

## Whatton in the Vale Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday July 5, 2010, at the Jubilee Hall, Whatton in the Vale at 7.30pm

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

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

1. **Apologies** were received from Couns. Malcolm Seagrave and Mrs Vikki Harper.
2. **Declarations of Interest** There were none.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on May 17, 2010**, were accepted as circulated and signed by the chairman.
4. **Open session for members of the public, limited to 15 minutes** There were no public present.
5. **Clerk's report** There was nothing to report.

### 6. **Planning Matters**

#### **Planning Applications**

10/00552/OUT Mrs H Whitworth; Construction of bungalow; 29 Cottage Avenue. No objection

#### **Rushcliffe Borough Council Decisions**

10/00206/FUL Mr N Powell; Conversion of barn to dwelling with garage and vehicular access, conversion and extension of barn to form living accommodation and garage; Manor Farm, Main Street. Grant Permission

10/00578/FUL Ms Carol Simey; Two storey extension with balcony; Vicarscroft Farm, Conery Lane. Grant Permission

#### **Notice of Proposed Works to Trees**

10/00087/CONARE Prune Cedar at the School House, Sunbeam Street and reduce and thin Horse Chestnut and Maple at York Lodge, Main Street, Whatton in the Vale Conservation Area. Rushcliffe Borough Council did not propose to make a Tree Preservation Order and work had been allowed to proceed.

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

The chairman reported on a meeting of the trustees on May 19 when they had adopted the Reports and Accounts for the Year Ended March 31, 2010. The trustees had accepted the committee's recommendation that the 'All Risks' insurance policy on the play equipment be discontinued and that in future:

1. £200 per annum be allocated to the Dilapidation Reserve for Play Equipment and;
2. £50 per annum be allocated to the Dilapidation Reserve for Gates and Fences.

#### **Committee Membership**

The Annual General Meeting had taken place on the May 19. Terri Warham and Mrs Barbara Harris had already indicated that they did not intend to stand for reelection. The other elected members Mrs Penny Seagrave and Mrs Carole Key had not attended the meeting or indicated their wish to stand for reelection and in consequence there was only one proposal for election to the committee.

The committee was as follows: Mansfield Barker\* – Aslockton (Appointed by Aslockton Parish Council), Bob Crawford – Aslockton (Appointed by the Greyhounds Football Club), Brian Crawford\* – Aslockton (Appointed by Aslockton Parish Council), Ray Dawson\* – Whatton in the Vale (Appointed by Whatton in the Vale Parish Council), Martin Hallam – Orston (Appointed by Aslockton Cranmers Football Club), Richard Lambourne – Bingham (Appointed by Whatton and Aslockton Cricket Club), Gerry Nerney – Aslockton (Elected), Gregg Redford\* – Whatton in the Vale (Appointed by Whatton in the Vale Parish Council)

\*Members of the Trustee Committee. At the meeting following the AGM, the officers had been appointed as follows:

Chairman – Gregg Redford, Vice Chairman – Brian Crawford, Treasurer – Ray Dawson, Secretary – no proposal – position remained vacant.

#### **Site Clearance**

The old playing surfaces, the old swings and the area along the southern boundary (by the Cottage) had now been cleared.

The playing surfaces required disposing at a registered 'tip' as the material was considered contaminated and appropriately certified. The original estimate was three tons, the actual amount was 6.1 tons. All the areas had been cleared, refilled with soil, leveled and seeded with grass. The area on the southern boundary was now available for parking. The total cost of the clearance was £1,300 and had been met from the General Reserve.

#### **Insurance**

In line with the Trustee and Committee decision Public Liability insurance had now been arranged through 'Fields in Trust', underwritten by Zurich Insurance. The policy covered Public Liability for the sum of £5 million and Trustee indemnity insurance in the name of Whatton and Aslockton Playing Field Trust. The cost was £210 per annum, renewable in March of each year.

It was confirmed that the committee no longer carried any 'All Risks' cover on the play equipment or any cover on the fence and gates. An annual allocation of £200 for play equipment and £50 for fences and gates would be made to a 'dilapidation' reserve.

#### **Damage to Play Equipment**

A bolt had been removed from one of the children's swing, it had been thought deliberately. The swing had been repaired.

#### **Events**

A Race Night had been held on June 6 with the object of raising additional funds for the Village Gala. Mansfield Barker organized the event. It had been disappointing that the sports clubs had not shown support for the event and a number of people who had purchased tickets had not attended. Approximately, 50 people did attend the event and it had been an enjoyable evening. The event had raised £308 towards the costs of the Village Gala.

Village Gala: The event would be held on July 10 and the Event Committee was continuing its work on arranging the event.

