

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th February 2008 in the
Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.**

Apologies: Mr P. Jackson

Present: Mr E. G. Ascroft (Chairman), Mr J. Peal (Vice Chairman), Mrs J. Murray, Mr P. Jackson, Mr. L Johnson, Mr J. Murray, Mr P. Woodhouse.

The Chairman recorded his thanks to Mr Peal for deputising so ably during his recent spell of ill health.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting were read. It was proposed by Mr Woodhouse, seconded by Mr Peal and agreed unanimously that they were an accurate record and signed by the Chairman according.

Matters arising:

Fire Hydrants. The Clerk reported that the Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service had confirmed that the supply would be sufficient to deal with a thatched cottage fire. Mr Peal had separately confirmed that the fittings on all hydrants and appliances were compatible.

Surface water: The Clerk reported that he had contacted Anglian Water and Cambridgeshire County Council, Highways Division. Anglian Water had denied any responsibility for the surface water drainage system. Cambs CC had reported that in their view the problem was due to water being fed into the surface water manhole from drains fed by the adjacent private land and as such the responsibility of those landowners. After discussion, the Council considered this was an inadequate response as it was understood that a site survey had shown that the affected manhole was not draining into the connecting system and the Clerk was asked to follow this up with the Highways Division.

Bridge: The Clerk advised that he had contacted Cambridgeshire County Council who had stated that there had been excessive and unexplainable delays in their dealings with the subcontractors engaged to carry out the work. He had requested that the Highways Division officer responsible escalate the problem. Mr Woodhouse had visited the Council's offices while in Huntingdon and had complained in person. The bridge had now been repaired.

Straw on Road: The Chairman advised that he had discussed this with Mr Eays and been informed that the problem rested with the

hauliers and not Mr Eayrs own staff. Efforts would be made to minimise any impact next year.

Broadband: The Clerk advised that no response had been received from BT to the second letter sent registering the poor broadband connectivity experienced by some village residents. Mr Peal had circulated a survey to try to gauge the extent of the problem throughout the village. The replies received to date indicated that establishing a connection was generally not problematic but once established the connection could be slow and inconsistent. It also appeared that wireless connectivity was better than conventional connectivity. It was agreed that further efforts should be made withy BT and the Clerk was asked to pursue this. Mr and Mrs Murray thought that BT had 'Centres of Excellence' designed to deal with customer proposes such as this and suggested trying to locate and make contact through one of these.

Dog Control The Clerk reported that he had clarified with Huntingdonshire District Council that the two black litter bins in the village which seemed to be intended for dog waste were, in fact, for both dog and general waste. These bins are emptied fortnightly under the normal refuse collection cycle. Hunts DC are quite prepared to consider representations concerning the location of the bins and whether any additional bins might be needed. The Clerk was requested to proceed with asking for an additional bin or the relocation of one of the existing bins to the footway area next to the cricket field entrance near 'railway sidings'

Speeding The Clerk advised that Cambridgeshire Police had replied to the Council's letter concerning speeding in the village and given an undertaking to conduct a survey as soon as resources allowed. They had advised that the monitoring equipment needed to be attached to existing road furniture and had asked for possible locations. It was agreed that the Clerk should respond suggesting the stretches between Bridle End and Holy Cross church and between the cricket field entrance and the western end of the village

Mrs Murray drew the Council's attention to a letter from a Yelling resident in the current edition of the Hunts Post complaining about the increased traffic.

Cotton Farm Wind Farm

The Clerk, Mr Peal and Mr Woodhouse updated the Council on the formation of the Cotton Farm Action Group and a presentation made by that group at

Offord D'Arcy on 31 January they had attended. The salient points made at the presentation were;

- The proposed turbines would be the tallest on land in the UK at 127 metres.
- The impact on the landscape and the effect on visual amenity.
- The farm is considered to be only commercially viable because of the Renewables Obligation subsidy scheme the cost of which is born by all electricity consumers.
- The relative inefficiency of the wind farm.
- The fact that the area would potentially become considered as an industrialised zone if the proposal goes ahead which could open it up to further development.

The Chairman advised that he had agreed to chair an open village meeting for a presentation by representatives of the Action Group.

