

**BAINTON AND ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19TH MARCH 2010**

- 1. PRESENT** Councillors Chris Agnew (Chair), Andy Totten, Judith Morrice, Jane Franks, Tony Gowers (Parish Clerk) and 4 members of the public.
- 2. APOLOGIES** Coun. Zena Coles, Coun. David Over
- 3. MINUTES** of the meeting of 5th January were read and agreed subject to two amendments: Coun Coles explained that she is not a member of the allotment committee- just the association, and the representative from the NSALG (item 6b) should read Karen Kenny, not Karen Kelly
- 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Coun. Morrice declared an interest in the allotments item on the agenda as she is on the Allotment Committee.
- 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** Those members of the public present were given the opportunity to offer comments or opinions on any agenda item, but there were none.
- 6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
 - A. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE**
 - 1. WEIGHT RESTRICTION ORDER.** It was agreed that the temporary order was successful and the public was urged to submit opinions to the Highways dept.
 - 2. ROADS AND PATHWAYS**
 - Potholes are generally satisfactory at present, with the exception of some recently opened up on Tallington Road. Clerk to pursue.
 - The glaring sign on the B1443 has still not been corrected. The clerk has advised Highways again.
 - The trees overhanging the limit signs have now been trimmed by the owner of the adjoining farmland.
 - Weeds along the Helpston Road footpath have died back.
 - Barnack Road footpath still needs resurfacing
 - Slow signs need re-painting
 - 3. BUS STOP LAY BY.** Peter Tebb (Highways) has re-iterated his point that there was no obvious violation of traffic laws on the day of his attendance. It was agreed to refer this long standing issue to the Neighbourhood Council.
 - 4. MOBILE VAS SIGN.** Bad weather had prevented any sessions of the VAS sign, but Coun. Totten promised to action these soon.

5. STREET LIGHTING. It was agreed to apply again for a street light to illuminate the Pinfold within the new budget year.

B. ALLOTMENTS

1. CUSTOMISATION OF SITE. Coun Morrice reported that the largest stones had been extracted, plots marked out and allocated to allotment holders, paths seeded and a 100 club started to raise funds. The wet conditions had prohibited the clearance of debris and the erection of rabbit fencing, but both of these are hoped to be completed before Easter.

2. LEASE/INSURANCE. The lease between the land owner and the Parish Council was signed on the 25th January 2010. Nine out of the designated ten plots have registered owners who have signed leases between themselves and the council. Other interested owners will register their interest in the autumn. The question of insurance arose and the clerk has contacted the Parish Council's insurers who confirmed that the Parish Council's insurable liability only extends to any plots not taken up, for which the existing policy extends. The landowner is responsible for any land outside the designated boundaries of the allotments, and the allotment holders for their individual plots plus any pathways, hard standing etc belonging to the association. They urged the association to arrange full public liability cover if not already done.

C. ENVIRONMENT PROJECT GRANT

Coun Franks reported that no less than 25 children came to the playground to be instructed on the planting and weaving of the willow tunnel which is now constructed. An opening party will be held soon. Mr Gowers has repaired the boxing which will be painted soon and the plants put in when the weather suits.

D. COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP FUND

The cost of the turf for the Reading Room- which the Parish Council has agreed can come from the Fund- is expected to be around £211. The wildlife corridor project continues with enthusiastic support from residents. More details will appear in Parish News.

7. VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

Coun Totten reports little progress with the VDS and will continue to look out for more information.

8. RURAL WORKING GROUP

Transport survey on hold at the moment. Ashton has been designated an Area of Character.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Confirmation has been received that Plants Eggs has been successful in its application to replace four existing buildings with two new ones, subject to conditions. Full details will be circulated to councillors.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Sun Pods. Coun Morrice and the clerk attended a presentation of this new initiative on the proposed site. The actual location is outside the Parish Council boundary although we will be consulted regarding some of the access roads which do cross parish land.

2. Level Crossing The Clerk attended the educational day by Network Rail, but found it just a vehicle to ask questions. Our concerns about the Lolham Crossing were emphasized.

3. Standing Orders. Although CALC had suggested strongly that we should purchase a hard copy of the standing orders manual, the majority of councilors demurred, pointing out that this should be available on line for all to access.

4. Police Representative. The clerk offered to be the continuing representative for all items of interest, although Coun Totten offered to give his name should a Parish Councillor be needed.

11. FINANCE

Councillors wished to know details on how much our donor's money had been utilized for the allotments and also how much of the Community Leadership Fund had been used. The RFO will deliver a full report.

12. PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING

Coun Totten has not attended any since the last meeting, but hopes to go to one arranged for 31st March 2010

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Coun Morrice expressed a personal wish to plant two trees, possibly mountain ash, by the bench close to First House Ashton. Agreed to consult Dr. Marshall, owner of the adjoining field, and Peterborough City Council, owners of the grass verge.
- Neighbourhood Watch. Councillors expressed concern that there was no mechanism to pass on police messages regarding local crime tactics to those most vulnerable. Agreed to advertise in Parish News for a volunteer team.
- Letters of resignation were read out from Chris Agnew (already advised) and Jane Franks, both to take place from the AGM. Thanks and regrets were expressed to both.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 4th May 2010 at 7.30pm to include AGM and APM