

Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on the 18th November 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.

Hollie Fisher, Local PCSO:-

The crime figures for 2007 & 2008 are as follows:

Ashwellthorpe	2007 - 14	2008 - 9
Fundenhall	2007 - 3	2008 - 2

The crimes carried out mainly involve the robbery of outbuildings and garden sheds. Very few of the reported crimes are solved due to the nature of the crime. It would have to be either that the thief is caught red handed or the owner knows the serial numbers of all the items stolen. Hollie Fisher can offer a Crime Prevention Service free of charge. This involves Hollie taking a look at people's homes to assess how secure they are. Anyone that is interested should contact the clerk and she will advise Hollie.

Three people have been verbally cautioned for speeding on The Street, Ashwellthorpe. GB did suggest that more speed checks be carried out in the 50mph zone on the B1113. Hollie will try and request that these take place.

Gypsy & Traveller Local Development Plan:-

CF confirmed that any previous comments made by the Parish Council to SN regarding this matter have been removed. Thirteen other sites in Norfolk are now also being considered one of which is an alternative to the site at Spooner Row. This is SW of Spooner Row and therefore will not have any impact on Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall.

Blacksmiths Lane:-

The Parish Council believes that this road should not be entirely closed with a turning point at each end since the expense to do so would be vast and it would make two ideal spots for fly-tipping. HS proposed that we write to SN to voice our opinion. GB & GK seconded this. HS will draft a letter for BD & CF to then compile and send to both Mark North and Beverley Spratt.

Action: HS & CF

Communication:-

A copy of the email regarding the British Declaration of Independence was sent to all councillors. Due to the Parish Council being a non-political organisation it is not something we would get involved in however it may be of personal interest to the councillors.

CF had received information regarding community composting which LP was in favour of. There was however no further interest and the matter was closed.

The council has been asked to make a donation to the Norfolk Accident Rescue Service. It was decided that we would not make a donation since we already make donations to several other charities.

CF had received a letter from Irelands Chartered Surveyors, on behalf of the client, regarding the possibility of building two semi-detached local needs houses on New Road. They were asking for the council's opinion as to whether we felt there was need for these houses and would the land proposed be suitable. For the discussion of this matter only BD stood down as Chair having

declared an interest and CB took over. It was decided that CF should reply advising that yes a need for 12 affordable houses has been identified of which we are looking at building 6. CF will also mention that we are currently working alongside Laura Handford at Flagship Housing and are still looking into suitable sites. Her details will be passed on to Irelands. **Action: CF**

Accounts:-

A cheque for £600 has been received from Mr Andrew Dring for the rent of parish land and shooting rights for the period of October 2008 – October 2009.

We have received a receipt for the £50 donation made to the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

The clerk's wages for November of £146.88 have also been paid.

CF brought in the mandate forms which will allow all bank correspondence to be sent to the clerk and there will be a change of signatories on the accounts. The new signatories will be BD, CB and CF. **Action: CF**

Precept Budget:-

The precept will need to be set at December's meeting. CF will try to find last years budget on which she will then base this years budget. **Action: CF**

There will of course be some amendments. The £1500 donation to the village hall will not need to be included. We would however like to include further spending on the notice boards since there are still two old ones in use. One of which is in Fundenhall and the other is at the village hall in Ashwellthorpe. The possibility of gaining a grant for these will be looked into by BD. **Action: BD**

Mardle:-

The Christmas mardle will need to be done before December's meeting and there is currently not much to put in it. HS suggested that a copy of the Parish Council's AGM minutes be included. This was mainly down to the fact that people had contacted both HS and BD after the AGM saying that they had forgotten about it and were wanting to know what had been discussed. Others who had attended were still confused as to what was going to be happening with both of the housing proposals. BD and GK tried to argue that it would be unfair to print details of the housing proposals in the mardle as there are no concrete details. We do not yet have a site for the Flagship scheme nor do we know the ratio of affordable to market houses that Peter Muskett would need to build. One parishioner suggested that a summary of the AGM minutes should go into the mardle ensuring that anything portrayed as concrete must be changed unless it is 100% certain.

Dogs on Knyvett Green:-

Sid Weiner, a parishioner in the village of Ashwellthorpe, has asked for the Parish Council to enforce the banning of dogs on Knyvett Green play area after personally asking a particular individual to stop walking his dog there on several occasions. The individual's name is unknown. Please find attached to these minutes statements written by Sid Weiner and Lin Packer both of which were read out at the meeting. The play area is owned by South Norfolk Council and it is they that put up the 'No Dogs' signs. There was some confusion as to the meaning of these signs. SW felt they were compulsory signs however the legislation that the Parish Council were referring to described them as advisory since we cannot actually ban dogs from the play area. The only acts that can be prosecuted against are if the dog is off the lead or is caught fouling. Neither of which have been seen. This is a complex issue and as such both parties appeared to have found rulings that contradict each other. SW was referring to the Clean Neighborhood and Environment Act 2005 which appeared to say that under EU legislation the 'No Dogs' signs were compulsory and that children's play areas must be kept clean which therefore allows the banning of dogs. Several of the councillors felt that since the Parish Council did not own the land it was not up to them to start enforcing rules. Nor could they ban dogs entirely from the play area. A particular issue was the policing of these rules should they be agreed upon. We cannot expect our local PCSO to do so as there are many other matters that she must attend to. It was suggested by LP that the dogs should be

allowed only by the perimeter however this was not seen as satisfactory by some. A wooden fence to enclose the play equipment would cost £3000-£4000 which is far too expensive. The dog warden, Rachel Ives, no longer works at the council and the role has not been filled. These matters are now handled by the environmental team. CB suggested that we look into the 2005 Act that SW is quoting from and to try and speak to the relevant person within SN to try to come to some conclusion on this matter. HS will look into this and report back with his findings as soon as he can.

Action: HS

Footpaths & Highways:-

JB showed us all pictures of Common Road and The Street, Fundenhall with a large amount of mud left on the roads by the Easton's large tractors. They cleared up some of the mud and dumped it on the side of the road however this was not sufficient and still left a large amount on the road. JB has spoken to the council and the police, neither of which have been able to do anything. The Easton's say that they have cleared the roads and will not do so any further. It is now down to highways and the County Council since the gulleys are all blocked which will lead to the road flooding. CF will write to Gary Overlands regarding this.

Action: CF

Highways have cleared the ditches in the 50mph zone of the B1113 however they've dumped it back on the side. This simply means that when it rains the dirt will run back into the ditches leaving them blocked again.

JB has received a letter from William Easton regarding the Chestnut Tree. He has replied saying that he is very busy and will look to deal with the tree early next year. This was also his response last year. CF is now to write to the Easton's explaining that the PC believe the tree is a risk and branches must be pruned where necessary. JB is to forward his original letter onto CF also.

Action: CF

The stile on Mr & Mrs Hustler's land is in disrepair with nails protruding out. JB will write to them and will also speak to Nick Aldous, the County Council Footpath Officer.

Action: JB

District Council Report:-

Recycling – The value of metal tins and mixed paper has dropped dramatically this year.

The planning income is also down whereas benefits expenditure has gone up. The current economic climate has affected SN which may result in a council tax increase.

Another man has been prosecuted for fly-tipping. He was fined £145 plus £90 costs as this was deemed to be all that the man could afford. It cost the council £600 to clear.

The council is changing the information that is required for planning by asking for it sooner.

Leisure centres will soon have a pink recycling bin for bras.

There is a talk at Bunwell village hall on Monday 24th November called 'Save money by going green'.

County Council Report:- None.

The meeting closed at 21.47hrs.