

**BAINTON AND ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING 5TH JANUARY 2010.**

1. **APOLOGIES** Coun J. Franks
2. **PRESENT** Couns. C. Agnew (Chair). A. Totten, Z. Coles, J. Morrice, A. Gowers (Parish Clerk) and 5 members of the public
3. **MINUTES OF MEETING** of 9 November 2009 were read and confirmed as accurate
4. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** Couns Agnew, Coles and Morrice declared a possible interest in Section 5B re allotments – Coles and Morrice being on the Allotment Committee and Coun Agnew in respect a possible conflicting role as a trustee of Bainton Pools - and Couns Totten and Coles an interest in item 7D as they are on the Reading Room committee which will be included in this item.
5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** Members of the public were invited to offer comments on any agenda items but there were none.
6. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
 - A. **HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE**
 1. **Weight restriction order.** All agreed that this had resulted in a marked improvement in the volume of heavy traffic using the B1443 through the village. Members were asked to express their comments to Highways. A message will also be sent on behalf of the Parish Council.
 2. **Roads and Pathways.** Reported problems have been dealt with apart from:
 - Potholes. In view of present extreme temperatures, these are being held over to milder weather unless dangerous, when a temporary filling will be made.
 - Glaring sign. Not inspected yet by Highways
 - Trees obscuring 30mph sign. Not trimmed yet, but not actually obscuring as branches are presently bare.
 - Weeds still evident along footpath to Helpston
 - Barnack Road pavement still needs resurfacing
 3. **Bus Stop Lay By** Peter Tebb from Highways has been to inspect the site accompanied by Coun. Franks on an unfortunately quiet morning. His recommendations are awaited
 - 4 **Mobile VAS signs.** Current weather conditions have prohibited any sign displays. These will be resumed once better weather and longer daylight is with us.
 5. **Street Lighting.** We have been told that we will have to wait until the new budget year commencing April 2010 to have this reconsidered. We will write again at that time.
 6. **Red telephone box.** Despite our agreement to adopt the box from BT for £1 we have since been advised by Pboro CC to delay this action as this would allow BT to withdraw the service forthwith. Our decision has been countermanded and we await developments.
 - B. **ALLOTMENTS**

1. Customisation of site. Coun Morrice reported that the project awaits the following loose ends to be attended to:

- a. Rabbit fencing. Of the three quotes received, the one from Philip Fletcher (brother of Graham) at £1700 was cheapest. Agreed unanimously to accept.
- b. Hard core to be spread. Awaiting better weather.
- c. Removal of debris
- d. Equipment/Shed- a list totaling £3500 has been compiled and Coun Morrice is investigating the possibility of grant help

Allotments are now marked out but all further progress will depend on the weather. Coun. Morrice stated that full take up should not be a problem

2. Completion of lease documents. Coun Totten has already circulated two documents amongst councillors for consideration. Firstly, a document covering the existing acreage which has been approved by the landlord, Mr. Bratley. Secondly, a further document agreeing to review the take up of land in September 2010 and arrange a further lease covering the adjoining land to reflect demand still remaining. Rent to be pro rata. Our representative on NSALG, Karen Kelly, is away at present and it was agreed to ask her to overview these before final signature, but agreed they seemed acceptable.

C ENVIRONMENT PROJECT GRANT

Agreement to a grant of £225 to cover a spend of £300 on various planting around the village has been agreed. 200 bluebell bulbs have been planted in the wash dyke by members of the allotment association. A variety of wildlife-friendly plants have been purchased and heeled-in for spring planting in the childrens' playground. A willow tunnel will be constructed by village children in February under the supervision of the suppliers.

D COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP FUND

We have received a grant of £500 from Coun Over's discretionary fund and Coun Coles reported that more benches around the ward may be purchased. The 100th anniversary of the Reading Room's construction takes place in 2010 and it is planned to have a weekend of celebration 21/22/23 May including cultural presentations. It was agreed in principal that the Parish Council would fund the turfing of the garden area (now fenced in) and possibly plant a tree.

7. TRAINING

Couns. Coles and Morrice are registering for training on all three forthcoming courses to be staged locally. Coun Totten hopes to attend the first and last.

8. VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

Coun Totten explained that the importance of writing a Village Design Statement was being stressed at Neighbourhood Planning meetings and elsewhere, and a forum to explain the process should be available in q1 this year. We will watch for developments, but our previous information about possible restructuring this document appears to have been addressed.

9. RURAL WORKING GROUP

Coun Coles has attended a meeting on this initiative. There appears to be three areas being focused upon: 1. The protection and enhancing of heritage buildings. 2. The formations of Neighbourhood Councils (these were being welcomed by local councils with either support or scepticism) 3. The availability of sustainable transport. It was agreed that Coun Coles could conduct a small survey of the possibility of sharing transport and other climate friendly ideas.

10. LOLHAM CROSSING

This item was included specially to allow councillors to reconsider the safety of the crossing in view of the recent fatality. It was reported that this was an unusual accident on a Sunday afternoon involving a sole pedestrian and did not really affect our concerns about the ongoing building up of traffic on the crossing during peak periods.

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None

12. CORRESPONDENCE

The clerk had circulated an information booklet produced by Barnack PC for assistance to residents. It appears that other parties are producing a similar booklet for Bainton and Ashton.

13. FINANCE

RFO reports funds at £4122. It was agreed to submit our precept application in line with the budget recently circulated, ie a total net spend of £5650.

14. PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING

There have been no meetings since the last PC meeting

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The Chairman, Coun Agnew, declared it was his intention to resign at the next AGM in May, and suggested that the Parish Council should start considering a replacement
2. Concerns about the bulging in the Church wall were raised, but it was pointed out that this was the responsibility of the PCC. The Churchwarden who was present as an observer declared that it was not considered sufficiently dangerous by the architect at the recent quinquennial inspection.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 19th March at 7.30pm Reading Room