

# AYNHO PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall**

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

In Attendance: Sadie Patamia (Clerk), Amby Hithcox (RFO) and Roger Wertheimer and 2 members of the public.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Belcher who is lambing.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There was no planning on the agenda and therefore no declarations of interest

### **3. Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013.**

It was proposed by Cllr Anderson, seconded by Cllr James and therefore agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013 should be signed.

### **4. Matters arising not on the Agenda**

The Clerk confirmed the new noticeboard had been ordered and was now in place.

She has chased up both SNC re. the tree at the end of Portway and Thames Water re. the catchment study. Neither have responded.

*Action – Clerk to follow-up both of these issues with the appropriate authorities*

The Clerk confirmed she had informed SNC of APC's desire to take up the grant discussed along with the precept.

She confirmed that Croughton and Evenley had forwarded her the cost of their interactive speed signs and she had forwarded these to the Council.

She has also informed Northants Police that Aynho would like to join the revamped Speedwatch and has sent a letter of thanks to the Ambulance service as requested.

The Clerk confirmed she had emailed the last village survey to Parish Councillors and this will be discussed in item 12

She stated she had not yet investigated whether grants were available for the replacement of Streetlights but would do so by the April APC meeting

*Action – Clerk to investigate whether grants were available for the replacement of Streetlights*

The Clerk confirmed the information re. Neighbourhood return had been distributed.

She confirmed she had set up an APC Twitter and Facebook account. This will be discussed in item 14. She has also invited Lawrence to the meeting.

The Clerk stated she had put information about fibre optic Broadband into the newsletter

*The Chair suspended standing orders to hear from a member of the public.*

The member of the public stated he was from Roundtown and that all residents had received a letter from Freedom Group, working on behalf of Western Power Distribution stating that work would be done in the near future to put powerline underground. This is of concern as the PC has not been informed or

consulted. Residents and the PC are concerned re. the work being done as it is in the conservation area. The residents have additional concerns re. parking during this time.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to both companies expressing these concerns.

*Action – Clerk to write to WPD and Freedom stating the village is a conservation area, the PC needs to be sure the parking is not affected and that surfaces are replaced to the same standard.*

The Chair confirmed he had spoken to Graham Gibbs on behalf of the Church and Anna MacGregor of Aynhoe House who are both willing to help out if parking is affected by the work.

It was also agreed to discuss the website at this point to allow Lawrence Wilkinson to speak.

Lawrence reiterated his role in the website. The Chair asked if there was any way of knowing how many people were visiting or from where. Lawrence stated there wasn't. The Chair thanked Lawrence on his work.

Cllr Parkes commented that there was a great deal of old items on the website that cluttered up the website. Lawrence agreed that this did sometimes happen. Lawrence suggested that someone ought to go through the site and say what should and should not be on there. The Clerk stated she would do this. She would also ask the societies to look at their sections to see what should not be on it. It was agreed that the village website would benefit from a makeover. It was agreed to investigate if there were any professional web designers who were resident in the village who might be prepared to build such an update.

*Action – Clerk to look at website and highlight out of date items  
Action - Clerk to put request for web designers in newsletter*

*Standing orders were resumed.*

## **5. Finance, including donations**

The RFO stated that she had received information from HMRC to go to a workshop in Northampton about the PAYE software. This was passed to Roger Wertheimer, as the new RFO, to action.

She also reported that the Aynho Village Hall Committee had written to the RFO stating that the charges would be rising. This year they also intend to charge for the use of the hall for Maytime in the Square. Cllr Anderson stated he felt both the rise and the charge for Maytime in the Square were unacceptable.

The overall price increases represents between 14 and 20% increase. It seems the last price increase was in 2009 which equates to roughly a 3.5% increase per annum.

It was agreed that the price rise seems ok but it should be pointed out that the PC took on the Post Office charge at £260 per annum but that it was not appropriate to charge for Maytime in the Square or the Church Fete. It was also agreed to request if APC could see the Village Hall accounts.

*Action – Clerk to write to Village Hall committee re. price increases and request for Account Transparency*

The RFO stated that the signature on the bank account needed to be updated due to the RFO leaving.

The RFO confirmed that we were on target to end the financial year on budget.

It was proposed by Cllr Brook and seconded by Cllr Hoddinott that the cheques listed on the attached financial report should be agreed and signed (AH/02/13).

