

Whatton in the Vale Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday January 12, 2012, at the Jubilee Hall, Whatton in the Vale at 7.30pm

Coun. Gregg Redford (Chairman)

Ray Dawson

Barbara Harris

Carole Key (A)

Malcolm Seagrave (A)

Graham Linney

Janet Ayres

Also in attendance: The clerk Mike Elliott, Coun. Martin Suthers (Notts County Council) and Coun. Mrs Jacqui Marshall (Rushcliffe Borough Council).

1. **Apologies** were received from Couns. Malcolm Seagrave and Mrs Carole Key.
2. **Declarations of Interest** There were none.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on December 7, 2011**, were accepted as circulated and signed by the chairman.
4. **Open session for members of the public** Nothing was raised.
5. **Clerk's report**
Pc John Reason from Cotgrave had taken over as the new Beat Manager for the Bingham area, following the retirement of Pc John Kneale.

6. **Planning Matters**

Planning Applications

11/01963/FUL Miss S Green; Single storey side extension; 35 Beverley Avenue. No objection

11/01992/FUL Mrs Toni Aplin; Detached garage, hardstanding and boundary wall; The Cottage, Church Street. No objection

Rushcliffe Borough Council Decisions

11/01456/FUL Dr D Banks; Lean-to greenhouse; The Granary, Old Grantham Road. Grant Permission

11/01589/TPO Mr R Boardman; Clearing, thinning and reduction of lime tree by 25%; The Limes, Grantham Road. Grant Consent

Planning Appeal

11/00653/FUL Mrs H Whitworth; Construction of dwelling; 29 Cottage Avenue. An appeal had been submitted against a decision by Rushcliffe Borough Council to refuse planning permission. The parish council had objected on grounds the proposal would result in a cramped and over intensive development.

11/01041/FUL Mr L Tyler; Dormer window to front elevation; 14 Smite Close. An appeal had been submitted against a decision by Rushcliffe Borough Council to refuse planning permission. The parish council had not object.

7. **Playing Field / Play equipment**

The chairman reported that the Playing Field Trust had presented the council with the cheque for cost of provision of the new fence along the edge of the playing field.

8. **Correspondence**

A letter was received from Whatton Jubilee Hall Committee giving an acknowledgment of a donation from the council towards back room refurbishment. Nottinghamshire County Council wrote in respect of the bollard on Beverleys Avenue and said it had been provided in 2009 because vehicles were going on to the grass verge and one had demolished a lamp post. The chairman said he would progress the matter.

Rushcliffe Borough Council wrote to give advice on 2012 Community Events that parishes might be staging to mark both the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics.

9. **Environment**

The chairman reported a number of residents had expressed concern at the speed of traffic, mainly on Main Street and whilst there had not been any accidents it was claimed there had been a number of 'near-misses'. The parish council had discussed the issue previously, but a request to set 20 mph limit had been rejected by both the Highways Department and the police.

There were a number of roads within the 'built-up' area of the parish that had no or single inadequate 'road-side footpaths' and it was agreed to seek provision of advisory 20mph speed limits for the following three zones:

Zone 1 (The Old Village): Main Street, School Lane, Sunbeam Street, Church Street and Burton Lane

Zone 2 (Conery Lane): Conery Lane from the junction with Grantham Road to the A52

Zone 3 (Dark Lane): Dark Lane from the junction of Grantham Road to the parish boundary

It was reported that Couns. Key and Redford had received complaints from a resident over a vehicle using The Green to access 35 Beverleys Avenue from Smite Close and the clerk was asked to write to the resident to seek assurance the practice would cease.

Maintenance of the Churchyard: Members discussed the legal position if the churchyard was declared officially closed by the church council and it was acknowledged the parish council would be required to take over the maintenance costs for it. It was also acknowledged that there was not a requirement for the parish council to provide an alternative. No action was proposed.

10. Footpaths

Gate to foot bridge on Whatton FP1 (Blackberry Hill): Whatton FP1 was the footpath which starts at Chapel Walk and crosses the River Whipping by a foot bridge at the end of a farm track. The chairman reported that the area to the east of the farm-track was pasture and was surrounded by an electric fence. Access to the foot bridge was by a gate which opens towards the walker. The electric fence had now been moved closer to the foot bridge and it made it difficult to open. It had been suggested by a number of residents that the gate be rehung on the opposite side so that the gate opens away from the walker. It was agreed that the Rights of Way Department at Notts County Council be requested to change the 'hanging' of the gate or authorise the parish council to undertake the work.

11. Diamond Jubilee HM The Queen June 2012

The next meeting of the committee formed for the event was to take place on January 19. An Event Licence had been obtained. Both Notts County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council members, Couns. Suthers and Mrs Marshall respectively, were supporting the event with financial contributions.

12. Nottinghamshire Approach to Localism

Coun. Suthers was asked to report on the position from the County Council's point of view and a good deal of progress was being made in respect of possible ways where parish councils could take on additional responsibilities, either by themselves or jointly with other parishes. It was agreed to leave the matter on the agenda to await further written information.

13. Quality Council Status

The clerk reported on the item after the chairman had given details of a check he had taken on the necessary standards the council had to meet to be able to seek the Quality Status. The clerk agreed he would begin the necessary work to enable the council to submit an application if it was agreed at the next meeting it should.

14. Provision of New Notice Board

The clerk was asked to obtain quotations for a wooden open board sized about 4ft x 4ft. Coun. Dawson would also submit a figure.

15. Finance Members authorised payment of accounts as per the schedule presented.

Total expenditure for meeting	£1,174.00	£152.00	£1,326.00
Total expenditure to date in the current financial year	£9,945.54	£1,003.16	£10,948.70

Precept for 2012-13: Members discussed reports presented by the clerk and the chairman in respect of the Budget and Precept for 2012/2013 and agreed to seek a figure of £10,885 for the coming 12 months period.

Clerk's Salary: The clerk said he was happy for the matter to be left over until later in the year.

16. **Date for next meeting** was confirmed for March 19, 2012.

17. Agenda Items for Next meeting

It was agreed items for discussion at the next parish council meeting should include the Localism Act, the Diamond Jubilee and Quality Council Status.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.