

AYNHO PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 4th April 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Chair – Stephen Brook
Councillors –Leighton, Mann, Reynolds, James and Dean

In Attendance: Sadie Patamia (Clerk), Roger Wertheimer (RFO), County Councillor Ron Sawbridge and District Councillor John Townsend and 1 member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Anderson, Burge and Maddocks-Born

2. Declarations of Interest

The were no declarations of interest

3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 7th March 2016 and Thursday 17th March 2016

It was proposed by Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Dean and therefore agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th March 2016 should be signed.

It was proposed by Cllr Reynolds, seconded by Cllr Leighton and therefore agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17th March 2016 should be signed.

4. Matters arising not on the Agenda

The Clerk stated she had not yet ordered the dog fouling posters as she was finalising the wording

Action – Clerk to finalise wording and order posters

She confirmed the chevrons on Roundtown had been repaired and that a note about Street Doctor had gone into the newsletter.

The Charlton Road footpath has been reported to Street Doctor and info about dog fouling has gone into the newsletter

The Clerk has started to advertise the village litter pick.

She confirmed she had made contact with Aylesbury Main Ltd. to discuss the street light contract. The Clerk has suggested a meeting.

The Chair reported that he had been in discussion with Gigaclear re. re-instatement work.

5. Finance

It was proposed by Cllr James seconded by Cllr Reynolds and therefore agreed that the cheques listed on the attached report (RW/03/16) should be formally approved.

6. NCC Unitary proposal

The Chair suspended standing orders.

Cllr Townsend stated that Local Government is under severe financial pressure and that the concept of Unitary Authorities was under consideration.

However an initiative from Oxfordshire District Councils has suggested that as SNC already has shared services with Cherwell DC a natural progression would be to have a single authority based on the two

areas. During the development of this proposal by Cherwell DC there was no consultation with fully discussed it with either County Council (Oxfordshire or Northamptonshire).

Cllr Townsend stated that Local Government has changed a great deal and that three tiers of Government probably was one too many. He felt PCs were necessary but also felt the County boundaries should not be broken at a higher level. Cllr Townsend stated he had issues about being grouped with Banbury and Bicester as Northants, despite sitting between the two, had very different issues and dynamics. Also he felt that it could cause problems re. encroachment of developments from these two towns.

Cllr Sawbridge stated that he felt the County Council were under tremendous pressure due to receiving less and less money each year. By far the most money is spent on Social Care which has increased pressure each year. By 2020 the County Council will have no money given to them by Central Government. Because of this Cllr Sawbridge has previously supported a Unitary Authority.

The Oxfordshire DCs suggestion was that four Unitary Authorities with the North one taking in South Northants.

Cllr Sawbridge stated that Northants County Council already share services with Cambridgeshire and also do various works with Milton Keynes and Northampton Borough Council.

Both Cllr Townsend and Cllr Sawbridge made it quite clear that neither of them intend to stand as councillors again so therefore do not have an axe to grind. Cllr Sawbridge agrees with Cllr Townsend's concerns. He stated a report exists outlining an ideal Unitary set up which shows that the Oxfordshire plans contain Unitary Authorities that will be too small. Cllr Sawbridge stated he felt there should be a single Unitary Authority (maybe two) for Northamptonshire. The University of Northamptonshire has been asked to look into the best way forward. This report should be ready by the end of June.

Cllr Sawbridge stated that he felt there should be one councillor per 7000 people so about 100 in a Unitary Authority.

The Chair asked if South Northants were placed in a Unitary Authority with North Oxfordshire would the county border be redefined. Cllr Sawbridge felt this could be a possibility.

Cllr Townsend stated he felt there was a lot going on and that everyone ought to be informed right from the get go. Formal consultation would go ahead but by that stage there was a chance things may already have been decided.

The Chair proposed a letter was sent to both leaders of the Councils to make it quite clear that Aynho strongly desired to remain in Northamptonshire.

Action – Chair to write to Councils

Cllr Leighton asked who would make the final decision. Cllr Townsend stated it would be the Secretary of State.

Cllr Dean asked how many District Councils there are within Northamptonshire. There are six plus Northampton Borough Council.

Cllr Reynolds stated he feared that if a large Unitary Authority existed then Parish Councils would be listened to less. Cllr Sawbridge stated the plan could be to devolve more to PCs.
The Chair restored standing orders

7. Grass cutting tender

The Clerk reported that she had received two tenders. These were opened. It was agreed to award the tender to M Dempsey.

Action – Clerk to inform candidates of outcome

8. Risk and risk assessment

The Chair stated he had received a concern about a tree in the village – ear No 4 The Square.. He has reported it to Street Doctor and asked for it to be looked in to.

9. Dog fouling

The Clerk reported she was waiting to hear back from the representative in South Northants.

10. Parking, Highways and Transport

Cllr Leighton reported that he had designed a survey about parking. He handed these out and asked for any feedback to be emailed to him. The survey should be ready for distribution at the end of April. It was further agreed that until the results of the survey are known that the PC would hold back from any measures concerning parking.

Action – Chair Leighton

Cllr Leighton shared the latest statistics from the VAS. He would produce some PPT slides for the Chairman to use at the Annual Village Meeting

Action – Chair Leighton

Cllr Reynolds stated that Wensden Buildings had erected a fence. Cllr Anderson has reported this to the District Council and is waiting to hear back. The Clerk was asked to follow this up.

Action – Clerk to follow up gates at Wensden Buildings

Cllr Dean stated that he had had reports that a covered car at the top of Little Lane, on The Square might be considered an obstruction.

The Clerk stated that she had asked SN Homes if all the garages were let out and that they all are currently let.

Cllr Mann suggested that a large scale map of potential parking areas ought to be drawn up.

11. Maintenance, to include Streetlight on Blacksmiths Hill and replacement streetlights in conservation area

It was reported that the Parish Enhancement Gang would be visiting and that Cllr Maddocks-Born had been asked to lead on this. He would liase with NCC Highways.

Action: Cllr Maddocks-Born

The Clerk reported that Cllr Burge had been in contact with EON about the delays in replacing of the Blacksmiths Hill light and that it was due to be done soon.

Action: Cllr Burge

Cllr Dean enquired what had happened as a result of the Chair's reporting of the bright light in the car park to Aynhoe House. The Chair stated that he had spoken to the House and that someone was going to be looking into it.

Action – Chair to chase up Aynhoe Park House re. light in car park

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

There was nothing to discuss in this item

13. Farming and Footpaths

An enquiry was made as to whether the Farm Walk had been discussed. Cllr Reynolds stated that he had not yet spoken to the farmers but will do.

Action – Cllr Reynolds to discuss farm walk with farmers

14. Communications

It was agreed that the following would be put into the newsletter this month –

Cllr Leighton to do article on parking survey.

Action: Cllr Leighton

The Chair stated he felt 10 copies of the ‘Councillors’ Responsibilities’ booklet ought to be purchased. This was agreed.

Action – Clerk to order 10 copies of Councillors’ Responsibilities’ booklet

15. Defibrillator and VETS scheme

Cllr Reynolds reported that the monthly maintenance was now to be done by one person for a month.

Cllr Mann expressed concerns about the VETS system. He has mentioned this before and the Chair has asked him to detail his ideas on how it should be organised.

*Action – Cllr Mann to detail his plans and thoughts for the defibrillator
Action – Cllr Mann to organise meeting with the Chair and Cllr Anderson to discuss defibrillator*

16. Meetings and Conferences

It was agreed that the agenda of the village meeting on 18th April would be as follows –

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Annual Village Meeting 2015
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes
4. County and District Council Report
5. Vehicle Activated Sign update and statistics
6. Parking Survey
7. Defibrillator and VETS scheme
8. Resolutions from Village

The Chair asked if anyone had any specific comments on his draft report for the village report. He requested any comments were sent to him by Wednesday 6th April.

17. Correspondence

The following correspondence has been received –

Clerks and Councils Direct
NCALC E-Update

18. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

19. Date of Next Meeting – Annual Village Meeting 18th April, AGM of APC 9th May

These were agreed.

The meeting closed at 21.23