

AYNHO PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd November 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Chair – Stephen Brook
Councillors –Leighton, James, Mann, and Maddocks-Born

In Attendance: Sadie Patamia (Clerk), Roger Wertheimer (RFO)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Burge, Reynolds, Beaumont and Anderson

2. Declarations of Interest

The were no declarations of interest

3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 5th October 2015

It was proposed by Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Maddocks-Born and therefore agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th October should be signed.

The Chair suspended standing orders to discuss the item regarding the planting of trees around the perimeter of College Farm House.

The Chair outlined that the new owners of College Farm House had planted 50-60 trees around the perimeter (inside their wall, on their property). The PC has received 12 items of correspondence from residents complaining about this. The Chair stated that he had written to SNC Planning about this and read out the response (attached). The fact is that the trees do not require planning permission and the owners are fully entitled to plant them. John Townsend (District Councillor) has been consulted by the Chair and has confirmed there is little that can be done.

The Chair stated that as a PC a letter can be written to the owners outlining why people are upset about the planting but acknowledging that they are well within their rights to do so. The Chair states that the survey can be referenced which states why people enjoy living in the village, including the vistas and why there is opposition.

Graham Gibbs stated that he had read in the conservation area report that 'landscape' is massively important and specifically mentions the vistas at the west side of the village. He also states that the wall the trees are planted behind is mentioned in the report and that he feels the trees will interfere with the footings.

Anne Usher stated that maybe the corner of Station Road could have five or six removed by the stocks so that the view can still be observed.

The Chair asked if people had an opinion about the fact the trees are not native. He referenced that Aynhoe Park has a native Beech hedge and asked if a different tree might be preferred.

A question was asked as to whether a professional gardener was consulted. The Chair stated that with all due respect that was not known and not really anyone's business. He reiterated that the landowner was well within his legal, if not moral, right as an individual.

Louise Bowe asked if the owner was aware of the weight of feeling. Deborah Gibbs stated that three people have been to see the landowner and his intention is to create a screen of privacy.

Cllr James asked if anyone knew how quickly the trees will grow to form the screen. No one knew this.

The village felt that the removal of some trees or alteration of species should not be mentioned to the landowner in the first instance.

Cllr James asked how large trees need to get before the lack of light issue is taken up by SNC? The Chair stated each case was individual.

Louise Bowe asked what was meant by 'amenity' as mentioned in the SNC email. The Chair was not certain but the Clerk will make this enquiry.

Action – Clerk to enquire what is meant by 'amenity'

Deborah Gibbs pointed out that the land has always been agricultural and now that the trough there has been removed could a 'change of use' be claimed. It was felt that this was very unlikely.

Kathleen Arnold stated that she felt the Chair were coming from the right direction.

Graham Gibbs stated he was already unable to see Deddington Church. The Chair stated that he felt the letter from the PC should not mention individual's opinions but rather the feeling within the village as a whole.

The Chair stated he was surprised that there was nothing in legislation that mentioned the planting of trees.

Action – the Chair stated that he will write to the landowner to put forward the village's views within the week

The Chair restored standing orders

4 Matters arising not on the Agenda

The Clerk stated she had not received a map from SN Homes but will continue to ask for it.

Action – Clerk to obtain map from SN Homes

She stated she had booked a skip for the village clean up and would shortly be putting posters up about it.

The Clerk confirmed she advertised the defib training course.

The Clerk stated she has asked about Blacksmiths Hill residents parking in the Church car park while the road is closed. Graham Gibbs has responded that this was fine and could we let him now the number and exact time. It was agreed that a letter would be written up and that Cllr Leighton would deliver these tomorrow.

Action – Clerk to letter would be written up and that Cllr Leighton would deliver these tomorrow.

She confirmed that the note about parking responsibly had gone into the newsletter as had the other items requested.

The Clerk stated she had received a quote for the defibrillator to be added to the existing insurance policy. The quote was for £9.12 per annum. If a new schedule was required with it added this will cost £25. It was agreed that this offer should be taken up.

The Clerk stated she had written to the Post Office but had not yet received a reply.

