

AYNHO PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 7th April 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Chair – Stephen Brook

Councillors – Hoddinott, Anderson, Shuckburgh, Leighton, Shuckburgh, James, Belcher and Burge

In Attendance: Sadie Patamia (Clerk), and 0 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mann, Roger Wertheimer (RFO)

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

3. Minutes of the Council Meetings held on Monday 3rd March 2014 and Tuesday 18th March 2014

It was proposed by Cllr Burge, seconded by Cllr James and therefore agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2014 should be signed.

It was proposed by Cllr Burge, seconded by Cllr Shuckburgh and therefore agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2014 should be signed.

4. Matters arising not on the Agenda

The Clerk stated she had received confirmation of the location of the steps in Station Yard and had sent this information to Network Rail.

The Clerk enquired whether Cllr Belcher had chased up the work requested of Mr Masey (weed killing and to sort out the Dragon's Teeth on the green, removal of bush) Cllr Belcher has spoken to him but the work has not yet been done. Cllr Belcher will prompt him again.

Action – Cllr Belcher

Cllr James has met with Colin Wicks of MGWSP to discuss Green Lane. He reported that Mr Wicks apologised for the lack of notice given on the closure and stated he thought our footpaths warden would have been told.

The reason for the closure is not the part of the Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) at the Aynho end, but down at the Kings Sutton end. It is very badly disrupted and should have been repaired last summer, but wasn't. It is closed for H & S reasons, so the NCC is not liable for injuries etc. Enforcement is up to the Police. Horse owners would get 'advice' but vehicle drivers or riders would get a traffic ticket. All vehicles using the BOAT must be taxed & insured & driven by a licensed driver, just as on a normal road.

They can only close the byway in between the gates, so the whole of the BOAT is shut, even though the bit in Aynho Parish is OK. The work will be started in the next few weeks, and the closure will be extended to cover that work. The minimum time for closure is 6 months, though they could lift the closure if the work was finished and the ground had recovered. They would prefer to leave it closed all summer, and then during the next gate locking period (October to March) so the surface could recover well. This would probably suit us, as it would prevent travellers etc this summer. The gate locking is done by NCC, and they have a key, and so does the land owner.

The reality is that people can walk along it, but if they sustain an injury to themselves, or their horse, the NCC is not liable.

It was agreed that this would be updated in the newsletter

Action – Clerk

The Clerk confirmed she had spoken to Highways re. the bollards by College Fields. She stated that she had been told the square bollards at the original island would be replaced eventually as all bollards of this type would be for the flat type that can be hit by cars. The ones at the entrance of this village are these type and Highways feel that as they have not been hit they are adequate.

Cllr James stated he had spoke to Colin Wicks of MGSWP about the fact there were no arrows at the junction with Croughton to indicate what side of the road cars should be on. Mr Wicks suggested APC spoke to Highways about this.

Action – Clerk to discuss arrows on road with Highways

The Clerk confirmed she had sent in the Parish Enhancement Gang request. The Chair asked that the Clerk checked to see when they were coming.

Action – Clerk to ask for information as to when the PEG would be in the village

5. Finance

It was proposed by Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Belcher and therefore agreed that the cheques listed on the attached report (RW/04/14) should be approved and signed.

The Chair stated an error had been made in setting the precept and that the consequence was that it had been raised by 8% rather than the 5% agreed. The Chair proposed that this ought to be taken into account when the precept is set next year. For a band D property the extra increase is £1.87.

The Clerk stated she had began to obtain insurance quotes.

It was reported that the Biodiversity group do not have a bank account. It was agreed that the cheque would be changed to be payable to the Clerk and that she would withdraw cash to give to the Biodiversity group.

6. Planning –

S/2014/0420/FUL, Change of use from agricultural to industrial/storage, Wensden Charlton Road Aynho

Standing orders were suspended so Cllr Anderson could speak.

He stated he was concerned that the businesses on the site are expanding. He also stated he had not received any information on the application despite being on the consultee list and being the closest property to the site.

