Area. Rushcliffe Borough Council did not propose to make a Tree Preservation Order.

08/00137/CONARE Reduce canopy of 3 silver birch; Ivy Row, Whatton Conservation Area. Rushcliffe Borough Council did not propose to make a Tree Preservation Order.

08/00138/CONARE Fell 4 apple and a plum tree, reduce hedge to 2m; The Orchard, Church Walk, Whatton Conservation Area. Rushcliffe Borough Council did not propose to make a Tree Preservation Order.

7. Correspondence

BT confirmed the lease for the payphone box in the village as part of the 'Adopt a Kiosk' scheme. The chairman, Coun. Gregg Redford, and Coun. Dawson would inspect the kiosk to ascertain the work needed to refurbish it. Clement Keys issued an unqualified opinion on the Annual Return for the 2007/2008 financial year. They had been given the reason for the increase in the precept as requested.

The clerk presented papers from the NHS Nottinghamshire County office on their public consultation on the site of a proposed new Health Centre in Bingham. All members had been given forms to complete if they wished. Rushcliffe Borough Council reminded the council of the need to issue a Precept for 2009/2010 by early February 2009. Councillor Martin Suthers (Nottinghamshire County Council) provided the official responses in connection to the reduction in the rail service at Aslockton and against the Eco Town proposal for Newton/Bingham. It was agreed to support the Campaign to Protect Rural England litter and fly-tipping drive they were staging and to discuss the matter in detail at the January 2009 meeting.

Nottinghamshire County Council advised that the Building Better Communities funding application by the parish council had been accepted for consideration. A decision would be made known in January 2009. Rushcliffe Borough Council said that the trees on Old Grantham Road were not their responsibility. The clerk was to ask Notts County Council if they were responsible for their upkeep.

The clerk said the matter of the land transfer adjacent to the playing fields involving Whatton in the Vale and Aslockton Parish Councils was, he understood, proceeding.

8. Playing Field / Play equipment

The chairman of the council presented the Whatton and Aslockton Playing Field Committee Report as at November 30, 2008, as appended to the minutes. He said both parish councils were being asked to allocate a further £250 each to enable the Playing Field Committee to meet its expenditure requirement and this was agreed. He also said that in the coming year the councils would be asked to allocate £1,000 instead of the usual £1,250 previously given each year.

Coun. Mrs Harper asked if the committee could consider provision of facilities for the older age range in any future scheme. Coun. Redford, as chairman also of that committee, said the matter would be put forward.

9. Environment

Coun. Parsons updated the council on the question of the work that had been undertaken on the Old Grantham Road bridge and on the question of the erection of bollards there.

In respect of the Ivy Row trees the council felt their question to Vale Tree Care on what needed to be done to ensure their acceptable condition had not been answered and the clerk was to ask again. The firm had sent a quotation for work on three of the trees but not commented further than that.

10. Footpaths

The chairman presented a report on footpaths in the village and said some progress was being made in respect of improvements. In connection with FP1 he said while the County Council had erected a new bridge it had not been possible to get to it, but the matter had now been dealt with.

He said attention was needed to FP13 on Orston Lane.

The County Council had advised the chairman they could currently only tackle one task and it was agreed they be asked to give attention to FP15 as a matter of urgency.

Coun. Seagrave declared an interest and left the meeting during a report which was presented by the chairman concerning Church Walk in which he said unregulated traffic using it was causing the damage that was made to it. It was impossible for pedestrians to make use of the route in poor weather because of its condition.

It was agreed the council should attempt to ascertain the legal ownership of Church Walk and to ask Notts County Council whether byelaws can be enacted to restrict and regulate the use of the footpath for vehicular traffic and whether they have the power to require the vehicular users to contribute towards making good any damage they cause to the footpath.

11. Quality Council The council agreed to process the matter and discuss it in detail at the next meeting.

12. Train Timetable

The chairman outlined the results of the survey that had been undertaken in Whatton and Aslockton and was complimented on the report he had put together for presentation to East Midlands Trains objecting to their proposals to apply a reduction in the Aslockton train service.

13. Finance The council authorised payment of accounts as per the schedule presented.

14. Agenda Items for Next meeting

No items were put forward for the next meeting due to be held on January 19, 2009.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.