

AYNHO PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 4th February 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present Chair – Colin Macklin
Councillors – Parkes, Belcher, Hoddinott, James, Mann, Burge and Anderson

In Attendance: Sadie Patamia (Clerk), Amby Hithcox (RFO) and 1 member of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Brook

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hoddinott stated he was a neighbour of the applicant of S/2013/0072/FUL and as such signed the declarations of interest book.

3. Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 3rd December 2012 and 15th January 2013.

It was proposed by Cllr Parkes, seconded by Cllr James and therefore agreed that the minutes of the meeting held 3rd December 2012 should be signed.

It was proposed by Cllr Hoddinott, seconded by Cllr Belcher and therefore agreed that the minutes of the meeting held 15th January 2013 should be signed.

4. Matters arising not on the Agenda

The Clerk reported that she had contacted SNC re. the tree at the end of Portway. She has not yet had a response.

Action – Clerk to monitor and follow-up if required

She confirmed she had sent a letter re. the sewage and so far had a response stating that they would be in touch after 31st January. So far no further communication had been received.

Action – Clerk to monitor and follow-up before the next meeting

The Clerk confirmed she had ordered both a new notice board and two replacement lanterns for street lights in the village and that Cllr Parkes had been put in touch with the individual carrying out the Duke of Edinburgh award.

5. Finance, including precept

The Chair formally introduced Roger Wertheimer who will be taking over as RFO in April. He will work alongside the current RFO to the end of the financial year.

The Chair stated that the current RFO has been an invaluable member of the team and has carried out outstanding work. It is with regret that her resignation has been accepted.

It was proposed by Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Hoddinott that the cheques listed on the attached financial report should be agreed and signed (AH/01/13).

The Chair stated that correspondence had been received re. the precept. This states that there is an option to also have a grant of £561.68 although this may not be available in the future. It was agreed to keep the precept at the agreed 5% increase and take the grant.

Action – Clerk to report the agreed action to SNC

6. Risk

There has been nothing reported.

The steps have at the bottom of Skittle Alley have been destroyed, likely by the dustbin lorry. This has been reported and will be repaired in due course.

7. Roads and highways

The Chair stated that the PC had been contacted re. Speedwatch as discussed at the meeting in January. At that time a charge of £450 had been quoted. However, the Clerk has been informed that this charge has now been removed.

The Chair asked if people thought we should re-enter the programme now the charge has been withdrawn. It was felt by some that the project was a waste of time. However, it was felt that if the village re-entered Speedwatch it should be with police backing rather than as the current scheme. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Evenley and Croughton and enquire as to the cost of their speed signs. It was also agreed that at this stage the village would re-enter the Speedwatch programme.

Action – Clerk to write to Evenley and Croughton and enquire as to the cost of their speed signs
Action – based upon the cost of speed signs APC will make a decision on whether to invest in a Speed Sign that would be rotated around the village so that village areas that are impacted by speeding traffic would be covered on a rotational basis

Action – Clerk to confirm with Northants Police that Aynho are interested in rejoining Speedwatch

Cllr Parkes stated that the Ambulance Service assisted with getting cars moving during the recent snow. It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent.

Action – Clerk to send letter of thanks to Ambulance Service

8. Parking

The Chair confirmed that a new person was needed to champion the Parking Group. Cllr Hoddinott hopes to be able to do this but will let us know.

The RFO stated she did not yet have a quote for the vinyl stickers to demark resident's cars but would forward it to the Clerk ASAP.

Action – RFO to forward quote to Clerk

The Chair stated he had spoken to Gez Shillito of Northants Police and he has agreed to come to the village to look at the situation.

Cllr Parkes confirmed that to have dragons teeth put around the entrance of the Glebe would cost approximately £625 (£25 per post).

The Council discussed a series of initiatives that could be taken to improve the poor condition of the verges at the entrance to The Glebe that are dangerous and unsightly. A number of enquiries will be undertaken to investigate how a cost-effective remedy could be implemented. Progress will be reported to the next APC meeting

Cllr Mann stated that although The Glebe was important from an aesthetic point of view, the Charlton Road is in fact dangerous. The Chair stated that the police have stated they will deal with dangerously parked cars and that 111 should be called and cars reported. Cllr Anderson stated that there is a formal application in for double yellow lines in this area.

9. Planning

S/2013/0072/FUL, Single Storey rear extension, The Old School House, Butts Close, Aynho

It was decided after hearing Cllr Burge's report that this will be supported in full.

S/2013/0073/LBC, Replacement Front Door, 12 The Square, Aynho

It was decided after hearing Cllr Burge's report that this will be reported in full.

The Clerk stated that she had been copied in on correspondence re. Station Yard. It seems the fence has been erected in the wrong place and the enforcement officer is currently looking into it.

The enforcement officer is also investigating the sign at the end of Portway.

10. Recreational Matters – to include Playground

The Clerk apologised and stated that tennis court maintenance and Jubilee plans should not be on the agenda.