The Chair stated he had not even been aware that Kings Sutton were no longer the Post Office that supplied the service. It was agreed that Cllr Leighton would pop over tomorrow to discuss with the Post Office what the issue was. It was also agreed that some research would be done to investigate the service.

*Action – Clerk to investigate the Post Office arrangements
Action – Cllr Leighton to discuss the arrangements with the Post Office operatives.*

5 Finance, to include first look at 2016/17 budget

It was proposed by Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Maddocks-Born and therefore agreed that the cheques listed on the attached report (RW/11/15) should be formally approved.

The RFO presented a first look at the budget for 2016/17. It was agreed that this would be formalised next month when more councillors were present.

It was agreed that the Chair should spend up to £200 on a Christmas tree for the village green.

6 Planning

[S/2015/2477/FUL](#), **Single storey rear extension, The Malthouse 11A The Square, Aynho**
[S/2015/2478/LBC](#), **Single storey rear extension, The Malthouse 11A The Square, Aynho**

After hearing the Chair's report it was agreed that the following response would be sent.

APC support this application in full.

Licensing application for food van in layby

It was agreed that an adaptation of the previous licensing response to this application should be sent.

Discussion re. planting of trees in College Farm House

This has been previously discussed.

7 Gigaclear

The Chair reported that the end was in sight. Routers are being installed currently and the majority of the work within the village has been completed.

8 Risk and risk assessment

It was reported that there were a couple of manhole covers off on the verge on Station Road. It was agreed that this would be reported.

9 Parking, Highways and Transport, to include update on V.A.S., protection of village green and emergency vehicle access

Cllr Leighton reported that funding had been received for the VAS and that a grant has been applied for from the New Homes Bonus Fund. This should be approved within the next couple of weeks. It was agreed as soon as this was received the sign should be used. The PC contribution will be approximately £600 plus £250 for the licence.

He reported that he would like to use the village survey to ascertain how many cars there are in the village where there are problems with parking. Cllr Leighton also stated he felt that the Cartwright should be involved in discussion re. parking.

The Chair stated that the Church car park had now been resurfaced and cleared. This means the question of allowing spaces for residents on a permit basis.

Cllr Maddocks-Born raised the question of emergency vehicles entering the square. The Chair suggested a note in the newsletter plus cards to place on poorly parked cars.

The Chair presented a quote to have posts put around the village green. It was agreed that this was rather pricey and that the work should be put out to tender.

Action – Clerk to put out a tender notice for this work

10 Maintenance, to include Streetlight on Blacksmiths Hill and Charlton Road footpath

The Clerk stated that Cllr Burger had sent in an update on the streetlight situation. A meeting will take place next week with Eon.

Cllr Maddocks-Born stated that he had inspected the footpath on Charlton Road. He stated that he would be edging the footpath throughout the winter.

11 Recreational Matters – to include, Playground, sports field, the Park Club draw and A.S.R.A

The Park Club Draw was made. Number 96 was drawn.

12 Farming and Footpaths

There was nothing to report on this matter.

13 Communications, to include discussion re. post box collection times and phone box in square

It was agreed that the following should go into the newsletter

- Village clean up on 22nd November

Cllr James stated that the 4.15 collection from the post box on had ceased.

The Chair raised the question of adoption of the phone box in the Square. A villager has been attempting to get the phone box repaired. It was confirmed that the box is listed.

14 Defibrillator

The Chair confirmed 11 people had attended the most recent training session.

15 Meetings and Conferences

The Chair confirmed he had attended the NCALC AGM.

16 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that the following correspondence had been received this month –

- Clerks and Councils Direct

- NCALC EUpdate

17 Any Other Business

It was proposed that there should be another signatory on the bank account. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the next meeting.

Cllr Maddocks-Born stated that the Community Orchard project was looking to purchase some trees and would send the invoice to Sadie. Sadie stated that was not actually the way it worked and she would forward the email from SNC to Les Horley as a reminder.

18 Date of Next Meeting – Monday 7th December 2015

This was agreed.

The meeting closed at 21.39