

Whatton in the Vale Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday October 4, 2010, at the Jubilee Hall, Whatton in the Vale at 7.30pm

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

Also in attendance: Bobby Stefanov from the clerk's office and Coun. Martin Suthers (Notts County Council). Pc John Neale was present for the first four items.

1. **Apologies** were received from the clerk Mike Elliott, having an important meeting to attend elsewhere, and Coun. Ray Dawson. In the absence of Mike Elliott, Bobby Stefanov took the minutes of the meeting.

2. **Declarations of Interest** There were none.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on September 6, 2010**, were accepted as circulated and signed by the chairman.

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

Pc John Kneale reported on some minor instances of crime in the area. After this item Pc Kneale left the meeting.

5. **Clerk's report**

The clerk had prepared a note reporting on contact he had made with one of the main "wooden" notice boards manufacturers, Harry Stebbing of Thetford in Norfolk, who had advised he could produce a notice board with deep side boards, but had not been convinced it would serve the purpose that the council wanted it for. He could produce a board with doors that would not be lockable. It was pointed out doors do mean of course an obstruction would be created by the door frames down the centre of the poster display area. The cost of a plain no-doors board would be in the region of £400-£500.

A number of catalogues on notice boards were put in the circulation envelope for members to study. The item would be brought up once again at the time when discussions were held on the budget for the 2011/2012 financial year.

Coun. Martin Suther spoke on the finger post which the council had been promised as part of the Local Improvement Scheme 2010/2011 and was to investigate the non delivery of the item. He also suggested the possibility of the parish council making contact with the company that had produced the notice boards which had been offered to parish and town councils in Nottinghamshire as part of the Local Improvement Scheme but the council was not to pursue that option.

6. **Planning Matters**

Planning Applications: There were none.

Rushcliffe Borough Council Decisions

10/01346/FUL Ms C Simey; Stable block; Vicarscroft Farm, Conery Lane. Refuse Permission

7. **Playing Field / Play equipment**

The chairman had nothing to report.

He advised members that the profits from the recently held Gala Day would be to towards a development reserve for future use.

8. **Correspondence**

Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire wrote to invite members to attend its Annual General Meeting on October 6, 2010, at Newstead Village, and the chairman was hoping to attend on behalf of the Whatton and Aslockton Playing Field Committee.

Clement Keys presented an unqualified audit opinion on the 2009/2010 accounts, having no matter to raise. Nottinghamshire County Council wrote in respect of its aim to improve the gully emptying / cleansing service it provides. The council was to submit a list of know areas as follows: at the junction of Conery Lane and Old Grantham Road; at the junction of Main Street and Old Grantham Road; at the junction of Burton Lane and Chapel Walk; at the junction of Church Street and Burton Lane; at the junction of Main Street and Sunbeam Street.

Aslockton Parish Council welcomed the council support for the proposed speed watch joint scheme and said five parishes had expressed an interest in joining forces. A meeting was to be held on October 27 to discuss the details and Coun. Redford said he would attend.

Rushcliffe Borough Council forwarded a consultation letter on the subject of the Nottingham Core Housing Market area Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2010 which listed sites in the village which could be developed. The council had no comments to make on the information outlined.

9. **Environment**

Proposed new bus stop on Dark Lane: Nottinghamshire County Council had proposed to erect a new bus stop and timetable board between 14 and 16 Dark Lane. Complaints about the proposal had been received from two residents on both aesthetic and safety grounds. The chairman had met with the residents in question and Ian Parker and David Watson of Nottinghamshire County Council. An alternative site had been agreed – facing the main gates to the playing field. Both the residents and the County Council representatives were happy with the alternative.

Possible affordable housing site: The chairman had met with Miles King (Midlands Rural Housing), Jason Clarke (Waterloo Housing), Emily Carr (Rushcliffe Planning Officer) and Emily Lawson (Rushcliffe Planning Officer) with a view to identifying possible sites for a small development – four properties – of affordable housing. The following sites had been considered possible:

Site 1 - Orston Lane: A large flat field of pasture land on the north side of Orston Lane. The land is adjacent to, and follows on from, existing ribbon development housing. Orston Lane is a 'no through road' with the adopted road ending with the existing housing and continuing as a bridlepath. Although on the village boundary, this site is close to the old centre of the village.

Site 2 - Azimghur Road: Azimghur Road is a quiet cul de sac consisting of local authority housing, some now privately owned. The site is an old children's playground at the rear of a garage block at the head of the cul de sac and is approximately 0.68 acre. The southern edge of the site fronts onto Old Grantham Road. It was believed to be owned by Rushcliffe Borough Council. The site falls into flood zone 2 or 3.

Site 3 - Old Grantham Road: This site is an area of overgrown, derelict farmland immediately inside the village boundary on the north side of Old Grantham Road and running behind the residential developments on Azimghur Road and Cottage Avenue. It appears to be a level site. Access is available through an existing field entrance off Old Grantham Road, just inside the 30mph speed limit.

Site 4 – Dark Lane: This site is land containing an old agricultural shed, on the south side of Dark Lane, immediately after the existing ribbon development housing and prior to a large arable field. Access is from Conery Lane into Dark Lane which becomes a 'footpath only' beyond the existing housing and is blocked off to vehicles further along at an old bridge crossing the river.

Damage to Gas Metering Device – Whatton Bridge, Old Grantham Road: The council has made numerous complaints in respect of that piece of equipment to Central Networks, now believed not to be responsible. In every case some temporary repair had been made which lasted for weeks at best. The cover had been broken again and it was proposed to make contact with British Gas suggesting that it should replace the existing cover with something more substantial.

Ivy Row Green Fence and various benches: The fence around the Green on Ivy Row was in need of small repairs in places, wooden slats were believed to be loose, and also in need of repainting. Additionally the benches on the green, by the bus shelter and on the corner of Dark Lane and Old Grantham Road were all in need of repainting, both the frame and the seats. Clearly, it was the wrong time of the year to undertake the work now. It was proposed that the clerk should seek quotations for the work so that the costs (if appropriate) could be included in the budget and precept for 2011/2012 with a view to undertaking the work in the Spring of 2011.

Coun. Suthers reported on signs that had been erected in Aslockton by Network Rail which he had felt to be totally inappropriate and had taken action to have them taken down.

10. Footpaths

The chairman reported that he was yet to finish work on the survey of the parish footpaths he had mentioned at the previous meeting but was nearing completion. He would circulate it to all members in time to discuss at the next parish council meeting.

Coun. Mrs Key reported on the bad condition of the pavement on Green Walk which she said was overgrown, covered with moss and in urgent need of improvement to avoid any injuries to pedestrians and the clerk was asked to advise Nottinghamshire County Council.

Coun. Suthers reported on an improved system of the customer services at Nottinghamshire County Council dealing with highways. He also spoke on the issue of footpath no. 13 and he had been in contact to chase a reply in connection to the issue of the width of the path but was yet able to report any progress.

It was reported that there was an overgrown hedge on the east side of Old Grantham Road, close to the junction with A52, which was encroaching onto the pavement. The clerk was asked to bring the matter to the attention of Nottinghamshire County Council.

Coun. Suthers left the meeting at this point.

The chairman reported he had been unable to obtain a copy of the Definitive Map.

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

Total expenditure for meeting	£834.84	£120.76	£955.60
Total expenditure to date in the current financial year	£5,931.01	£615.16	£6,545.97

12. **Date for next meeting** was confirmed for November 15, 2010.

13. **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 8.44pm.