

Minutes of Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall Parish Council Meeting 20th March 2007.

Present: Mr H Smith (Chairman), Mr B Duffin (vice Chairman), Mrs L Preston, Mrs C Bushell, Mr P Muskett, Ms S Burton (Parish Clerk). Mr R McClenning District Councillor (arrived late by prior notice to Parish Council)

Apologies: Mr G. Kelly, Mr B Spratt (County Councillor).

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

Matters arising:

The plot of land next to the Old School House was being offered for re-sale again.

The drainage of water from the Parish Land direction onto Wymondham Road / New Road is in hand. Mr H Smith has emailed Gary Overland at Highways dept, and is still awaiting a response to this and two other reports. Mr Smith has been advised by Mr Overland that the matter is however in hand.

Planning Applications:

There were no planning applications to be considered at the meeting.

The Planning Application 2006/1380 Land to the rear The St Ashwellthorpe has been withdrawn. The Planning Application 2007/0332 The wind turbine at Knyvett Green has been withdrawn because of insufficient information on noise.

Knyvett Green Play Area / Equipment:

There had been some confusion over who was to communicate with South Norfolk Council over this issue, and therefore no progress has been made to hand back control to South Norfolk at the present time. Mr H Smith will speak to the necessary person at South Norfolk to put this matter in hand.

Correspondence

- a) Letter of thanks from Citizens Advice Bureau
- b) NCC- Eurocom, offering some adult Education Free of Charge
- c) South Norfolk Area Forum (SW) meeting on 21.03.07 at 7.30pm
- d) SNC letter requesting details of land owned by Parish Council
- e) NCC Local Bus Service Variation from 04.03.07
- f) Norwich City Council bid for Unitary Status
- g) Advertisement brochure & letter offering dog training.

E-mail Correspondence as circulated to all Parish Councillors by forwarding e-mails;

Accounts

Balance of Community Account £495.03

Balance of Business Premium Account ££3319.17

There were no cheques written out at the meeting.

Elections

Mr Smith advised both the Parish Council & all parishioners present that postal votes were available up to and including the 18th April, and that they would be sent out on the 20th April 2007. The elections are being held on the 3rd May, with the count being announced on the 4th May 2007. This was the case for both Parish & District elections.

NRCC Affordable Housing Survey

Mr H Smith has arranged for approximately 350 surveys to be distributed with the Mardle.

Communications Committee & The Mardle

There had been no recent meetings, however there was a proposed meeting being scheduled for the next week, and emails would be distributed accordingly. The new website is still receiving praise. The forthcoming elections will be advertised on the website.

Village Action Plan

There was nothing to report at the meeting.

District Councillor Report

Mr R McClenning reported that there was a problem with lorry drivers being directed up Blacksmiths Lane by their Satellite Navigation systems, clearly this is not suitable for HGV's and signs will be erected to dissuade HGV's from using this route despite their Satellite Navigation directions.

Fornsett Parish Council had lost at the Tribunal with their Parish Clerk and this had proved to be a costly process.

Unitary Status is not likely, as there are opinions that it would be detrimental to the area.

South Norfolk is preparing for the forthcoming elections on 3rd May 2007, and hopes to see all Parishes have elections.

County Councillor Report

Mr B Spratt was absent from the meeting.

A.O.B

- 1) Mrs L Preston raised the issue that there had been recent reports that there were plans to survey Villages with less than 3000 residents about the loss of amenities and the effects on the Villages. Mr H Smith reported that this was being undertaken by the NRCC, but felt that this would be too much to cope with at the same time as the affordable housing survey.
- 2) One of the residents at the Turnpike in Fundenhall had caused an obstruction near the notice board by placing large rocks and signed on stakes in the ground with a No Parking message. It was stated that Mr G Overland at the Highways dept had been informed and would inform the residents that their actions were in fact illegal and causing an obstruction to the highway.
- 3) There was a problem with the positioning of the new footpaths signs within the Villages. There have been suggestions of Ashwellthorpe Village Church, Fundenhall Village sign proximity, Manor Farm in Fundenhall, and finally outside the old village shop in Ashwellthorpe. Mr R McClenning made a suggestion that perhaps we could investigate if it was possible to place a downloadable version of the footpaths map onto the new website? Mr H Smith asked Mr Gordon Robbie if he would look into this and report back to the Parish Council.
- 4) Mr H Smith raised the issue of some new Notice boards, and advised that he had a basic price of £300.00, but stressed the point that this was a basic price only and did not include any hinges, or furniture etc. It is expected that this will be a very costly expense. The Parish Council would ideally like to purchase two new Notice boards, but Ms Burton the Parish Clerk raised the issue of finance, and suggested that she look again at the budget and recent expenses & purchases and report back to the Parish Council to see if a second notice board might be purchased later in the year, as it was very unlikely that there would be any discount for a multiple purchase. The proposed new site for the notice board is outside the old village shop in Ashwellthorpe, and it is quite possible that permission will have to be obtained from Highways dept for this to proceed.
- 5) There has been no further progress with the road safety issues, but it was agreed that perhaps the Parish Council could investigate the cost of a flashing speed sign. Mr H Smith suggested a traffic census, and Mr G Robbie advised the council that he has previous experience of this work and has volunteered to undertake a traffic census in the next few months, when the weather improves.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.45pm