

## Whatton in the Vale Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday January 7, 2013, at the Jubilee Hall, Whatton in the Vale at 7.15pm

Coun. Gregg Redford (Chairman)  
Ray Dawson  
Carole Key  
Graham Linney  
Barbara Harris  
Malcolm Seagrave  
Janet Ayres

**Also in attendance:** The clerk Mike Elliott and six residents.

1. **Apologies** There were none.
2. **Declarations of Interest** There were none.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on November 18, 2012**, were accepted as circulated and signed by the chairman.

Standing Orders were suspended at 7.30pm.

4. **Visit of Mr Aaron McLean and Mr Gary Watson of Asset Performance Team, Environment Agency, to discuss a proposed Maintenance Programme for the Whatton in the Vale Flood Defences**

The chairman welcomed the two speakers to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Members were told by Mr Watson that the purpose of their visit was to provide both the council and the local residents details of their intended works programme which they intended to commence in the near future.

The first phase of the works would involve the clearance of vegetation from the flood defences and the River Smite channel. Once the clearance has been undertaken, Environment Agency asset inspectors would make an assessment of the existing condition of the defences in the area.

The meeting was told the Environment Agency's assets in the area were mainly earth embankments but also included flood walls.

Mr Watson outlined exactly what the works would entail including the extent, timing etc and said they would welcome any feedback or concerns that the council or residents might have. It would be necessary to remove one tree from the River Smite bank near Church Walk.

Council members and residents raised questions with the visitors and acknowledged and welcomed the information given.

Mr Watson said the proposed work would start towards the end of January.

5. **Open session for members of the public, limited to 15 minutes**

The question of planning application 12/02133/FUL calling for alterations and an extension to an existing bungalow at The Pines on Church Street was raised by a resident. Concerns were expressed on the effect the proposed work would have on the Conservation Area.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 7.35pm.

6. **Clerk's report**

The order for a new dog / refuse bin to be sited at the bottom of Main Street near footpath no. 1 had been activated. The bin was not being emptied but the Borough Council had told the clerk it had now been added to its work list.

The clerk said the Borough Council had also been asked to include Main Street between Sunbeam Street and Manor Farm in its sweeping schedule, that never previously having been included.

The County Council had advised that the current figure of payment to parish councils if they took over additional grass cutting was 2p per square metre. It had not yet given the land area concerned in the cutting work that the parish council already undertook.

The Borough Council had not so far responded to the request for information on the number of properties in each rateable group in the parish.

7. **Playing Field / Play equipment** No matters were raised.

8. **Correspondence**

Notts County Council advised the Footpath No. 19 Modification order had been referred to the Secretary of State for Environment. A public inquiry would be scheduled in about six-month time.

Notts County Council responded to the horse problem on footpath no. 13 and said if a horse did cause harm to a walker who was acting reasonably that would be a civil matter to take out a personal injury claim against the horse owner.

Rushcliffe Borough Council wrote in regard to Azimghur Road. The clerk said it was asking what use the land would be put to and the chairman said that would be discussed at the next meeting.

## 9. **Planning and Neighbourhood Planning**

### **Planning Applications**

12/02076/FUL Mr and Mrs Porter; Single storey side extension; 5A Conery Lane. Object. The council was concerned on the massing effect the development would introduce to the site.

12/02133/FUL Mr Paul Beaumont; Alterations and extension to an existing bungalow; The Pines, Church Street. Object. The council was concerned on the massing effect the development would introduce to the site, and which would be detrimental to the Conservation Area in which it stood and not in sympathy with it. It would particularly affect the existing properties of The Grange and The Dell as well as the overall frontage of Church Street.

### **Rushcliffe Borough Council Decisions**

12/01680/FUL Mr and Mrs A Smith; Proposed extension and conversion of existing garage into living accommodation; Fox Vane, School Lane. Grant Permission

## 10. **Environment**

The poor condition of Cottage Avenue and Beverleys Avenue was discussed, with concerns expressed that the amount of 'patching' that had taken place there was over intensive, and a complete resurfacing was required. The clerk was asked to write to Notts County Council to seek remedial action.

The clerk was asked to investigate a problem with the notice board at Cottage Avenue where the front cover material had become affected and it was not possible to read notices through it.

## 11. **Provision of Defibrillator**

Order had been made for the Whatton unit and delivery would be late January. The clerk said he understood BT had approached the suppliers regarding Aslockton.

## 12. **Footpaths** Nothing was raised.

## 13. **Finance**

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

### **- Power of dispensation**

The council agreed to grant the Power of Dispensation to the clerk in order members could discuss items concerning the setting of a Precept for 2013 / 2014 and to give sanction to permit individual members to take part in future discussions where they might need to seek to declare an interest. It was confirmed the council had a policy of asking members to retire from the meeting if they had a prejudicial interest in a planning matter.

The clerk said that Rushcliffe Borough Council had not yet agreed a date for a meeting to advise parish councils of information on its changed policy for the amended Council Tax Support scheme.

### **- Budget/precept for 2013 / 2014**

Members discussed a proposed budget paper presented by the chairman which showed an anticipated expenditure of £11,551 for the coming 12-month period. The figure was an increase of £666 on the current one. Members discussed the matter in detail and unanimously agreed to accept the proposition put to the meeting and to seek an income of £11,551 for the 2013 / 2014 financial year.

The council discussed the salary payment made to the clerk and acknowledged that had remained static since his appointment six years ago. It was agreed from April 1 the hours of the parish clerk would be increased by one hour per week to six hours per week and that the parish clerk would be paid in accordance with the NALC scheme at the rate defined by Spinal Column Point 28.

## 14. **Member's Code of Conduct**

Members approved a revised Code of Conduct prepared by the clerk in accordance with the new Localism Act.

## 15. **Date for next meeting** was confirmed for March 18, 2013.

## 16. **Agenda Items for Next meeting**

Members did not suggest further items for discussion at the next parish council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.56pm.