The Clerk reiterated that:

- Councillors must be seen to remain impartial if they are not to be prejudiced from considering any formal planning application which may come before the Council.
- although the formal application would come before Offord D'Arcy parish council the planning department at Huntingdonshire District Council had confirmed that the parish councils for the surrounding villages would be given the opportunity to make representations.
- nPower had been invited to send representatives to the open village meeting but had declined. They had, however, confirmed that there would be an exhibition at Offord D'Arcy village hall on the 8th and 9th of March with a session reserved solely for councillors on the morning of the 8th.

The Council agreed that this was a very serious proposal impacting on the village which warranted full consideration and all councillors would make every effort to attend the exhibition.

Yelling Parish Council website

Following the concern expressed at the Council meeting on 10th December 2007 at the potential cost of developing the proposed new village website, Mr Peal had contacted another website developer who had agreed a flat fee of £200.00 to construct a website which would allow the village groups to update and maintain their own sections. In addition to the set-up costs there would be a bi-annual website hosting cost of £40.00.

Mr Peal and the Clerk had contacted the other five main village groups and secured unanimous support to proceed on the basis of the revised costings being shared equally. Mr Peal sought the Council's confirmation of the engagement of the website developer to commence the initial design specification and produced for the meeting schematics of the structure of the proposed site structure. It was proposed by Mr Murray, seconded by Mr Woodhouse and carried unanimously that the development be undertaken.

Register of Councillors' Interests

The Clerk advised that the Chairman had relayed a reminder received from the Monitoring Officer at Huntingdonshire District Council that the Code of Conduct required that any changes to councillors' interests must be notified within 28 days of the change. All Councillors confirmed that there were no amendments to be advised.

Parish Charter

The Clerk had circulated the proposed Parish Charter between Huntingdonshire District Council and parish councils prior to the meeting. The main headings of the matters to be addressed by the charter are;

- Local governance liaison
- Consultation on matters affecting the parish
- Land use and development
- Information provision and complaints handling
- Conduct standards
- Delegation of the provision of services
- Financial and funding arrangements

Comments on the charter by parish councils had been invited by completion of a questionnaire. However, after discussion, the Council felt that the matters covered by the questionnaire had limited application to Yelling and determined that it would be inappropriate to respond.

Planning Applications

26 High Street – Addition of single storey extension at rear of property

33 High Street – Addition of conservatory at rear of property

All councillors had considered the applications prior to the meeting and they had been approved unanimously.

Accounts to pay

The following accounts were presented for payment.

Yelling Village Hall	£ 15.00	Hire 30 th November 2007
Yelling Village Hall	£ 5.00	Hire 10 th December 2007

Payment was proposed by Mr Murray, seconded by Mr Peal and carried unanimously

Correspondence

The Audit Commission has written confirming the appointment of Moore Stephens as auditor for a further five year period commencing with the 2007/2008 accounts.

Any Other Business

Mr Peal raised the matter of a litter pick which had been supported by the Council at the meeting dated 2 July 2007 and advised that Health and Safety concerns mean that the Council is prevented from arranging it. It was proposed that this would now be organised as a general village action and was proposed for the morning of Saturday 29th March.

Mr Woodhouse noted that although the bridge had been repaired it was still in need of painting and general refurbishment. He had spoken to the repairers on site and also raised it while visiting the Council's offices and had been advised that the necessary action would be taken when resources were available but this might not be for some time. The Clerk was requested to monitor the situation and to escalate with the Council if the works are not carried out in a reasonable time.

Mr Peal advised that Mrs Peal as the Paths Coordinator for the parish would shortly be returning an application for grants for footpath and bridleway improvements. Current ideas were the replacement of the kissing gate near the cricket pitch, drainage improvements to the footpath between 'Bennett's' and the cricket ground and further drainage improvements to the bridleway to the side of the stables at the eastern end of the village. Mr Peal sought any views the council might have on these or any other works. The council supported the proposals but noted that improvements needed to the drainage of the bridleway would be quite extensive and probably very costly.

Mrs Murray advised that the footway immediately below the Old Rectory was becoming overgrown. New occupants had moved into the immediately adjacent property and the Chairman agreed to review the situation and contact them as necessary.

Mrs Murray noted that refuse bins were often not removed from the footway once the collection had been made and this could indicate that the occupants were not at home which could increase the incidence of crime. The Chairman advised that there was little that could be done to compel villagers to remove

the bins and that criminal activity in Yelling was low. In fact, recent crime reports had indicated that there had been no offences in the village for over three weeks

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.