

**BAINTON AND ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING 3RD. MARCH 2009**

1. **PRESENT** Couns. C. Agnew (Chair), A. Totten, Z. Coles, J. Morrice, J. Franks, A. Gowers (Parish Clerk) and 7 members of the public.
2. **APOLOGIES** City Coun. D. Over
3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 6TH January 2009** were read and confirmed as accurate
4. **PRESENTATION BY P.C. MCCULLUM.** Our local police officer brought along and demonstrated an example of a speed activated mobile sign, and explained that we would be getting our own sign soon. Six volunteers had already signed up and they will organize their own rota and location in teams of two. More volunteers would be welcome, and full training will be given. Norm also produced a summary of local crime figures, indicating that Bainton and Ashton had made 30 calls for service in 2008, 15 of which were of a routine nature. Overall, in Barnack Ward, 5.34% of crimes -6 in total- were rated as serious (burglary, theft, assault).
5. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - A. **HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE**
 - 1 **WEIGHT RESTRICTION ORDER** We are advised by Highways that the signs will be installed on 20th April 2009, and thereafter the weight restriction will be enforceable.
 2. **ROADS AND PATHWAYS** Parish Clerk reported that the problematic drain on the Church corner had been cleansed, the Helpston Road paths had been weeded, the drain outside Waterside had been dug out, and the fly tipping cleared. The following still require action:
 - The path along the Pinfold has been repaired, but not properly and is still dangerous
 - Potholes are evident all round the villages after the frosts, but the worst have been temporarily filled
 - The metal grids lying loose have been re-fitted, but not properly
 - The sunken path in Badinton Lane has not yet been attended to
 - The diversion signs warning of the closure of the B1443 are still remaining after completion of the works
 - A notice has appeared restricting horses off the Highfield Road. This could well be on the landowners instructions, but Steve Horner will be contacted to confirm this
 - Flooding outside Primrose Cottage is still evident, but the owners are getting quotes to correct this soon, with Craig Campbell (Drainage Board) overseeing
 - Considerable debris was apparent along Bainton Green Road caused by farmer Martin Plant's vehicles. Although much better now, a letter will be sent to him

- A letter from an Ashton resident complains about the build-up of mud outside The Stackyard caused by vehicles using the adjoining stables. Coun Agnew will discuss with the owners

3. BUS STOP LAY BY Email from Highways explaining that a visit to the site has been delayed by extra work due to the fall of snow

4. LOLHAM BRIDGES We are told that having duplicate lights at the crossing infringes regulations. Councillors agreed that we had exhausted our options to correct this and we would have to rely on the opinion of Transport and Railways that the risks were insufficient to merit action

5. VAS SIGNS Covered by P.C. McCullum (Item 4 above)

6. ALLOTMENTS A site visit by David Kenny (archaeologist) and Ben Robinson (PCC archivist) was attended by Couns Agnew, Coles and Morrice, together with Nick King (allotments), who were disappointed with Mr. Kenny's conclusions. Without actually making a firm judgement, he was perceived to have a preconceived opinion to leave the site as it was. A letter from Graham Fletcher (allotments chairman) was read out and it was agreed to send an explanatory letter to the Chief Executive of Natural England with a copy to the Regional Officer.

7. STREET LIGHTING A confusing letter from Martin Medlock indicated that he was still waiting to hear our views on style and location of street lamp which we agreed some time with him. We also need to confirm with him that PCC will cover the cost.

B. COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP FUND Discussions are in train to form a wildlife corridor through Barnack Ward, encouraging biodiversity. A further meeting will be held on 4th March, but 10 benches have already been ordered, and should be erected in the next 4 weeks

C. VILLAGE STOCKS The clerk reported that extensive research into funding had been fruitless, mainly due to the request being too small. An Awards For All application has been prepared and it was clarified that this prohibits further applications from the same applicant for two years. It was agreed to hold the application until we assess what other suggested projects may arise following the Annual General Meeting in May.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS An application has recently been received to extend 1, Meadowgate which will be circulated.

7. CORRESPONDENCE A letter from Cross Keys in reply to ours has been received explaining that they have written to their tenants in Alington Close explaining their duties regarding rubbish disposal and general tidiness of the gardens. As ongoing problems still occur at 4, Alington Close (six weeks after the letter) the landlords will be advised. A mail from Martin Whelan regarding website difficulties has been received- these are due to the ISP going into liquidation and will be corrected soon.

- 8. FINANCE** RFO reports total balances of £3408. The subject of a replacement lawnmower costing £440 was also covered at this point. Financial comparisons were collected indicating costs of organising our own grass cutting or reverting to the PCC scheme. On a labour only basis, the costs were almost identical, although the former option entails ourselves purchasing and servicing our machine. Additional considerations voiced were that the previous service from PCC was poor, and they would not include trimming of the playground and also the wash dyke which would have to be arranged with other agencies. Their service would include de-weeding of pavements, but only within the 30mph boundaries. It was agreed to purchase the new mower and continue with our existing contactor.
- 9. PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING** Coun Totten was unable to attend the recent meeting but intends to be there on April 15th. He will raise our poor perception of the service from Highways Dept, and also the allocation of the pothole budget
- 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** 28th April 2009 to include Annual General Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting