

**Whatton in the Vale Parish Council**

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday April 20, 2009, at the Jubilee Hall, Whatton in the Vale

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

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

1. **Apologies** were received from Coun. Mrs Vikki Harper.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Coun. Redford declared a prejudicial interest in connection with planning application 09/00617/TPO and in respect of a funding application from Help the Heroes.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on March 2, 2009**, were accepted as circulated and signed by the chairman.

4. **Clerk's report**

The clerk said he and the chairman had attended the NALC training day at Thurgarton and had found the event to be very useful and information had been given on a number of aspects of council work.

5. **Meeting open to the public**

Standing Orders were suspended to allow public participation.

The meeting was told by a resident there were still incidents occurring involving noise and vandalism. The clerk was asked to write to the Divisional Commander Chief Superintendent John Busuttil at Carlton Police Station and express a wish for better policing of the area and closer attention to the ongoing and continuing problems.

The chairman informed the meeting that he had acted on a complaint received concerning an incident of graffiti and the necessary cleansing work had been put in hand by the Borough Council.

It was agreed that an item be included in the next newsletter concerning inconsiderate parking of vehicles on Ivy Row following an incident when an ambulance had been delayed because the road had been blocked.

Standing orders were reinstated.

6. **Planning matters**

**Planning Applications**

09/00145/FUL Mr N Powell; Conversion and extension of barns to form two dwellings; Land Adjacent to Manor Farm, Main Street. No objection

09/00262/FUL Whatton Jubilee Hall Management Committee; Single storey extension; The Village Hall, Church Street. No objection

09/00379/OUT RH Developments (Property) Ltd; Five dwellings and vehicular access (following demolition of existing dwelling); The White Villa, Dark Lane. No objection

A letter from Rushcliffe Borough Council in respect of the above property was also received in which it said some remedial work to improve security had been carried out.

09/00478/FUL Mr J Church; Single storey extension, alteration to window in north-east elevation; The Shires, Old Grantham Road. No objection

The chairman declared an interest in the following application and left the meeting, taking no part in the discussion.

09/00617/TPO Mr K Tyler; Crown lift and reduce by 40% six poplar trees and reduce limb by 30% of ash tree; Dunville, Burton Lane. No objection

**Rushcliffe Borough Council Decisions**

09/00121/FUL Miss Flounders; Two storey side extension; 4 Azimghur Road. Grant Permission

7. **Correspondence**

The chairman declared an interest in the following letter and left the meeting, taking no part in the discussion. A request for funding for the Help for Heroes event being held on August 23 on the village sports ground and involving a cricket match for the Whatton/Aslockton Cricket Club XI with an Emmerdale (ITV) XI was discussed and it was agreed to make a grant of £200.

Notts branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) gave notice of its Annual General Meeting on May 11 at Norwood Park, Southwell. Rushcliffe Borough Council wrote agreeing to a new dog bin for Green Walk. Notts branch of the CPRE advised of details for the Best Kept Village Competition for 2009. After a discussion it was agreed not to enter this year.

A letter was received from Cunningham Lindsey of Leicester in regard to a claim that two ash trees on Dark Lane were causing subsidence damage to the property at No 1 Dark Lane. They advised they were having a survey taken to ascertain if the damage was in fact caused by the tree roots. The council agreed to wait for the results of the survey before taking any further action. Rushcliffe Borough Council wrote in respect of the trees on Dark Lane and possible subsidence. It advised the trees were not in the Conservation Area. It too advised the council to wait to take any action until the survey had been completed.

Clement Keys gave details of the audit arrangements for the 2008/2009 accounts. Rushcliffe Borough Council wrote in regard to the possibility of the parish council leasing the land at Azimghur Road and said they were investigating this matter and were in support of such a move.

Rushcliffe Borough Council confirmed they were carrying out grass maintenance work on Green Walk as from April 30. A letter was received from a resident on Ivy Row access criticising drivers who park there and cause an obstruction. BT wrote in respect of the village telephone kiosk and gave details of where the necessary red paint could be ordered from. Rushcliffe Borough Council confirmed the litter pick day for May 30 and said the necessary equipment would be available. It would start at 1.00pm from the Jubilee Hall and tea and coffee would be served there for those taking part.

The council accepted the information from Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire on the need for subscriptions to be charged instead of offering a free membership. The same organisation also gave information on a community safety seminar on June 11 to which Couns. Redford, Mrs Key and Mrs Harris said they would attend. Whatton Jubilee Hall advised of a rates increase from £7.50 to £8.50 per hour for use of the hall.

