

Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on the 16th December 2008

Present: - Mr Barry Duffin (Chairman), Mrs Carol Bushell (Vice Chairman), Mr Hedley Smith, Mr John Brooks, Mr Gary Betts, Mr Graham Kelly, Mrs Lynn Preston & Miss Caroline Fare (Clerk).

Apologies: - None.

Minutes of the previous meeting: -

These have been circulated previously and signed by Mr Barry Duffin.

Action Points from the previous meeting: -

CF sent a letter to Mark North at SNDC explaining the council's concern with the possible closure of Blacksmith's Lane.

CF has sent a reply to Irelands explaining the affordable housing situation in Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall and advised them to speak to Laura Handford at Flagship Housing.

CF is still dealing with the change of signatories on the Parish Council bank accounts.

CF could not find last years budget and will therefore base this years on the previous years end of year accounts.

BD has made an application to SNDC for a grant to pay for two new notice boards to go in the village.

HS has written a letter to Sid Weiner regarding dogs on Knyvett Green and the matter is now closed.

CF has written to Gary Overland asking for him to look into the amount of mud left on The Street and Common Road, Fundenhall.

CF has sent a letter to the Eastons on behalf of the Parish Council asking for them to prune the Chestnut Tree as soon as possible. A copy of which was also sent to Robin Taylor at SN.

JB has emailed Nick Aldous regarding the stile in disrepair.

Planning Application: -

The Grange, Whipps Lane, Fundenhall – Proposed conversion of existing barns to 4 dwellings with garages and demolition of metal clad agricultural barn.

Comments were made regarding the bin stores being in the position they are since they are unsightly to passers by. The council are happy that this application now addresses the poor view from the drive onto the road. The council all agree with the application except HS who abstains. This view is subject to the applicants looking at percolation tests, drainage in general, the water works and traffic.

Blacksmiths Lane: -

Following CF's letter to Mark North he has responded to HS explaining that a consultation had already taken place however the Parish Council were neither consulted nor given the results of such a consultation. CF will write back to MN asking for details of this consultation and will also request that a meeting should take place between him, BD and HS. BD will also speak to the local landowner, Robert Gray as the main issue with closing or narrowing the lane with bollards is that large farm traffic will not be able to get through.

Action: CF & BD

2009 Parish Council Budget: -

Last years budget was £6000 however it was suggested that in light of the current economic climate we should look to reduce this years by £500. In the end however it was decided that we should leave it at £6000 since we have very few reserves and would like 2 new notice boards for the village this year. CF will prepare the budget for next months meeting. **Action: CF**

Communication: -

- CF has spoken to Cartledge on two occasions regarding the broken street lamp on Greenwood Close. This is unfortunately on a 7-10 day lead time due to Cartledge being very busy.
- CF attended training in early December, The Initial Training for Clerks & Councillors. This was very useful and has highlighted the fact that our agenda is not set out as it should be. CF will amend the format for January's agenda. **Action: CF**
- The planning application for a new field gate at 99A, The Street, Ashwellthorpe has been approved.
- The application for a front extension at 1 Jubilee Cottages, New Road, Fundenhall has been approved.
- The National Grid have been taken over by Arquiva. This means less work will be carried out on the Tacolneston mast which will result in less construction traffic. HS is concerned by this traffic and has written a letter to SN to this effect.
- The application by DC Developments has been approved at the area planning committee meeting. Some members of the Parish Council felt that since HS is also a District Councillor who is on this committee, there is a conflict of interest since he voted for the application even though the Parish Council unanimously objected. There is also the problem that HS cannot pass opinion on planning applications prior to the area planning committee meeting. This application has only been approved at area level and there will be a main meeting on the 13th January which will decide for definite if the application is to be approved. Members of the Parish Council will look to attend this meeting to put across their objections.

Accounts: -

An invoice of £39 for the hire of the village hall has been received as has an invoice from SN for £103.42 which covers the printing of the September mardle.

CF has put in an invoice of £143.75 for December.

It has been confirmed that CF should amend her January bill to include the time she was at a training session and the motor expenses incurred.

Footpaths & Highways: -

During the very cold weather throughout November and December New Road was not gritted once even though it is on the bus route. CF is to write to Gary Overland asking why this was the case.

Action: CF

LAND TO PARISH COUNCIL

Robert Bothway has offered to give some land to the Fundenhall Church for use as a car park. There is concern that if he gives it to Fundenhall Church, ownership will eventually end up with the Church Dioceses rather than the church. It has been recommended that ownership is passed to the Parish Council and it therefore belongs to the village. Councillors were very happy to receive this gift.

HS also reminded the PC that he (for the PC) had been promised first offer of a piece of land next to Ashwellthorpe Church when it is next sold, he hoped the PC would be able to buy this asset for the village.

District Council Report: -

Hollie Fisher, the local PCSO, is looking to attend a meeting in the near future to discuss the matter of cold calling and how this can be prevented in the village.

County Council Report: - None.

The meeting closed at 21.50hrs.