#### **Financial Position**

The current cash position was as follows: Current Account £3,183.68, Undeposited Funds £693.95, Event Float £600.00

Total cash and bank £4,477.63. The reserves were as follows: Net Income for the year £715.11, General Reserve £3,424.29, Play Equipment Dilapidation Reserve £345.00, Village Gala Sponsorship Reserve £525.00, Total reserves £5,009.40

### **8. Correspondence**

Rushcliffe Voluntary Transport Scheme wrote to make an appeal for funding for its transport scheme and it was agreed to give £50. Rushcliffe Borough Council gave details of its parish summer sports offer and the council agreed to ask for cricket tickets for games at Trent Bridge. Rushcliffe Borough Council wrote to seek comments from the council on its Leadership Model Consultation, explaining that it had to seek comments from all fields of interest and it was agreed to include an item in the next newsletter to get village comment.

Nottinghamshire County Council's Local Improvement Scheme 2010/2011 informed the parish council that the application for Conery Lane improvements to the road surface and surrounding environment had not been accepted for the 2010/2011 scheme. Nottinghamshire County Council wrote seeking comment from the parish council on a possible take over of delivery of some local services currently offered by the County Council and the meeting agreed the clerk seek more information, the parish council being willing to look at taking on at least some of the work involved.

Details of the annual Rushcliffe Borough Council's Small Environmental Improvement Schemes Programme 2010/2011 Parish Planting and Landscaping Scheme were received. Couns. Redford and Dawson were to investigate if there were any needs on the village playing fields. Nottinghamshire County Council was carrying out a severe winter weather survey and the parish council agreed to ask for a supply of grit and salt so that this could be available in the village for spreading on pavements.

Miles King, Midlands Rural Housing, said they were continuing to investigate the affordable housing needs in the parish and were still seeking a possible site to suit both Whatton and Orston. Rushcliffe Borough Council said it had erected dog signs in Whatton in the Vale but the clerk was asked to see if larger ones were available.

Coun. Gregg Redford confirmed he had written to Aon Limited concerning the insurance policy for Whatton and Aslockton Playing Field and had confirmed to the company their intention to change suppliers.

### **9. Environment**

The pavement on Dark Lane, north of Azimghur Road, had become overgrown, causing pedestrians to have to walk on the road. Given the proximity to the junction of Grantham Road and Dark Lane this was highly dangerous. The clerk was asked to write to Notts County Council asking it to deal with the situation as soon as possible.

### **10. Footpaths**

#### **Whatton Footpath FP13**

The chairman reported that Whatton FP13 was severely overgrown and coupled with the narrowness of the right of way was difficult to use. The use of this PROW was further exacerbated by the fact that there were horses both sides of the path who regularly 'crowd' users and because the narrowness of the PROW (four foot approx) it was not possible to get out of the way. As the footpath was 'cross-field' it was the owners' responsibility to maintain the path.

He said he had contacted the Rights of Way team when the fence was first erected expressing concern about the width, but no action had been taken. The law was not definitive about the width of the footpath:

- The width quoted on the definitive map (none quoted in respect of this PROW)
- The width used historically – (as this footpath was never fenced it was difficult to ascertain its historic width)
- Sufficient room for two people to pass without touching.

Coun. Redford said additionally, the Secretary of State's advice on NEW Public Rights of Way was a minimum width of 2 metres. The parish council's original argument in respect of the width of this PROW was that it was too narrow under any of the criteria. It had adopted a 'wait and see' approach, but its fears had been realised in that the use of this PROW was hampered by both its condition and width. It was agreed that the clerk write to Nottinghamshire County Council's Rights of Way team, with a copy to Coun. Martin Suthers and the Chairman of the Rights of Way Committee to make the following points:

1. That the Rights of Way team requests the landowner to clear the PROW and make it passable and if it was not cleared within a reasonable period the County Council undertake the maintenance as a matter of urgency.

2. That the Rights of Way team reexamine the width of the footpath with a view to establishing a minimum width of 2 metres – it could be reasonably argued that that was the minimum ‘historic width’, prior to it being fenced in May 2008 and the parish council remained surprised that the County Council had not taken that view when the fence was first erected.

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

<b>Total expenditure for meeting</b>	<b>£1,107.50</b>	<b>£147.01</b>	<b>£1,254.51</b>
<b>Total expenditure to date in the current financial year</b>	<b>£3,852.57</b>	<b>£300.14</b>	<b>£4,152.51</b>

12. **Date for next meeting** was confirmed for September 6, 2010.

13. **Agenda Items for Next meeting**

Members were invited to suggest further items for discussion at the next parish council meeting and it was agreed the question of village notice boards be an agenda item.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.