

Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 15th July 2008

Present: - Mr Hedley Smith (acting chair), Mr Barry Duffin (chair), Mr John Brooks, Mrs Lynn Preston, Mr Graham Kelly, Miss Caroline Fare (clerk)

Guests: - Miss Abi Denington-Price from South Norfolk Council, Laura Handford from Flagship Housing and Mr Beverley Spratt (county council).

Apologies: - Mr B Duffin who was attending the Wymondham Neighbourhood Forum and came to the Parish meeting later. Carol Bushell was also absent.

Minutes of the previous meeting: -

These have been circulated previously and duly signed by the acting chair, Hedley Smith.

The minute book still cannot be found therefore a new one will be started.

The Fundenhall notice board still needs fixing, HS will action this.

Action: HS

Affordable Housing:-

South Norfolk Council have agreed that there are three potential sites for the development of affordable housing in Ashwellthorpe. These include the land next to Ronnie Clark on The Street, land next to The Firs on New Road and land next to Loke Farm on New Road.

It was felt that the two sites on New Road would be most suitable since there has been no indication that the landowner on The Street would sell. The Parish Council felt that the land next to Loke Farm was preferred with a vote being cast to confirm this. HS commented that he may prefer a crescent rather than all six properties lining the roadside. ADP could not comment on the likelihood of this however it will be considered when a draft layout is being drawn up. The Firs may be a better site for this due to its shape, also Loke Farm is a large plot for just six houses and could result in further building developments in the future. Overall though Loke Farm was the preferred site.

Following on from the Parish Council's decision regarding the preferred plot an architect will now come and look at the site and try and draw up some draft plans. LH has advised that these should be available for the next Parish Council meeting in August. South Norfolk Council will also need to negotiate a sale price of the land with the owner. This should not be too difficult as the landowner has already made it clear he is happy to sell.

A public consultation will take place for the plans to be viewed and comments to be made and the Parish Council will discuss the layout and design of the site once more detailed plans have been made.

County Council Report:-

1. Lotus are looking to expand to make a 'Global Techno Park' which will be good for the local area.
2. 3 million pounds was saved last year in not putting so much salt on the roads. The County Council are looking at a new type of salt called Safecoat. This is made up of 6mm salt granules with 3% molasses. The hope is that the molasses will keep the salt on the road ensuring that it will last longer.
3. The Adult Social Services is being reviewed and upgraded. Carers will now be able to claim more in mileage as the rate has increased from 17p/mile to 35p/mile. There is also a new pilot scheme being introduced to give a more personalised service and better access to 'mainstream' services. The full scheme can be read about in the Adult Social Services Review – Presentation on Service Eligibility.
4. A survey has been done on High Definition television due to interference caused by wind turbines. The HD signal is very sensitive and can easily be affected by these turbines. The main solution is to buy a better aerial however this does not always solve the problem. It is thought that

the wind turbine companies should absorb the costs however with the proposed wind turbines at Hethel this has not yet been agreed upon.

5. The Old Railway Bridge, Blacksmiths Lane will not be having any work done due to the costs exceeding £380,000. It may be that bollards are put in place to prevent wide loads, such as lorries, from passing.

6. There has been several people in The Street complaining about the state of the hedges along the footpaths. Most of these issues have now been resolved and a new scheme is in place to keep the hedges in order.

7. It is in the 2010 budget for part of New Road to be resurfaced however The Street has not yet been included in a budget. It would not be sensible to resurface either roads before this time due to the construction of the new TV mast over the next few years. A large number of heavy lorries will be on these roads and would only damage the newly laid surface.

Planning Applications:-

35 Knyvett Green – Erection of a single storey side and rear extension. The council were in favour of this application.

Communication:-

SNC re. Sleepers, Station House, Norwich Road, Ashwellthorpe – Alteration to roof type of approved side extension and conservatory. Approved with conditions.

SNC re. Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 – Part 8: High Hedges. It has now become necessary to consider making a refund in relation to a High Hedge complaint lodged with the Council. A fee of £350 is payable once the complaint has been accepted by the council however if the complaint is withdrawn and no site visit nor calculations have been carried out then only a fee of £50 is required and the difference is returned.

Accounts:-

Balances read out – Current A/C £3320.28, Deposit A/C £2688.77

No cheques were issued. GK should have the VAT refund very shortly. This amounts to £735. The audit for April 06-April 07 is also nearly completed and will then require the signature of BD. The insurance has now been renewed. CF sent the cheque on Wednesday 16th July. **Action: GK**

Speedwatch:-

LP said that she would not like to be part of the speedwatch programme because she is not happy with the duties involved. A minimum of three volunteers is required, currently there are two and HS plans to complete the training also. Insurance is still required however now that we have renewed our insurance for this year we are in a better position to get a quote. **Action: CF**

LP would still like to pursue the possibility of a flashing sign. It is considered by some members of the Parish Council that this may be an expensive option however LP will look into the price for the next meeting. Another option is to put up signs at both ends of the village warning people that this is a Community Speedwatch Village. **Action: LP**

Trees:-

1. The overhanging branches at the Shrublands have now been cut back.

2. Sycamore trees at Old Hall Close. They are very dense with foliage down to the ground and branches overhanging the close. Is it possible for them to be lopped? Confirmation as to who owns that bit of land is required however it is thought that the Hall owns it. BD will look into this and will try and speak to the owners. If this is not the case it may be necessary to speak to Highways. **Action: BD**

3. CB had mentioned previously about an overhanging branch on the oak tree opposite the Shrublands. It has been agreed by the Parish Council that this is not an issue.

Format of the Minutes:-

It was agreed that because full names were listed at the top of the minutes in Present, initials only could be used in the details of the minutes.

Also to the right should be an action column with the initials of the person making the action. It is then clear as to who is required to do what for the next meeting.

Footpaths & Highways:- No report.

District Council Report:-

1. Geoff Rivers has taken a new role at Bury St Edmunds.
2. Dog fouling rules – You must now clear up after your dog in all places of public access.
3. Unitary – It is proposed to have the whole of Norfolk and Lowestoft as one unitary body. Because this means the unitary will have more people to represent more power may be given to the Parish Councils.
4. Wymondham Neighbourhood Forum – BD attended the forum, for which he is a member, prior to the Parish Council meeting. The forum was set up to deal with any neighbourhood issues and to give grants to any village group or club in the Wymondham and West area. The neighbourhood forum is to be merged with the SNAP which is a panel of agencies whose aim is to make safer neighbourhoods. Because of this the police and South Norfolk have now decided who is on the forum committee which has therefore caused the original forum and the committee members to be replaced.
5. There has been complaints regarding the Flexibus. It is not always reliable and the telephone number is not free. HS needs detailed information to be able to do anything about the issue. LP is to find out who the representative in the County Council is and will suggest that they come along to one of the Parish Councils meetings. **Action: LP**
6. The Browns have started up a new taxi service. It has been decided that this is more of a business than a service and they are therefore not allowed to advertise in the Mardle. There are adverts up in the notice boards already.
7. The ply advertising board next to the post box on new Road needs to be removed. HS has said he will do this. **Action: HS**
8. LP attended Saturday's Wymondham Learning Initiative taster day which was a great success. About 40-50 people turned up and many have signed up to various activities. LP will put something together for the mardle. **Action: LP**
9. The plates on the street lights in Knyvett Green and on The Street have come off which could be dangerous. CF is to contact Cartledge which is the company that maintains these. **Action: CF**

The meeting closed at 21.50hrs.