

Minutes of Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall Parish Council Meeting 16th January 2007.

Present: Mr H Smith (Chairman), Mr B Duffin (vice Chairman), Mrs L Preston, Mrs C Bushell, Ms S Burton (Parish Clerk), Mr R McClenning District Councillor

Apologies: Mr P Muskett, Mr G Kelly.

Ms L Carter handed in her resignation letter to Mr H Smith, and stated that she would be unable to attend any further meetings with immediate effect. Mr H Smith read out the letter of resignation to the Parish Council members present. It was agreed that Ms L Carter would be missed and that a letter of thanks should be sent for all of her hard work and commitment to the Parish Council.

Minutes of previous meeting: These were approved and signed By Mr H Smith

Matters arising:

- 1) Mrs L Preston raised the question over the precept amount and queried whether it was sufficient to meet the needs of the Parish Council. Mr H Smith advised that the Parish Council does have some reserves, but that finances would have to be carefully managed.
- 2) A letter to Mr M Weathurburn had been sent, thanking him for his help and assistance.

Norfolk County Council Report:

Mr B Spratt requested that if possible could someone from the Parish Council be present at the Norfolk Constabulary Budget Meeting on Thursday eve to discuss the PCSO and the budget for this service, as it looked as though some of the funding may have to come from the taxpayer, despite previous pledges from the Government that this would be funded from central Government funds with no additional cost to the taxpayer.

The meals on wheels provision has raised to £3 per head.

The Social Services budget covering services for both the elderly & children was straining under the current demands, and looked set to be stretched to breaking point over the coming years.

NCC has been advised that a figure of between £4 - £12 Million pounds needs to be set aside in the budget for the Modern Reward Strategy. This is in effect equal pay for Women, and NCC may be forced to backdate this to some employees.

Planning Applications:

a. 2006/2617 Rose Acre, New Road, Ashwellthorpe – erection of three bungalows with associated private access and landscaping, an addendum modification that ‘donates’ a parcel of land to no. 8 The Street, Ashwellthorpe.

b.2006/2708 Plot 2 The Street, Old School House, The Street, Ashwellthorpe; Erection of detached dwelling & garage. The Parish Council were unable to comment on this application as no plans had been received from the Planning Department at South Norfolk Council. Mr H Smith proposed that he would go to SNC offices on Wednesday morning to collect the plans. Mr H Smith proposed a ‘round robin’ system so that all Councillors could view the plans and then make comment.

It was agreed unanimously that this was not a satisfactory situation and that in future ALL planning applications should be sent to Mr H Smith. Ms S Burton would send a letter to SNC advising of the changes with immediate effect.

Mr H Smith will contact Mr S Pontin and enquire where the plans have been sent to.

C) 2007/0003 Oaklands 102 The Street, Ashwellthorpe proposed erection of a wind turbine.
This was approved

Correspondence

1. SNC items for Are Forums, Spring 2007 – this was noted
2. Norfolk Police Authority budget consultation 18.01.07 – Mr H Smith will attend
3. SNC Planning for Gypsies & Travellers – key dates were read out
4. Parish & Town Councils Lunch Seminar – no takers at present
5. Go East letter offering further information on LDF being an ongoing item.
6. Planning notification that the Timber Yard additional housing had been rejected
7. Email from SNC wishing to advertise in our Parish Magazine.

Accounts

- 1 The balances of the accounts were noted as follows:
- 2 Current Account £434.20
- 3 Business Premium Account £4319.17
- 4 Cheques were written out for the following:
Ashwellthorpe Village Hall £49.50
Mr H Smith Website set up fees £33.89
Mrs L Packer for play equipment printing costs £15.75

Highways & Footpaths

The 50m stretch of hedging between New Road & Traice Road had now been removed.

Knyvett Green Play Area / Equipment

Mr B Duffin wished to state the point that he felt owning and controlling the play equipment and parcel of land would place the Parish Council under immense pressure both financially and also in terms of time taken to look after and organise the maintenance of the area. In addition to this the huge sums of money that would be required to replace any equipment. SNC have advised that although the equipment is not deemed to be unsafe at present, the current play equipment does not meet current legislation. It was proposed by Mr H Smith not to own the parcel of land and to hand over control of the play equipment to SNC, but this should be carried forward to the next meeting.

Communications Committee & The Mardle

The website is running well and has received some very good compliments so far. There is another meeting planned for next week. A new additions page is planned to prevent having to scroll through the entire site to find out what's new.

If you wish to assist with this website or have any information that you may like to include the contact details are as follows: Rick & Nancy Adams (01508 489311), Gary & Kelda Betts, Gordon & Jennifer Robbie, Sid Weiner and Hedley Smith (01953 789168)

The Village website is run on behalf of the Parish Council by the communications group.

Mr H Smith has obtained a quote for a new notice board and the only quote so far has been for £300 per notice board. This figure is quoted without furniture, hinges or a post.

Anyone who may have a contact for a local craftsman or any ideas where one can be obtained at a more reasonable price please contact Mr H Smith.

Mr H Smith reported that one of the people who used to deliver the Mardle has decided that they are no longer able to deliver. If anyone knows someone who may be able to take over this position then could they please contact Mr H Smith for details?

New Refuse Bins:

Mr H Smith brought a brochure to the meeting to show the new Topsy 2000 bin, which would cost a total of £159.34 plus VAT. This included a galvanised steel inner. This was agreed and Mr H Smith will place the order.

District Council Report:

Mr R McClenning advised the Parish Council that the criteria for Social Housing was changing to a 'bidding system', the idea is to speed up the process and make available a greater choice to residents of South Norfolk in need of Social Housing.

There is the annual Village pantomime at Wrenningham Village Hall on the 15, 16 and 17th February; Mr R McClenning is directing this panto and tickets are available from Christine Minns.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.38pm