

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
BAINTON AND ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL
OF 4TH NOVEMBER**

1. **APOLOGIES** from D. Over (City Councillor)
2. **PRESENT** Couns. C. Agnew (Chair), A. Totten, J. Morrice, Z. Coles, J. Franks.
3. **PRESENTATION** by Ian Plant by prior arrangement
Mr. Plant explained that his family had run the business 'Plants Eggs' from their Bainton location for over 50 years, and were presently producing around 500,000 eggs per week. Recent EEC regulations implied that they will have to replace their existing houses which will entail considerable extra accommodation for the birds. Houses approximately twice the width and twice the length will be needed as they will expand to around three times the flock, and they feel that relocation of the poultry business outside the village will be inevitable. This will mean considerable expense, and they explained that they will shortly be looking to apply for outline residential planning consent for the present site. This is a brownfield site of some 2.5 acres, but such a change of use will be significant to the village, and they wished to advise the parish council of their proposals. The Chairman thanked Mr. Plant for advising the council of their intentions.
4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**
 - A. **HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE**
 - (1) **WEIGHT RESTRICTION ORDER**

Peterborough City Council have informed us that all procedures for the experimental order on the B1443 have been attended to, and the signs are being made. Installation should take place by 1st December, but definitely by 31st December.
 - (2) **ROADS AND PATHWAYS**

The clerk informed of progress on outstanding items:

 - The drain at the corner of Helpston Rd/Tallington Rd remains poorly sited, with large puddles collecting. We are told that a relocation would be extremely expensive and therefore unlikely.
 - The AWA compound fence at Ashton still needs repainting. The clerk has already pursued this and will continue to do so.
 - The pyracantha hedge adjoining Alington Close still needs trimming. The clerk has now had offers of help from chain-saw owners.
 - The Ashton post box has now been re-painted and replacement of plaques is awaited.
 - The path through the pinfold is dangerous to elderly pedestrians, with concrete splitting. Clerk will report.
 - The footpaths along Helpston Rd and Barnack Rd. need clearing of weeds again.
 - There are new potholes in the village, especially Tallington Rd (middle bridge) and Ufford Rd.

- Agreed unanimously to install a street light at the rear of the Church in accordance with the style suggested. Most residents of Church Lane are happy, although one resident has lodged a written objection.

(3) BUS STOP LAY BY

Couns. Totten and Morrice, together with the Parish Clerk attended a meeting at Bridge House to discuss this issue with Coun Fitzgerald, and the Transport Manager, Traffic Manager and Project Engineer of Pboro City Council. A further visit by the Traffic Manager to the village resulted. There appeared a desire to find a solution to this problem, and five possible options were discussed. Three of these were dismissed at the site meeting: the road is not wide enough to allow a right-hand filter lane into Ufford Road, there is insufficient width to accommodate a barrier in the lay by, and the pavements along Barnack Rd and Helpston Rd cannot support an alternative site for a bus stop to be erected. The two remaining possibilities will be explored by the Traffic Manager- firstly a new location to the west of Blue Boar House, where a generous slip road could allow the bus to stop safely, and secondly the filling in of the bus stop lay by- the bus to then stop actually in the road. Both of these have some problems and need to be evaluated fully.

(4) LOLHAM BRIDGES

This issue was also discussed at the Bridge House meeting. Although the problem is acknowledged, there does not seem an easy quick-fit solution to it. Network Rail feel the crossing is safe from their perspective, but the ancient road structure with six single track bridges approaching the level crossing do create log-jams even on the crossing. Two remaining suggestions will be evaluated: firstly new signage to be combined with an existing sign (the area is already heavy with signs) and secondly two duplicate sets of railway barrier traffic lights located 100 yards away from the crossing.

(5) VAS SIGNS

Coun Morrice reported little progress, although a proposed mobile sign costing £3000 is being investigated.

(6) ALLOTMENTS

Coun Coles produced a set of minutes from the inaugural meeting of the allotment society attended by 25 people, which will be circulated to councillors and posted on the notice board. A committee has been formed, chairman Graham Fletcher, and there is more than sufficient support from residents to initiate the establishment of a society. The main problem is the acquisition of a suitable site as approaches to likely land owners has so far been fruitless. Enquiries are still proceeding.

(7) BULB PLANTING

A further 3,000 bulbs have now been successfully planted, filling in vacant gaps and extending boundaries to the 30 mph signs.

5. COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP FUND

Couns. Coles and Morrice have attended the joint meetings to discuss the 2009 community project. The establishment of a wildlife corridor with benches is being investigated. £500 from the CLF has already been paid into the Parish bank account.

- 6. VILLAGE STOCKS**
A quotation of £1200 has been received from Brian Yates- about 50% of likely trading quote. Most councillors are in favour of the venture, although the cost could be hard to justify. The clerk has been asked to look at the possibilities of grants to support.
- 7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**
None to discuss.
- 8. CORRESPONDENCE**
None- although two councillors are considering attending courses by CALC.
- 9. FINANCE**
RFO reported funds of £5115. Audit now completed.
- 10. PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING**
Coun. Totten attended the meeting on 1st October which involved mainly transport and Code of Conduct issues.
- 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

 - Our grass cutter, Paul Buckley has to have a further operation. We will investigate ways in which we can offer temporary help for his tasks.
 - The drain on the west side of Ufford Rd is blocked again.
 - We will try to arrange a social for councillors/clerk in January.
- 12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
January 6th 2009