Cllr Burge reported that she was slightly behind schedule in submitting Grant Applications for the Playground as she has been required by the granting authorities to get a third quote for a timber scheme. She will be meeting the people that have quoted next week. She stated that she has received a report from the Funding Doctor who have recommended some alternative sources of funding. Cllr Burge has also written to various local companies asking for support.

11. Farming and footpaths

The Clerk reported she had received a footpath report and all seemed well, but understandably muddy.

12. Village Plan 2014 - 2019

The Chair stated that due to changes in the structure of village plans it was no longer possible to carry out our own plan that would be recognised formally in Planning Terms. Official guidance was needed which will cost approximately £20,000. However the Parish Council could initiate the launch of a Village Questionnaire which on completion could then inform the planning recommendations that APC would make to SNC and other matter to NCC and other government authorities.

The Chair asked whether a new survey should be carried out? It was agreed that the previous questionnaire should be circulated so that further questions could be looked at. The Chair pointed out that the survey is a very big job and that a considerable amount of input from volunteers is needed. It is important to bear this in mind when deciding whether to do a new survey or not.

Action – Clerk to e mail previous survey and counsellors should come armed with any new questions.

Cllr Anderson stated that there will be an Aynho Community Weekend in October.

13. Maintenance, village spring clean date and trees

Cllr Parkes stated that he was still in discussion with eon re. Streetlight 11 and the intensity of the lantern. A more traditional fitting has been quoted at £800+.

Eon have stated that they cannot put a lantern of lower intensity into the fitting currently. Cllr Parkes is getting the lantern moved to mitigate the light shining into the houses. He is also in discussion about the costs of getting a dimmer and more traditional fitting. The Clerk confirmed she has had several complaints about the intensity of the light.

It was suggested that the Clerk investigate whether there are any grants available for replacing street lights.

Action – Clerk to investigate whether there are any grants available for replacing street lights.

Cllr Parkes stated that there were various jobs outstanding due to the weather. He also requested any jobs that need doing for the Parish Enhancement Gang. It was requested that the gates into the village should be painted.

The Clerk reported that it had been requested that the village spring clean take place in April this year due to various village events. A date of 6th April was chosen. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact SNC again to obtain their equipment and support as this had been very successful in the Autumn.

*Action – Clerk to use SNC equipment for Village Spring Clean
Action – Clerk to advertise Village Spring Clean date.*

14. Neighbourhood Return

It was reported that a new scheme was going live. Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network has received funding from the National Lottery to run a scheme in Northamptonshire which aims to help carers and people with dementia who have got lost. We are fore-runners with this project which is being heavily evaluated by the lottery to see if it could be rolled out nationally, so keen not to let the county down, we are determined to try and make it work as effectively as possible, and need your help. The scheme involves local volunteers with a mobile phone signing up to the Neighbourhood Return. This is how it works.

Carers of people with memory problems, who have gone missing, phone into a central call centre. The call centre sends out a request to all volunteers in the immediate area to see if they are available. If they aren't they just text back no, and if they are, they get sent a photograph and description and directions of where to search. They keep in touch with the call centre to report progress and get further instructions. Volunteers can join or leave a search at any time, they just need to let the call centre know. Maximum time for any search is 2.5 hours after which the police take over.

The piloting has shown that we need 10 people on average to be registered to have four available to search. The idea is therefore to sign up as many people as possible in every area so that some people are always available. It is very important in rural areas across the county as well as in towns, possibly more so because there are less people. We need to ensure carers and people with dementia have support wherever they live.

Action – It was agreed that this information should be sent to the societies within the village, into the newsletter and on the website.

15. Village networks event

The Clerk stated that the Village Network would be holding an event in Aynho on 27th February where villagers could drop in to hear about benefits, reducing household bills etc.

16. Communications to include newsletter

It was agreed that there was no real need for a Parish Council newsletter but that the digital media should be looked at. It was agreed to invite Lawrence Wilkinson to the next meeting.

*Action – Lawrence to be invited to next meeting
Action – Clerk to investigate at social media*

17. Fibre optic broadband

The Chair reported that fibre optic broadband was being rolled out in various locations surrounding Aynho. The Chair stated that people need to sign up to BT to request it. The soonest this could be done would be 2015. It was agreed that this would be put into the newsletter.

Action – Clerk to put fibre optic broadband into newsletter

18. Meetings and conferences, including annual village meeting

The Chair confirmed the Ward Meeting had taken place in January.

The village meeting will take place on 29th April 2013. It was agreed that the main theme of the village meeting this year would be similar to last year. The societies will be invited to update the village on what they have been up to this year.

19. Correspondence

This month the following correspondence has been received –

- Information re. benefit reform from SN Homes

- A letter re. sandbags
- Clerks and Councils Direct

20. Any Other Business (at the Discretion of the Chair)

The Clerk stated that SNC had asked if the council would like someone to come and speak about the new recycling system. It was not felt this was necessary.

Cllr Anderson stated that there were two dates coming up of interest. 9th March – ASRA quiz in Village Hall with curry
22nd and 23rd March – ACT cabaret night.

21. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 4th March 2013

This was agreed.

The meeting closed at 21.30