

# **YELLING PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012 in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.**

Minute  
Ref.

12.1 Apologies:

Mrs B. Boddington and Mr R. West

12.2 Present:

Mr J. Peal (Chairman), Mr P. Jackson, (Vice Chairman), Mrs S. Ascroft,  
Mrs J. Murray, Mr J. Murray, Mr C. Griffiths and Mr L. Johnson.

12.3 Declarations of interest:

None.

12.4 Minutes of previous meeting:

Mrs Ascroft queried an omission from the minutes circulated for the meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> November 2012 concerning the intention to acquire 30 mph stickers for the wheelie bins. The Clerk noted Mrs Ascroft's query and undertook to clarify and amend the minutes as necessary for future agreement.

The minutes of the meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012 were read. It was proposed by Mrs Ascroft, seconded by Mr Griffiths and agreed unanimously that they were an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman accordingly.

12.5 Matters arising from the minutes of previous meetings

12.5.1 Speed limit stickers for wheelie bins

The Clerk advised that following the discussions at the meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> November concerning the purchase of these stickers he had thought it prudent to seek any comments HDC's Operations Division might have and had received an email reply notifying that "no permissions have been granted for the placing of speed limit stickers in the district and certainly for an unmanaged scheme, i.e. just the provision of the stickers it is unlikely

that any permissions would be forthcoming due to impact it would have on the street scene, distraction to drivers and the number of complaints it may generate”.

The Clerk reminded the Councillors about the implications of this statement and the expectation that they were expected to act lawfully when discharging their duties.

After further discussion concerning the communication from HDC and action to be taken, the options considered were to abort the purchase of the stickers, escalate the road safety position with the local press and district and local councillors or to proceed with the purchase notwithstanding HDC's stance. It was proposed by Mr Griffiths, seconded by Mr Jackson and carried unanimously to purchase 500 stickers

#### 12.5.2 Leaves on the footway

It was noted that this had been dealt with by HDC

#### 12.5.3 Speedwatch

The Chairman had contacted Mr Marcroft about future plans for the initiative. Mr Marcroft had advised that for various reasons the original volunteers were unable to dedicate sufficient time to the scheme.

The Council felt that it would be worth trying to find out if any further volunteers could be found and The Chairman agreed to put this request on the website and into the next issue of Your Yelling

#### 12.5.4 Queen's Jubilee

The proposal agreed at the last meeting was to explore the planting of a bluebell wood in the village centre. Sources of funding now needed to be found, possibly in the form of a grant. Mr Griffiths advised that grants were available from the Woodland Trust but he thought these would be for larger areas of planting but agreed to clarify.

#### 12.5.5 Planning & environmental health aspects – residential usage

Mr Jackson had made three visits to 2 High Street to discuss the concerns raised with the occupiers but had not yet managed to speak with either Ms Dean or Mr Doyle. It was agreed Mr Jackson would try to make verbal contact for a further period of ten days. If unsuccessful, the concerns would be raised in writing.

The Chairman noted that all other matters arising were covered by the agenda for the meeting and sought confirmation that they be dealt with

under the respective agenda items which was agreed.

## 12.6 Agenda Item 5: Village Plan

The Chairman reviewed progress to date. The Council's response to the main elements of the Plan had been distributed and he felt that to maintain the momentum and address any concerns from parishioners that progress was stagnating, the Council would need to meet more often in the short term to discuss and assign responsibility for the various actions that would arise.

The Council discussed the main concerns raised and agreed the following actions;

### Traffic

- The concerns relating to the volume, speed and size of traffic would need to be raised with Cambridgeshire County Council's Highways Division to determine the management options available. The Clerk advised that the first point of contact was Ms Sharon Piper and Mrs Ascroft agreed to contact her for an initial discussion and possible invitation to come to a future Council meeting.
- Mr Griffiths noted that the main problem with any improvement scheme seemed to be the availability of funding and that the Council should seek advice as to what opportunities existed. The Chairman agreed to contact Mr West and Mrs Boddington to discuss.

### Public Transport/Local Services

- There is not enough demand for the Council to raise credible arguments with either HDC or local bus operators. All that could be done was to promote the various ideas put forward by Plan respondents, for example, car pooling, via the village website and new Facebook links. It was noted that Facebook allowed interactive communication between participants whereas the website could not.
- Mr and Mrs Murray agreed to investigate a paper delivery service for the village with the newsagent in St Neots who had been suggested might be prepared to offer this service.

### Road & Footway Maintenance

- The process for recording faults with Cambridgeshire County Council was well established but might usefully be confirmed.

### Broadband

- It was noted that Cambridgeshire County Council was working to

develop a comprehensive Local Broadband Plan for the region. The aim is to provide broadband coverage across most of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with 100% of businesses and 90% of homes having access to superfast broadband of 25 Mbps (mega bits per second) and the remaining 10% in rural areas having never less than 2 Mbps, by 2015. Detailed planning will take place during 2012.

- It seems a number of presentations are intended for March, April and May to allow community questions and representations. It is not clear where the 10% rural areas who will receive a reduced service will be located and the Chairman undertook to try to collate some meaningful facts and statistics on business and usage in the village.

#### Social & Leisure Facilities

- Mr Griffiths undertook to contact Mrs Boddington to follow up on her offer to assist with introductions to other communities for their experience in developing these facilities.
- The Council felt a welcome pack of information for new residents of the village would be helpful. Mr Griffiths agreed to look into developing one.

#### Environment & Wildlife

- Mr Griffiths agreed to make enquiries as to suitable varieties of bulbs for naturalising in the verges in the village and the likely costs involved.
- The Chairman advised that he had published bird-box plans on the village website.
- Mr Griffiths and Mr Johnson confirmed that any plans to plant a wildflower meadow in rough ground at the cricket pitch would not be possible as the area was used for hay making.

#### 12.7 Agenda Item 6: Cotton Farm Wind Farm update

The Clerk drew the Council's attention to a newsletter recently circulated by the Cotton Farm Action Group advising the nPower had sold the rights to develop the wind farm to RENERCO, a German company, for a rumoured £8m. The letter calls on HDC and the Planning Inspectorate to revisit the terms and conditions of the approval to seek a decommissioning performance bond or guarantee. Mr Boddington had confirmed that once approved, no party could revisit the conditions if any planning approval so this was not possible. The sale of the development rights meant it was pretty much inconceivable that the project would not go ahead and it was widely expected that construction would start in May 2012.

The Action group together with the other most closely impacted parish councils were still looking at noise monitoring alternatives and we would be invited to participate in any relevant actions.

12.8 Agenda Item 7: Papworth Sewage Farm

Mrs Murray raised the matter of the smell emanating from the farm and the possible indications this had on its operation and public health considerations. The Clerk was asked to seek the comments of Papworth's Parish Council before any referral to the operating company.

12.9 Agenda Item 8: Localism Bill, (now Localism Act)

The Clerk and Mr Griffiths had attended a joint CPALC/HDC presentation on the main Localism Act provisions at The Corn Exchange in St Ives on 17th January. The Act has six essential aims

- (1) Lift the burden of bureaucracy;
- (2) Empower communities to do things their way;
- (3) Increase local control of public finance;
- (4) Diversify the supply of public services;
- (5) Open up government to public scrutiny; and
- (6) Strengthen accountability to local people.

The main aspects focussed on were the 'Right to Buy Community Assets' and the impact of 'Neighbourhood Plans' which it was noted was not synonymous with 'village plans'.

HDC were producing a guidance pack intended for distribution before the Act becomes effective in April 2012 which would provide the necessary detail on its provisions but it was made clear at the meeting that the Act would not allow town and parish councils to circumvent the application of regional and district policies and that there were specific procedures that would need to be followed if Neighbourhood Plans were to be legally effective. .

The Clerk undertook to circulate the presentations from the St Ives meeting as background information until the HDC pack becomes available.

12.10 Agenda Item 9: Planning & environmental health aspects

Dealt with under 'Matters arising'.

12.11 Agenda Item 10: Accounts to Pay

The following accounts were passed for payment, proposed by Mrs Murray, seconded by Mr Jackson and carried unanimously.

- John Peal £74.39 – Reimbursement of website hosting costs

12.12 Agenda Item 11: Correspondence

None

12.13 Agenda Item 12: Any Other Business

12.14 The meeting closed at 9.51 p.m.