

AYNHO PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 4th April 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), Roger Wertheimer (RFO) and 0 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Belcher and Brook.

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 4th March 2013.

It was proposed by Cllr Mann, seconded by Cllr James and therefore agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2013 should be signed.

The Clerk stated she had omitted the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 19th March from the agenda. It was agreed that this would be approved next month.

4. Matters arising not on the Agenda

The Clerk reported she had heard from Thames Water who had stated they would not be carrying out the local sewer/waste water network study. It was agreed that we should monitor the situation.

She also stated she was finally getting somewhere with the large tree at the bottom of Portway. It may be NCC'S responsibility and as soon as confirmation is received it will be forwarded.

She stated that she had so far not found any grants available for the replacement of streetlights but would continue to investigate this.

The Clerk stated that she had written to WPD and Freedom as requested and passed on their replies. Cllr Brook attended a meeting

The Clerk stated she had put a request for web designers in the village to look at the website but as of yet nobody had come forward. She has not yet reviewed the website but will do so this week.

Action – Clerk to look at website and highlight out of date items

She stated she had written to the Village Hall Committee as requested but this would be discussed in item 13, as would the request for her to draw up a rota of attendance.

The Clerk stated she had written to Helen Howard re. a sign at Miller's Lane and had forwarded the response which was that NCC could not help. As Millers lane is a private road the affected residents should put up their own sign advising the lane was not suitable for heavy vehicles. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the residents to advise this. Cllr Mann to follow this through.

She stated she had written to Anglian Water to find out what work was being carried out on the Charlton Road. They have replied that they did not have anything ongoing or recent in the village.

5. Finance

It was proposed by Cllr Anderson and seconded by Cllr James that the cheques listed on the attached financial report should be agreed and signed (RW/03/13).

The internal audit is due soon and the RFO will tell us the date in due course.

6. Village Hall rent to Mrs Cartwright Hignett

The Clerk stated that the peppercorn rent on the Village Hall was payable in June to cover the next 5-years. This amounts to five guineas which is £5.25. This will be paid next month.

7. Risk and risk assessment

It was reported that 6 The Square had a dangerous wall that has partially fallen. This has been reported to SNC but nothing has been done.

Action: Clerk to follow-up with SNC Building Services to ensure action to mitigate this severe risk

The Clerk reported that each counsellor should walk the area they are responsible and send a report back to the RFO by next month so the risk assessment could be updated.

Action - counsellors to walk the area they are responsible and send a report back to the RFO by next month

13. Village Hall Committee

This item was moved up the agenda

The Chair stated that he had met with the Char of the Village Hall Committee. The PC are the custodians of the Charity that had been set-up in 1993 to finance the redevelopment of the Village Hall. As the Custodian Trustee APC must attend the monthly Village Hall committee meetings and be constantly aware of any financial or operational risks that need to be managed. It was agreed that once a year copies of the accounts are sent to the PC. It was also agreed that the details of the insurance policy would be requested to ensure that the Hall and its contents is adequately covered.

Following receipt of the letter that APC sent to the Village Hall Committee asking for financial transparency, APCs request was wrongly translated as a criticism of the Committee and particularly the Treasure. After a number of follow-up sessions the APC has assured the Village Hall Committee and its Treasurer that no criticism either direct or applied was intended and that APC held the work of the Committee and the Treasure in high esteem. Both parties have agreed to work together to establish a "smarter" communication regime between the parties

It was agreed that the rota would be drawn up to allow each counsellor to go along to the meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Anderson would attend the next meeting.

It was also agreed that Village Hall Committee was to be a permanent item on the PC agenda. It was also agreed that a copy of the minutes for each meeting were sent to the Clerk. Similarly any written account reports that are produced.

Action – Village Hall Committee to be a permanent item on the agenda

8. Grass cutting tender

The Clerk reported she had received 2 tenders. These were opened.

It was agreed Cllr Parkes should speak to both tenders to establish what is included in each of the bids and to ensure that the resultant services and standards would be identical and that we should ask Mr Dempsey if the Sports Field cut is now half price as he cuts the cricket field separately. It was also agreed that Edge to Edge would be asked for references.

9. Highways and Transport, to include street lights

Cllr Parkes reported that two lanterns had been replaced. One of these lanterns was supposed to be put on 1 Little Lane. Cllr Parkes has spoken to eon and was told it was not suitable to be done.