The donations listed on the report were also discussed and approved.

The RFO stated she had put in the VAT reclaim and that it amounted to £766.26.

The Chair wished to extend the thanks of the Council to the retiring RFO for her hard work and dedication.

## **6. Risk**

The RFO stated she had been informed about the garden wall coming down outside Catton House and 6 The Square, which had been reported to the managing agents.

## **7. Grass cutting tender**

The Clerk reported it was time to put the grass cutting out to tender. It was agreed that the same posters would be used as previously and a decision will be made at the April meeting.

## **8. Roads and highways to include street lights and vehicular access to properties**

Cllr Parkes confirmed the works to streetlight 11 were ongoing and that two more lanterns were being replaced due to the mercury vapour lanterns becoming obsolete. He stated that to have any lights replaced with more aesthetically pleasing fixtures fitted to houses was a great deal of money. It was agreed that the priority for the next few years should be on replacing the free standing streetlights.

Cllr Mann stated that a villager was suffering from large lorries travelling down very small lanes towards his house due to SatNavs directing them incorrectly. The villager is himself, attempting to improve the signage to prevent this from happening. Cllr Brook stated that the villager could contact the SatNav companies. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Helen Howard stating that a sign ought to be put at Millers Lane stating the road was unsuitable for heavy vehicles.

*Action - Clerk to write to Helen Howard stating that a sign ought to be put at Millers Lane stating the road was unsuitable for heavy vehicles*

## **9. Parking**

It was reported that several of the newly installed dragon's teeth which had been erected at the bottom of the Glebe had been stolen at some point between Thursday night and Friday morning while the concrete was still wet. This has been reported to the police.

It was agreed that the posts should be replaced once the police confirm the course of their enquiries.

It was agreed that Cllr Hoddinott would become involved in looking at costings for improving the condition of the grass area in The Glebe and on the green in front of the Cartwright Hotel.

## **10. Recreational Matters — to include Playground, sports field and A.S.R.A**

Cllr Burge stated that more donations had come in towards the Playground. She confirmed that she had received the third quote that she needs for the Viridor grant application.

## **11. Farming and footpaths**

There was nothing to report on this matter.

The History Society has asked if we would like to do a history walk again this year. It was agreed that this would be a good idea in September.

## **12. Village Plan 2014 - 2019**

The Chair suggested the survey should be sent out again and having additional questions surrounding the level of support for parking investment to solve the current parking capacity issues in congested parts of the village and to ascertain the village's attitude to determining the future shape and size of the village.

Cllr Anderson felt asking about parking was a difficult and that the question would need to be carefully worded. Cllr Brook suggested asking a couple of specific questions on specific areas.

The Chair asked how the survey should be moved forward. It was suggested that it was discussed at the AVM and that prior to this it should be advertised via the newsletter and website.

### **13. Maintenance**

Cllr Parkes stated that he had received confirmation from Helen Howard that she is going to put a new footpath between properties on Roundtown and the main road.

As Roundtown overflow car parking is regularly using the layby on Station Road, it was agreed to investigate the provision of a solar light to increase safety and security in that area. It was agreed that Cllr Parkes would get a quote for this, prior to opening discussions with the owners of College Farm and others on the issue.

Cllr Anderson asked what work was planned on the Charlton Road? Cllr Brook thought it may be to do with the water meters being installed. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Anglia Water to find out.

*Action – Clerk to write to Anglian Water to enquire what work is going on on the Charlton Road*

### **14. Communications to include website**

There was nothing more to add to this item.

### **15. Meetings and conferences, including annual village meeting**

The Clerk stated that it was necessary for someone to represent the Council at the village hall meetings. Cllr Parkes has done so for some time. It was agreed that a rota of Parish Councillors who would attend would drawn up.

*Action – Clerk to draw up a rota for Village Hall Committee attendance*

Cllr Brook stated he would be able to print the Village Report in April.

### **16. Correspondence**

This month the following correspondence has been received –

- Email from a mole catcher advertising his services
- The training programme from NCALC
- Clerks and Councils Direct

### **17. Any Other Business (at the Discretion of the Chair)**

Cllr Anderson reminded everyone that the Village Clean up is taking place on 6<sup>th</sup> April.

Cllr Burge asked what was happening with the tree branches on the lower green. Cllr Parkes confirmed that it was being dealt with.

### **18. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

This was agreed.

The meeting closed at 21.44