

BAINTON AND ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING 8TH SEPTEMBER 2009

1. **PRESENT** Couns. C. Agnew (Chair), A. Totten, Z. Coles, J. Morrice, J. Franks, A.Gowers (Parish Clerk) and 10 members of the public.

2. **APOLOGIES** D. Over (City Councillor)

3. **PRESENTATION** Adrian Chapman, the new Community Projects Manager at Peterborough City Council, accompanied by Julie Rivett, Head of the Neighbourhood Management Team called to give us presentations on their new roles. Their places in the overall structure were explained, their aim being to offer local councils a better communication channel and greater input and ownership of their agenda. Our contact in the Neighbourhood management team will be Helen Kinaston who starts on the 5th. October. They offered to assist us in obtaining a better service from the various departments and will endeavour to ensure answers to concerns are answered promptly.

4. **MINUTES** of meeting of 21st July 2009 were confirmed as accurate

5. **MATTERS ARISING**
 1. **WEIGHT RESTRICTION ORDER.** Reports suggest this initiative is working, with a noticeable reduction in unauthorized heavy vehicles.
 2. **ROADS AND PATHWAYS** The clerk reported that no response had been received from Highways to previous email. Current outstandings are as follows:
 - Some potholes have been marked for repair, but others look dangerous
 - The drain cover opposite Beever House still needs repairing
 - The drain at the Church corner continues to flood
 - Trees are obscuring the 30 mph signs on Helpston Road
 - Weeds are now high on the Helpston Road footpath
 - The lamppost adjoining 1, Meadowgate is leaning
 - The manhole covers outside 'The Green' Helpston Rd are missing
 3. **BUS STOP LAY BY** This situation will be reviewed in October
 4. **MOBILE VAS SIGNS** Coun. Totten reported a useful first session with this venture. In the first hour, 17 vehicles were trapped exceeding the speed limit. We now have 7 volunteers trained and ready.
 5. **ALLOTMENTS** Coun Agnew declared his interest as a trustee of Bainton Poors and explained that he would leave the table when discussion on the Poors land started. A. Gowers, Parish Clerk-another trustee- declared he would do the same. Coun Morrice stated that, as she was on the Allotments Committee as a representative of the Parish Council, and as the allotment allocated was just in her husband's name she felt her interest was not prejudicial and intended to continue in the debate. She asked if that view was countered by anyone in the room, and no one responded. Coun Agnew then read from a prepared statement to explain that the negotiations necessary to satisfy the need for an allotment had been a particularly difficult episode requiring considerable time and many conversations. He stressed that the Parish Council's responsibilities had to encompass the rights and needs of all

parishioners. He re-iterated that according to regulations, the Parish Council had one statutory obligation, that is to provide sufficient space for allotments. He read out a letter he had received from Mr. Clough, a parishioner who could not attend the meeting, stating that in his opinion the Poors land being considered was totally unsuitable for allotments and invited theft and occupation, and an ongoing eyesore to the approach to the village. Coun Agnew reported between 5 and 10 other verbal comments received mirrored this view. Discussion revealed that a proposed second site- a paddock belonging to Mr. Bratley- had been offered for allotments but had been declined by the holders committee as it had insufficient top soil. Enquiries by them had revealed that the price of importing top soil onto the site was too great to make the option viable. However, it was stated in the meeting that 800 tons of top soil could be had locally for very little purchase cost. Figures on sufficiency of this tonnage were debated with no successful outcome, and Coun Totten opined that further research into this option should be made before discarding it. Mrs Morrice explained that almost everyone agreed that the Poors land was not ideal, with the Allotments Committee divided approximately 50/50. It was also stated that research into the financial viability needed to be concluded shortly so that progress can be started in customizing the preferred site. Preliminary negotiations into the Poors land could be started to ascertain rent and conditions.

As discussion was now concentrating on the Poors land option, Coun Agnew and Mr. Gowers vacated the table and sat in the audience. Coun. Totten took the chair.

At this stage the minute should be continued by the appointed minute taker

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

It was reported that the application to trim trees at Stoneycroft, Ufford Road had been successful.

An application from Coun Agnew to trim trees on his own property would be considered by the other councillors after the meeting

The clerk reported the expected arrival of an application from Plants Eggs to demolish four of their hen houses and replace them with two.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Coun Coles reminded councilors of the receipt of a leaflet from Green Communities, which offered advice and information on energy efficiency and reducing the carbon footprint. Although not recommending a formal statement of interest, she felt we should refer to this document at appropriate times.

8. FINANCE

The RFO reported that the audit had been completed successfully. Total funds of £5713 were reported following recent receipt of the annual precept.

9. OPEN FORUM

Two items remain from the annual Open Forum. We are to ask Highways to top up hard core on some farm gateways. A thorough search of the ancient milestone near Torpel Manor has been unsuccessful.

10. PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING.

Coun Totten explained that he had not attended a PCL meeting since the last Parish Council meeting, but one is due soon.

11. GRASS MAINTENANCE

A contractor to replace the village grass mower has been found- Mr. Brian Ward of Ashton. He is presently receiving details to confirm his interest.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A) The Parish Clerk has circulated model standards of agenda and minutes provided by CALC, and the Chairman wishes councillors to consider these at the next meeting, especially one that involves public contributions. This suggests that at the commencement of each meeting, councillors declare interests in any agenda item, then any member of the public has the opportunity to contribute to items to be discussed (suggested total time 10 minutes). Thereafter councillors should debate items without contributions from observers.

B) Coun Coles is circulating a paper about Housing Forums.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9th November, 2009 at 7.30pm