

Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 17th June 2008

Present: - Mrs C Bushell, Mr J Brooks, Mrs L Preston, Mr H Smith, Mr G Kelly,
Miss C Fare

Apologies: - Mr B Duffin, Mr G Betts

Minutes of the previous meeting: -

These have been circulated previously and duly signed by the Vice-Chairman.

There has still been no luck in finding the missing minute book as neither Mr H Smith nor Mr G Kelly can locate it. Mr B Duffin is to check with the previous clerk Ms S Burton.

It has been commented on that the parish council half of the new notice boards are very empty compared to the public's half. Mr H Smith will be putting up a banner stating "Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall Notice Boards" along with details of the parish website. Miss C Fare will be putting in information cards relating to the Protection of Vulnerable Adults.

Planning Applications: -

1. Mr W James, The Chapel, New Road, Fundenhall – The Parish Council discussed the revised plans and took a vote. All councillors present voted to keep their objection with the exception of Mr H Smith who abstained from voting. The feeling was that the revised plans still did not meet the criteria that the new windows on the front elevation match those of the original chapel. It may be decided that a Parish Councillor attend the South Norfolk committee meeting to explain their objections – Mr J Brooks has already volunteered.
2. Mr K Anderson, Gibraltar Farm, New Road, Fundenhall – Erection of 3 bay timber garage. The Parish council were in favour of this application.

Affordable Housing: -

Mr P Muskett apologised for not being present at the meeting however the plans he wished to discuss did not have the required amendments. He has suggested that a site meeting should be arranged in the near future.

We have not yet received the proposals from Ms A. Dennington-Price re the other possible sites. Her recent email to Mr B Duffin relating to this was deemed inappropriate however the Parish Council has decided to take no further action.

Accounts: -

Balances read out – Current A/C £3335.54, Deposit A/C £2681.58

No cheques were issued. Mr G Kelly now has the VAT Reclaim Form and hopes to have this completed shortly. The audit for April 06-April 07 is also nearly completed and will then require the signature of Mr B Duffin.

Correspondence: -

1. SNC re removal of the last remaining public payphone in Ashwellthorpe. There is a consultation period between 8th June to 6th September for anyone wishing to comment. Mrs L Preston has asked if there is an audit available as to the use of the phone box. I will try and look into this further.
2. SNC re Protection of Vulnerable Adults literature – Information cards to be put up in the new notice boards.

3. SNC re Proposed Wind Energy Development at Group Lotus PLC, Potash Lane, Hethel. A meeting was held on the 11th June at which the proposed plans were rejected.
4. SNC re The Crescent, Ashwellthorpe – Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of one 2 bed physical disability unit. Approved with conditions.
5. SNC re The Laurels, New Road, Fundenhall. Demolition of existing single storey kitchen and conservatory. Erection of new single storey kitchen and garden room. Approved with conditions.
6. SNC re Withdrawal of application from The Labrador, The Turnpike, Fundenhall.
7. Highway engineer (Gary Overland) re Ashwellthorpe highway issues.
8. Blacksmiths Lane. Signs have been erected advising people that this road has a weight restriction therefore there is not much else that can be done at present. There are however discussions going on between a NCC representative and Highways regarding the narrowing of the bridge to make access by lorries very difficult.

Speed Watch: -

This should be up and running in 2 weeks once the volunteers fill in their forms. We still need more volunteers for this scheme to work effectively. Mr G Kelly will be looking into the cost of insurance, which should only be about £10-£15. Mr H Smith has advised that it is not possible to insure all the Community Speed Watch equipment on behalf of all Councils in the scheme. It would be 'cheaper' to add it to our existing policy.

Footpaths & Highways: -

Nick Aldus, NCC Footpaths Officer, has cut the Fundenhall footpaths extremely well. South Norfolk Council may be appointing an officer responsible for public footpaths in South Norfolk.

There has been no further progress regarding the footpath under the rail bridge. It has been advised that unless 10 people can prove that they have been walking there for the past 10 years or that the owner gives his permission then nothing will be done. There is also concern that masonry falling from the bridge could cause a serious injury.

There are two signs on the green in front of Old Hall Close that are no longer necessary. The elderly people sign and the blue sign saying village centre. Miss C Fare will write to Gary Overland concerning both of these and request that they are removed.

There are low hanging branch on the footpath next to Shrublands, The Street, Ashwellthorpe. Miss C Fare will write to Gary Overland regarding this.

District Council Report: -

1. The Unitary Report Saga Information will now be available on the 7th July. The public will have a right to comment.
2. There is a new Head Planning Officer starting in mid-July. His name is Andrew Gregory.
3. South Norfolk had their first fly tipping prosecution which imposed a fine of £550.
4. The large tree outside the Ashwellthorpe Village Hall will remain as the Parish Council felt that this would not impede the laying of tarmac at the entrance to Mr Reeder's Old Wood Yard.
5. The large recycling centre should be open in the near future.
6. ASBO - Long Stratton and Diss are funding the use of cameras by police officers which will film troublesome children and then playback the recording to their parents.

7. Mardle - Notice to be put in announcing the removal of the public payphone.
- The Learning for health brochure will also be included in the mardle.
 - Should the mardle allow advertising since this is something that is already offered by the church magazine. It maybe that this needs to be an agenda for a future meeting.

County Council Report: - No report

AOB: -

David Griffiths, 12 Greenwood Close is interested in leasing further parish land. This will be taken into consideration when the land is up for renewal in Sept/Oct.

The notice board outside the council houses on The Turnpike, Fundenhall needs repairing as the door keeps falling off. Mr G Kelly will speak to Harry Morgan regarding this.

Following the planning application for The Chapel, New Road, Fundenhall it is best that all liaisons between Planning Services and the Parish Council be done through the Chairman, Mr B Duffin.

Many Thanks to Mr G Kelly for doing a great job as Clerk since January. He has made a wonderful effort at sorting a lot of long standing issues.

The meeting closed at 21.26hrs.