

Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on the 21st October 2008

Present: - Mr Hedley Smith (acting chair), Mr Barry Duffin (Chairman), Mr John Brooks, Mr Gary Betts, Miss Caroline Fare (Clerk).

Apologies: - Mrs Carol Bushell (Vice Chairman), Mrs Lynn Preston and Mr Graham Kelly.

Minutes of the previous meeting:-

These have been circulated previously and signed by Hedley Smith.

Setting up a community shop by Peter Smith from the NRCC:-

Peter Smith started off by explaining how community shops came about and how they generally operate. They first started when the Post Office began to close many of their branches. Most of these doubled as a village shop and without the Post Office's support the shop's themselves were forced to close.

Now is actually a good time for local shop's since we are far more aware of our food fuel mileage and there is a greater focus on healthy eating and buying locally to support local business's. It is very important that the shop is designed and owned entirely by the community. Everyone living in the catchment area of the shop is allowed to purchase 1 share for a nominal fee, usually £10. People are allowed to donate greater sums however they will not be entitled to any further shares. This ensures that the shop remains community owned and is not taken over by wealthier individuals. The shop would be a Limited company run by volunteers, however there would be a manager(s) to run the shop and they would be paid. Peter explained that we need to think about what kind of people we have in the village. A computer link could be put in for those who do not have access to one at home, a small coffee area for mothers at home, there could be a community service point for the police and there could be a post office since many of the services that the Post Office offer can still carry on without their support.

There are currently four community shops in Norfolk: Itteringham, Mileham, Great Ryburgh and Methwold, all of which are profitable. Great Ryburgh managed to raise £80,000 from various loans and funds which is a very successful result. Funding is one of the issues with having a community shop since an average of £60,000 is required to set up the shop. Running costs must also be taken into account since chiller cabinets take quite a lot to run. The main issue however is finding suitable premises that are at an affordable price to either rent or buy. This is why volunteers are so important.

Peter did mention that a large retail chain will soon be on hand to offer advice and supply equipment and shop fittings as part of their work in the community. A community meeting would be the next step to try and gauge the villager's interest. Peter would be more than happy to attend this and answer any questions.

Action Points:- None to report.

Planning Applications:-

1. Car parking facilities at D C Developments, Industrial Estate. This is in green belt land and is outside the current boundary of the industrial estate. If this was

to be approved it could set a dangerous precedent therefore the councilors have rejected this application.

2. Erection of new field gate across existing access at 99A The Street, Ashwellthorpe. This was approved with no further comments to add.
3. Proposed front extension at 1 Jubilee Cottages, New Road, Fundenhall. All councilors are happy with the original plans and the amendments therefore this has been approved.

Communication:-

SNC re. Erection of conservatory on land to the east of The Old School House, Ashwellthorpe. This has been approved with conditions.

SNC re. UK Fire application for new warehouse and ancillary works. This has been approved with conditions.

SNC re. Part demolition and change of use of the Former Post Office stores, Ashwellthorpe. This has been refused.

SNC re. planning application for The Labrador, Fundenhall. This has been approved with conditions including the amendment.

SNC re. Erection of 4 dwellings on land rear of 1, 2, 3 & 4 The Street, Ashwellthorpe. This has been refused.

CF has received a Gypsy and Traveller Local Development Document. We have replied back stating that we support the document. The only site relevant to us is next to the roundabout this side of the A11 at Spooner Row. It is away from built up areas as much as possible and is close to the A11. They will be set up eventually therefore it is better that the district council look into and organise sites rather than sites be imposed on us by the Government.

Meetings due to take place:

1. Association Area Meeting on ‘Community Cohesion’ – November 18th
2. Emergency Management Seminar – November 5th.

CF has also been sent details of Initial training for councilors and clerks which she would be interested in attending. It has been agreed that the Parish Council are willing to fund this at a cost of £35.

Accounts:-

A cheque totaling £24 for the hire of the village hall has been sent. CF has also received a cheque for £146.88 in connection with her role as clerk in October.

A cheque to SN has been issued for the production of the mardle, this totaled £117.36. HS will be paying 123-Reg online for the renewal of our 2 website domains.

A cheque has also been sent to Harry Morgan for the erection of the new notice boards. This came to £385.

Village Hall:-

Discussions reference the management committee took place. Further discussions will take place at November’s meeting.

LDF ‘Future house in Ashwellthorpe’:-

It has been proposed that no more houses should be built in Ashwellthorpe from the present policy end date until 2026. The Parish Council would like to change this to allow 10-20 new houses in that period. Peter Muskett from the village did mention that whatever ruling was agreed upon may not be adhered to as most applications would be looked at on an individual basis. This is especially relevant in connection

with affordable housing since some market houses need to be built to compensate for the loss in revenue on the affordable houses. HS will continue to deal with this and push for an allowance of 10-20 new houses.

Mardle:-

HS needs a volunteer to deliver the mardle to Knyvett Green. GB has kindly volunteered to do this.

Speedwatch:-

Insurance documents have been supplied by Allianz Insurance confirming that the speedwatch equipment is insured to the sum of £750. Training has been done and speedwatch in Ashwellthorpe and Fundenhall is now taking place.

Footpaths & Highways:-

Re. Chestnut Tree, The Street, Fundenhall. Broadland Tree Services have inspected the tree and said it does pose a potential risk and that there should be a crown reduction of 50% plus cutting back of the particularly large branches. JB had spoken to Robin Taylor at SN however he will not come and look at the tree. JB has sent a letter to the Easton's who own the tree explaining that the letter will be forwarded on to SN if nothing is done. If he does not receive a reply by the 3rd November CF will be informed and the Parish Council will report the matter to SNC.

District Council Report:-

The Government is trying to get rid of chemist's at doctor's surgeries however our district council are campaigning against this. CF is to write a letter to the relevant people supporting the district council.

County Council Report:-

Candidates are being selected for next years County Council Elections. The £32 million frozen in Icelandic Bank may not be lost but the loss of the monthly interest is already having an effect. He is still dealing with the Old Railway Bridge down Blacksmith's Lane.

The meeting closed at 21.55hrs.