

## BAINTON AND ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING OF 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008

1. PRESENT Coun. C. Agnew (Chair), A. Totten, J. Morrice, Z. Coles, J. Franks, A.Gowers (Parish Clerk) and 14 members of the public.
2. APOLOGIES Coun. D. Over (Peterborough City Council)
3. PRESENTATION by Jim Daly, Peterborough City Council, conservation officer. After a tour of the villages, Mr. Daly outlined his responsibilities and those of other members of his department. We intend to seek his advice about tree planting in the villages.
4. PRESENTATION by Richard Keymer, Langdyke Trust, regarding progress so far with Swaddywell Pit, and plans for the development of Torpel Manor. It is the trust's desire to purchase the site of Torpel Manor, restore it to good condition, and provide parking and information for visitors, with the possibility of the provision of allotments. Total costing is somewhat uncertain, and progress depends on grants applied for, which will become clearer in July, but public support- financially and physically- would be welcome.
5. MINUTES OF MEETING of 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008 were read and agreed as accurate.
6. MATTERS ARISING
  - A. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE.
    1. Weight Restriction order. We understand that the budget difficulties with Lincolnshire C.C. have been overcome, and we await further progress.
    2. Roads and Pathways. The Clerk gave updates on ongoing works:
      - The drains in the village have now eventually been cleansed. The pipes extracting surface water from roads were entirely blocked and appeared to have been so for many years.
      - Fix-It have been asked again to clear the dyke in Highfields Road of tree debris.
      - We are told that the overgrowth in Barnack Road-pathway and wall- will be cleared in 7-14 days.
      - The potholes around the village have at last been filled.
      - The hedge alongside Blue Boar House has now been trimmed.
      - The damaged sign in Highfields Rd has been made safe.
      - The old Ashton notice board has been removed.
      - The AWA compound fence should be re-painted soon.

- The pyracantha hedge adjoining Alington Close still needs trimming-clerk will deal with.
- The road and footpath surfaces are unlikely to be re-surfaced soon.
- We are endeavouring to establish cost of lighting in Church Lane.
- Vine House access road is now complete.

#### B. BUS STOP LAY BY

The clerk outlined to the new residents present the facts about the dangers of the lay by and progress thus far. Our MP, Mr. Vara has sent a further letter about this issue which was read out. The concerns about the safety of school children has been partially alleviated as children are now congregating away from the danger area, although this has occasionally led to buses not picking them up. Mr. Vara explains that our problems are not unique- other bus lay bys encourage such driving practices which are not actually illegal. He suggests us keeping a log of frequencies. Clerk has been instructed to determine from new councillor responsible whether such a log would in fact be helpful, and what data would need to be kept. Also, he is to ask bus companies to be sympathetic to our problems, and ask their drivers to either pick up bus users at other points, or wait until they can walk to the correct point. Coun Totten is to continue his attempts to raise debate at PCLM.

#### C. LOLHAM CROSSING

Clerk read out mail from Network Rail outlining their procedures in managing the crossing at Lolham. They seemed sufficient, but depended much on lack of human error. A member of public advised councillors that the same employee has to manage crossing gates at five crossings without assistance. Mention was also made of a local driver being stranded on a crossing while a train narrowly avoided him. Clerk to enquire of contingency arrangements to avoid as much risk as possible. We remain concerned about the lack of priority signing and this issue to continue to be raised with Transport, Pboro CC.

#### D. WASH DYKE

The improvements have been completed, although more grass seed will be planted in the autumn. It was agreed that, in view of a saving in the cost of the bench, two supports costing £70 may be acquired.

#### E. VAS SIGNS

Coun Morrice has been informed that we should be successful in getting a third sign in Tallington Road, although the site in Ufford Road seemed less likely.

#### 7. ALLOTMENTS

An opportunity to have allotments for villagers is under investigation, and following a straw poll, there appears to be sufficient interest amongst residents (a minimum of 6 is required). Those present at the meeting agreed that a site within walking distance of Bainton would be preferable, and the 3.25 acres of land in Helpston Road belonging to Bainton Poors Fund seemed popular. The present tenant seemed inclined to terminate his tenancy, but nothing definite has happened, and the trustees of the Poors Fund have not yet been approached. Those present did not feel inclined to use the possible future development at Torpel Manor as this was too far to walk, especially with gardening equipment. In consideration of the interest shown, it was agreed to write to all local land owners to see if they would be interested in allowing 2 to 3 acres of their land for sale or letting. The Allotment Officer of Pboro CC will be invited to speak at a meeting to give more information, to which all interested residents could attend. Details to be given in Parish News. Two councillors registered their objections to the ideas- sites would need security and water supplies, and a collection of various garden sheds can often look unsightly. This view was not shared by all.

#### 8. PATHWAYS PROJECT

The cairn with its information plaque is now in place, and its erection was suitably celebrated. Photograph and details sent to Stamford Mercury. A pamphlet giving details of cycle paths has also been produced.

#### 9. QUIET LANE

The project is now complete, although we are endeavouring to have the height of the signs reduced.

#### 10. PLANNING APPROVALS

An application from owners at 2, Meadowgate, Bainton has recently been received and will be circulated for consideration.

#### 11. CORRESPONDENCE

Coun Coles has raised the receipt of a letter from Environment Services, which explains that a 'No Cold Calling Zone' scheme is available. Clerk to obtain more details- on agenda next time. Does this include those collecting for charities?

12. FINANCE RFO reports that audit schedule is reaching its final stages. Funds of £6188 are in hand.

13. PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING

The previous meeting was postponed, but Coun Totten expects to attend one re-arranged in July.

14. WEBSITE A discussion on activation will take place shortly.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Public telephone box. We have been told that, if this is now obsolete in view of the popularity of mobile phones, we can have it removed. It was agreed to leave it where it is.
- Letter from D. Mankelow, 2, St. Mary's Close had been circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting. He is concerned at the amount of vehicles and other items accumulating in the close, which inhibit free passage. He has also written to neighbours. It was agreed that it was difficult for the Parish Councillors to take action, but co-operation from neighbours is now expected. It was suggested that we could look to provide extra play areas for older children in the village.
- Churchyard. Concern was raised by members of the public at the present overgrown state of the churchyard. Church warden explained that some delay has to occur at this time of year for re-seeding of wild flowers to take place, but contractor is coming next week.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm