

YELLING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th May 2016 in the Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

- Minute Ref.
- 16.17 Apologies for absence:
Mrs B. Boddington, (District Councillor), Ms J. Wisson, County Councillor) and Mr R. West, (District Councillor).
- 16.17.1 Present:
Mr J. Peal (Chairman), Mr P. Jackson (Vice-chairman), Mrs S. Ascroft, Miss K. Davies, Mr A. Fusco and Mr C. Griffith.
- 16.18 Declarations of interest:
None.
- 16.19 Agenda Item 3: Public Open Forum:
No parishioners present.
- 16.20 Agenda Item 4: Minutes of previous meetings:
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 5th January 2016 were read. It was proposed by Mrs Ascroft, seconded by Mr Jackson and agreed unanimously that they were an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman accordingly.
- 16.21 Agenda Item 5: Matters arising from the minutes of previous meeting
- 16.21.1 The Chairman and Mrs Ascroft reported the recent exchange of correspondence with Brian Heffernan at Cambs CC in which he confirmed he had been in further discussions with the occupants of 136 High Street about the removal of the dam. He had advised that he noted the Council's concerns that this was first raised 10 months ago but reiterated that he wanted to try to resolve this without resorting to enforcement measures. The occupants had indicated to him that they would remove the dam by 31st May as the water levels in the stream would be at a low point.
- 16.21.2 The Chairman noted that any other matters arising were covered by items on the agenda for the meeting and it was agreed that they could be

dealt with under their respective items.

16.22 Agenda Item 6: Verbal reports from County and District Councillors (if in attendance)

Not in attendance.

16.23 Agenda Item 7: Broadband Update

The Chairman provided an update on the current position. He had circulated recent correspondence with Sarah Marsh concerning the delays occurring in the planned installation of the new cabinet within BT/Openreach which now meant that the target date had slipped to the third quarter of the year from the second.

The Chairman advised that a conference call to discuss the overall position was being arranged by Sarah Marsh with BT's planning manager but that no firm date had been advised.

The Chairman and Clerk reported that they had both received an email from CambsNotspotter, an organisation which wanted to try to chart and improve poor broadband and mobile phone coverage in Cambridgeshire. The Clerk advised that he would send this to all councillors for information and action if appropriate.

Mr Fusco noted that he understood that 4G mobile phone coverage was now available in the village and that this might be of some assistance to residents as a means of accessing better broadband coverage but at the cost of increased network data charges.

16.23 Agenda Item 8: Traffic management strategy plan

The Chairman noted that Ross Hamilton, the traffic officer he had been dealing with at Cambs CC had now referred him to a new contact, Joshua Rutherford. Efforts to arrange a site visit to discuss the various concerns the Council had raised about the intended reconstruction works to the eastern approach to the village had so far been unsuccessful but Joshua had indicated that most of the features discussed with Ross, Jo Challis and Ian Winfield at their site visit, for example, coloured road surfacing, speed limit roundels, etc., which had then seemed to be possible improvements now appeared to have been dismissed. In particular, although the carriageway width measurements taken by the Parish Council, (which averaged 5.5metres), appeared to meet the stated conditions for white verge lines, Joshua had indicated that this would now require approval from the Policy & Regulation Section.

The Chairman advised that he had escalated this lack of consultation with Julie Wisson and he would continue to seek a meeting with Joshua to pursue the Council's concerns.

Mr Griffith said that he understood that certain of the houses at the western end of the village where parked cars reduced the effectiveness of the chicane were owned by Luminus. He suggested that an approach be made to that company to see if they would be prepared to fund the installation of grasscrete to improve the parking facilities for their tenants. Mr Jackson volunteered to follow this up.

The Chairman advised that he had also now discussed the question of grasscrete with the resident at 10 High Street which had no off-road parking. The resident would be happy to have it installed but not at her own expense.

The Chairman suggested that ornamental planting might be added at the recently installed village gates. After discussion, this idea was generally supported and it was suggested that Mr Tack be asked for his views on possible options.

16.24 Agenda Item 9: Footpath, footway and carriageway repair and maintenance

The Clerk advised that there he had not yet received the plan of the verge ownership throughout the village as had been discussed with Tim Watkins in connection with the L??? Initiative and would request this again.

All villagers should now have received notice from Cambs CC of the intended resurfacing of the High Street during June. This was scheduled for 6th June and should only take a day.

16.25 Agenda Item 10: Cotton Farm Community Benefit Fund

Mrs Ascroft reminded the Council of previous discussions about whether the Fund might be approached to fund improved and more adaptable signage for village events and produced examples she had obtained for consideration. As an indication, obtaining fifteen A3 signs would cost approximately £180. She noted that an application could be made at any time but would need to be made before the end of September.

After discussion it was agreed that an application should be made but that as Mrs Ascroft and Mr Fusco were the village's representatives on the approval panel, they should not be involved in its preparation.

Mr Griffith noted that the verges on which certain of the existing signs were located were owned by Cambs CC and, while roadside signage for local charitable and community events was generally tolerated, he was aware of reports that the County Council had previously removed signs without notice. As a result, in the event that the application was successful, he felt consideration would need to be given to the location of the new signs. The Chairman pointed out that certain of the signs used for the flower festival were mounted in large bore plastic piping sunk into

the verges and if this option was used for the village event signs they could be readily put up and taken down which would deal with the risk of them being removed and also make the village more presentable when they were not needed.

16.26 Agenda Item 11: Parish Council co-option

The Chairman advised that as Mr Webb and his family would shortly be relocating to Cambridge he had tendered his resignation from the Council with immediate effect. The Chairman noted the contribution made by Mr Webb during his time as a councillor, particularly with regard to the development of the traffic management strategy.

He reminded the Council of the procedures required to give notice to parishioners and HDC of the vacancy and asked the councillors to consider identifying potential candidates.

The Clerk confirmed that the relevant notices had been given to HDC and posted in the notice boards on the 9th May.

16.27 Agenda Item 12: HDC Community Chest 2016/17

The Clerk advised that he had received notification that HDC had renewed their Community Chest scheme and that the closing date for applications was 31st May. However, as the Scheme's criteria now excluded any precepted organisation, the Council was not eligible.

It was agreed that councillors would make other village community groups aware of the Scheme as appropriate.

16.28 Agenda Item 13:Accounts to Pay

It was proposed by Mr Griffith, seconded by Mr Jackson and carried unanimously that the account submitted by CAPALC for the affiliation fees for 2016/17 amounting to £165.28 be passed for payment.

16.29 Agenda Item 14: Correspondence

The Clerk advised that he had received a letter from the Tower Mint detailing a commemorative medal for The Queen's 90th Birthday which is being made available to schools and councils at a cost of £1.99 plus VAT. After discussion, it was agreed that this offer would not be taken up.

16.30 Agenda Item 15: : Any other business

Mr Fusco and Mr Griffith provided a report on a conference they had attended recently on the Council's behalf concerning the purpose, procedures and legislative framework for the development of Neighbourhood Plans.

The Clerk noted that he had received the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2016 from the external auditors. This now required a specific resolution for the Annual Governance Statement but apart from that the procedures were broadly as for previous years.

16.31 The meeting closed at 21.56.

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