Cllr Parkes has met with DW Windsor to discuss changing maintenance suppliers. They could not match eon on the prices, however, we could employ someone else to fit lights if APC bought them ourselves.

He also reported that the bollards on the Croughton turn have been reported as being down. It was agreed that if the various bollards are not repaired a formal letter would be written.

10. Parking, to include Aynho resident stickers

Cllr Hoddinott reported that the residents of The Glebe had been written to advising them of APC's plans to help alleviate the parking issues in that road. APC has been forced to develop a remedial plan as no other entity such as NCC and SNC had funding to rectify the current totally unacceptable condition of the verges. 6 people have contacted Cllr Hoddinott to offer their help in executing a self-help improvement scheme. There has been an offer that an individual is happy to collect donations for trees instead of the dragons teeth.

He stated that 'Perfo' had been costed as follows -

180m squared will be £2535 exclusive of VAT and delivered. However, if you order 200m squared of it is £2795.

A roller would be needed which would cost £150 to hire for the weekend plus fuel.

An alternative lightweight product that might be used as the basis of the remedy would cost up to £1000 less.

It was agreed that Cllr Hoddinott would order some of the alternative for his own use and see what it is like. Cllr Anderson suggested asking the companies for a sample.

Action - that Cllr Hoddinott to order some of the alternative for his own use and see what it is like.

The Clerk showed the proofs of the stickers that had been proposed for Aynho residents. She reported they would be light orange (apricot) in colour and cost approximately 80p each. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask for a quote for about half the size with no wording.

Action - Clerk to ask for a quote for about half the size with no wording

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

Cllr Burge reported that the grant should be complete and submitted by 25th May. It was agreed that Cllr Burge should send the grant to the Chair to review.

Cllr Anderson stated that foxes had got into the binbags left for SNC to collect after the litter pick on Saturday. It seems that maybe a skip is needed after all.

12. Farming and Footpaths, to include noise pollution from bird scarers

Cllr Anderson reported that the bird scarers are incredibly loud and waking people up. It was suggested that the Clerk should enquire whether the scarers could be set off later and maybe turned a different direction. It was also suggested she asked how long they would be in action for so villagers could be told.

Action – Clerk to enquire how long the scarers will be used for and whether they could be set off later and maybe turned a different direction.

14. History walk

The Clerk reported that the History Society were keen to go ahead with a History Walk. This will be in September and a date will be finalised next month.

Volunteers will be needed to help guide the walkers.

15. Village Plan 2014 – 2019

It was agreed this would be the main theme of the Annual Village Meeting on 29th April.

16. Maintenance

Cllr Parkes reported that there was a great deal ongoing currently but due to weather conditions there was a fair amount outstanding.

17. Communications

It was agreed that dog fouling should be mentioned yet again in the newsletter. It was agreed that a concerted effort ought to be made to try to tackle dog fouling in the village.

18. Meetings and Conferences, including annual village meeting

The agenda of the AVM was agreed.

19. Correspondence

The Clerk has received the following correspondence – Clerks and Councils Direct, LCR Review, a letter of thanks from the CAB for our donation, info re. the new homes bonus consultation (which has been previously circulated by e mail), which will be discussed on the next agenda and some tourism leaflets from SNC.

Two consultations on the future of Local Authority Financing have been received. The Chair will formulate responses to each of the papers to highlight concerns identified by APC and to make recommendations to mitigate these.

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

It was reported that a wall on Charlton Road was down. The Clerk was requested to enquire who's it is.

Action – Clerk to find out who owns the damaged wall on Charlton Road

It was reported that the Winter Lunch Club had just come to an end. The Clerk will write to thank those involved in running it.

Action – Clerk to write to thank those involved in running the Winter Lunch Club

The Clerk stated she would be moving from the village in May. It was agreed that bills should be redirected to the RFO's house but circulars would continue to come to the Clerk's new address.

Action – Clerk to arrange for bills to be redirected to the RFO's house

The Chair asked that thanks to the volunteers from Saturday's litter pick should be put into the newsletter.

Action – Clerk to thank volunteers from litter pick in newsletter

Cllr Mann stated that APC should define what the PC's attitude towards development within the village. Chair said this was a good idea and that anyone with views should email him. Cllr Anderson would like to have planning law updates explained to him. It was agreed that Cllr Townsend would be asked to cover this at the AVM

Action - Cllr Townsend TO be asked to cover new planning laws at the AVM

21. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 13th May 2013

This was agreed.

The meeting closed at 10.05