It was agreed that the following response would be sent –

APC object to this application for the following reasons:

- The application states that there is a change of use - but does not specify how the building is to be used - or indeed if it is to be sublet. Approval would in effect be a 'blank cheque'
- Whilst APC have, in principal no objections to the building being used for storage the lack of information about what will be stored there and the consequential vehicular movements is a concern. There is no indication of the additional traffic movements which would generated. APC are concerned by the increased traffic this conversion would cause to the site and through the village - roads which are in any case unsuitable for regular movement of large vehicles.
- Existing vehicle movements to Wensden Building already regularly fail to comply with existing planning conditions and there is also a history of non-compliance of conditions on this site.
- This is potentially the last agricultural building in Aynho
- APC recommends refusal of the current application until more information on intended use and vehicle movements are known.

If SNC is minded to approve the application strict vehicle movements in terms of numbers, size, quantity and hours of operation must be imposed as a condition of use. Additionally a condition of use should be that there is no roadside signage permitted.

In addition APC would like to comment that the list of consultees for this application is very unusual in that it includes addresses a considerable distance from the site, leaves out the site's closest neighbours and contains several addresses in Aynho that do not actually exist. In addition several people on the consultee list have not received any information on the application.

Standing orders were resumed.

Cllr Shuckburgh stated he noted that there were flats for long term rent in Aynhoe Park House being advertised in the press.

It was stated that the fields in front of Aynhoe Park House had been purchased by Mr Perkins.

7. Risk and risk assessment

Cllr Burge stated that several people have commented on the raised footpath. It was agreed that a meeting should be set up as it needs to be repaired sympathetically.

Action – Clerk to set up meeting to discuss footpath

8. Parking, Highways and Transport

Cllr Hoddinott stated most of the work at School End had been completed.

It was reported that the yellow lines had been approved by NCC and they would be going ahead soon.

Cllr Hoddinott suggested that the road should be repaired before this is done.

Action – Clerk to speak to Jim Whiting to suggest the road edges are repaired before this is done.

9. Maintenance, to include discussion re. Parish Enhancement Gang

Cllr Shuckburgh stated he had received a request to have a street light put in the Station Road. It is not known whether there is electricity here. The Clerk stated she could research solar lights but the area is quite shaded.

Standing orders were suspended to allow a member of the public to speak.

The member of the public stated she was happy to have poles for a new street light in her garden on Little Lane.

Standing orders were resumed.

The Clerk stated she had spoken to a member of the public who had spoken to her about the streetlight attached to their property. It was agreed that the Clerk would speak to eon to discuss possible solutions.

Action – Clerk to discuss streetlight with eon

Standing orders were suspended

The member of the public commented on the smell in The Square. It was stated that Thames Water were responsible for this and it has been complained about before. It was agreed that the issue would be revisited.

Action – Clerk to speak to Thames Water re. issues in The Square

The member of the public stated they had worked very hard to rectify an issue with sewage in a garden in the village that was still ongoing.

10. Recreational Matters – to include Playground, sports field and A.S.R.A

Cllr Burge stated work had started on the playground and will hopefully be completed by the end of June.

Cllr Anderson stated that the dog waste bin on the playing field was not being used and was better placed elsewhere. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask AH Contracts for prices to move the bin.

Action – Clerk to discuss moving the dog waste bin with AH Contracts

11. Farming and Footpaths

Cllr Belcher stated that people were moving the stone under the stile which he had put there to stop his lambs escaping. It was agreed that a note would be put in the newsletter stating that if people do move the stone to allow their dogs under the stile could they please replace it.

Action – Clerk - Note to go in newsletter re. stone under the wooden stile

12. Village Plan 2014 – 2019, to include provisional survey results and Annual Village Meeting

The Chair stated he had written a draft of his report for the Annual Village Report. It was agreed that this needed some fine tuning but was otherwise fine.

The Chair stated about 60% of the village had returned their survey.

The Agenda for the Annual Village Meeting was agreed.

13. Village Hall meeting

The Clerk stated that it was Cllr Shuckburgh's turn to attend the Village Hall meeting according to the Rota.

14. Communications

Cllr Leighton stated he has not yet met with Lawrence Wilkinson. The Clerk stated she knew he was currently away.

Cllr Leighton has continued his research into websites and provided potential costs for various companies.

It was agreed that councillors should look at other Parish Websites.

Action – All members

It was agreed that the following items should go into the newsletter.

- Info re. stone under wooden stile
- Date of the village meeting
- Thanks for little pick

15. Meetings and Conferences, to include agenda for Annual Village Meeting

The agenda for the Annual Village Meeting was agreed.

16. Correspondence

The following has been received.

- NCALC E update

17. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

18. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 12th May 2014

This was agreed.

The meeting closed at 21.36.