Notts County Council forwarded a copy letter of one they had sent to Mr Hartley in regard to the Whatton Right of Way No 15 and in which it said it was carrying out repair work. Notts County Council Highways Department said they were investigating the question of grass cutting of verges work being put out to parish councils and would report back in due course.

#### **8. Playing Field / Play equipment**

The council agreed to a request from the youth club for use of the green at Ivy Row for a fund raising event. The chairman would advise them. Coun. Redford confirmed that the accounts of the Playing Field Committee had been circulated to all members of the council.

#### **9. Environment**

Coun. Parsons said action was still required to carry out an acceptable repair to the bridge on Old Grantham Road following work by the National Grid and the clerk was asked to write again. It was agreed to order a dog bin to be sited on Orston Lane near to the entrance to the old Whipling Farm. The question of a bin on Main Street near to the Blackberry Hill footpath was to be discussed again at a later meeting.

#### **10. Footpaths**

The chairman commented on the repairs that had been carried out to footpath 15 and the fact that the problem concerning footpath 13 had also been solved.

#### **11. Voluntary Help Scheme for the village**

It was agreed to further this matter when Coun. Mrs Harper was present.

#### **12. Quality Council**

Members considered a report presented by the Chairman in which he outlined the situation concerning the parish council position in relation to seeking the status of a Quality Council. The clerk gave a report and said there were currently 12 such councils in Nottinghamshire. The meeting agreed that the clerk should undertake the work required to enable the parish council to apply for Quality Status.

#### **13. Parish Plan**

A report presented by the chairman was discussed. Coun. Redford said he felt it best if members took a decision on whether or not they wished to proceed with a scheme before deciding if they should invite Carola Jones to address them. He said the production of a plan was a useful publication but it was a long job to prepare and publish it.

After a detailed discussion it was agreed at this time not to proceed. The clerk was however asked to obtain a copy of a sample questionnaire that would be circulated so members were aware of what would be needed from residents.

#### **14. Allotments**

The clerk reported on a letter he had received from Mr Gavin Vallance of Cranmer Avenue in Aslockton in which he raised the question of availability of allotment plots in Whatton. The clerk was asked to write to both Notts County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council to ask if they had any land available for such a purpose. He was also to ask if the Borough Council would have any objections to use of the land on Amzighur Road, to which consideration was being given to leasing to the parish council, being used for such a purpose.

**15. Finance**

Members discussed a paper presented by the chairman aimed at formulating a Grants/Award Policy. It was unanimously agreed to accept the paper as presented.

Consideration was given by the council to a request for funding assistance by Belvoir HeartBeat. After a discussion it was agreed no grant be made.

Members agreed payment of accounts as per the schedule presented:

<b>Total expenditure for meeting</b>	<b>£1,751.30</b>	<b>£40.50</b>	<b>£1,791.80</b>
<b>Total expenditure to date in the current financial year</b>	<b>£1,751.30</b>	<b>£40.50</b>	<b>£1,791.80</b>

The council asked the clerk to write to E.on in respect of an account received in the sum of £20.98 for electricity to the now obsolete telephone kiosk that the council had taken over from BT. Members felt the charge was excessive. It was reported the light was not working anyway.

**16. Power of Well-Being**

A report presented by the chairman in respect of the council giving consideration to seeking the Power of Well-Being was discussed. It was pointed out that this was a new power available to councils that qualified for it, and under it those councils would have extended powers, particularly on spending. It was agreed the necessary Community Engagement Statement produced by the chairman be adopted and published and that the council seek to adopt the Power as soon as the training requirement placed on members had been satisfied. The clerk was asked to arrange the training sessions as soon as possible and for this to be held if possible in Whatton. All members agreed to attend the session.

**17. Surgeries**

The council agreed to proceed with a series of surgery sessions to enable members to receive any comments from residents on the work of the council and on planning applications. It was agreed these be held at the monthly coffee mornings held in the Jubilee Hall and also on a Saturday morning once a month. The sessions would begin after the next newsletter in which they would be advertised.

**18. Agenda Items for Next meeting**

No items were put forward.

It was agreed the meeting on May 18 be the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm and to be followed by the Annual General Meeting of the parish council at 7.30pm. Notice would be produced and circulated.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.