

Minutes of the Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27th November 2013 in Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Mr P Smail – Chairman
Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby - Vice Chairman
Cllr Mrs S Sorby
Cllr Mrs C Read
Cllr Mr C Ekins
Cllr Mr M Williams
Richard Waterman - Parish Clerk
Borough Councillor Mr K Watts.
Members of the Public: Mr J Perkins

Apologies: Mr J Broomfield, County Councillor Mr T Thacker, Mr G Finlayson and PC Paula Deery,

Welcome: Cllr Mr P Smail welcomed everyone to the meeting

Declaration of Interest: Cllr Mr P Smail declared an interest in the planning application regarding the equestrian centre as he rents land from Mr Tacchi.

Parish Council Vacancy: Unfortunately Mr J Bloomfield could not make this meeting. The Parish Council agreed by majority to co-opt Mr J Bloomfield on to the Parish Council at the January Meeting.

Tufton: It was believed that the recent quiz night to raise funds for the Tufton Church refurbishment was a great success. The Chairman reported that work on extending the footpath from Whitchurch to Tufton has started; it is hoped that this will make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists in the area of the A34 slip road at Tufton.

Members of the Public: Mr J Perkins asked why the 2013 Bonfire event was cancelled. The Chairman stated that there is a lot of work done in the background in preparation for the event and the site needed to be confirmed by September so that Fireworks can be ordered, St Johns Ambulance booked and the delivery of wood confirmed. The organising of everything else rolls out from September. Unfortunately this year that was not possible. It was deemed too much of a risk for the Parish Council to pay over £1000 for fireworks - which cannot be returned - if there was any doubt that the event would not proceed.

Cllr Mr C Ekins wondered if the actual bonfire was necessary and suggested that the event could proceed without a bonfire if the site was not available due to the crops not being harvested. Cllr Mrs Read pointed out that, due to safety restrictions, the crowd needed to be a fair distance from the site of the fireworks 'launch site' and that this was just as much of an issue. It was hoped that the Bonfire Event will be held in 2014.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record.

Matters arising from those Minutes :-

Apsley Sita Site: It was reported that the B3400 has been covered in mud again now that winter has arrived; the road sweeper does nothing more than spread the mud across the road. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs C Read and Cllr Mrs S Sorby will visit the Apsley Site in the New Year to look at the wheel wash and how the operation works. Cllr Mrs C Read will contact SITA to ask make arrangements.

Lengthsman Scheme: Cllr Mrs S Wyatt -Tilby gave an up-date on the Lengthsman Scheme and the lists the duties the Parish Lengthsman may undertake:

- 1 Drainage
 - Clearing existing drainage grips
 - Maintaining ditches
 - Cleaning channels
 - Clearing outfalls
 - Rodding pipes (off highway)
- 2 Signage
 - Cleaning (non-illuminated)
 - Minor repairs
- 3 Other Minor Works
 - Remove soil/detritus and leaves
 - Cutting back vegetation overhanging the road or footway
 - Clearing footways of weeds/moss and leaves
 - Removing vegetation from parapets or fences
 - Grass strimming
 - Reporting defects
 - Sweeping
 - Litter picking
 - Removing fly posters
 - Unauthorised sign and graffiti removal
 - Cleaning street name plates
 - Cleaning bus shelters
 - Minor repairs to street furniture
 - 'Village upkeep' to include: painting/staining of bus shelters, parish owned notice boards, benches, fences, pavilions
 - Replenishment of salt bins from a central point (by parish – salt provided by HCC) and spreading on public minor footways).
 - Spreading of salt from roadside bins on footways

The duties the Parish Lengthsman may not undertake:

Cleaning, repair or any work on:

- Street Lighting
- Illuminated signs and bollards (i.e. any street furniture with an electrical connection)
- The live road
- Patching and structural repairs (no excavation due to possibility of underground apparatus), and Emergency call-outs to highway incidents.

Cllr Mr M Williams offered to be the Parish Council representative on the local Lengthsman group.

Flashing Speed Sign: The Clerk reported that the Flashing Speed Reminder Sign has been ordered and should be delivered before the end of December. Cllr Mrs C Read reported that PC Paula Deery has offered to help with the positioning of the equipment and that she would arrange a site meeting for the New Year.

Highways Issues: The Parish Council discussed the various outstanding Highways issues. Cllr Mrs C Read will contact Steve Goodall to discuss the following points :-

The Longparish Sign has not yet been erected (Steve Goodall did think this had been done by the contractor)

The large puddle on the St Mary Bourne Road.

An additional puddle that forms outside the Old School House where the council installed a storm drain some years ago.

Road signs facing the wrong direction after being hit by an HGV on the B3400 towards Whitchurch.

Planning: There were no new planning applications to discuss.

Cllr Mr M Williams reported that the Planning Officer has been to the Apsley to look at the Bio Digester.

Planning permission has been given for the mast for the wind measuring equipment at the proposed Bullington Wind Farm Site. Cllr Mr M Williams and Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby both attended recent Public Meetings on the proposed Bullington Wind Farm hosted by EDF Energy.

Cllr Mr M Williams reported that he had spoken to one of the EDF Consultants, a £5000 donation to the community will be made for every megawatt produced and this may be in the region of £140,000 a year - it is hoped that 7 Councils will be involved and benefit from this fund. Information on how EDF intend to hook in to the national grid has been asked for once again.

Cllr Mr K Watts Report: Cllr Mr K Watts reported that Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has started another cycle with the Borough Plan. The Plan has been out for consultation in Winchester. Cllr Mr K Watts reported that details are sketchy on the timescale for the plan to be adopted but he thought that the end of 2014 is realistic. Cllr Mr K Watts stated that Hurstbourne Priors Parish has been left alone and there is no planned development in the Plan. Cllr Mr K Watts briefly spoke about the Local Infrastructure Levy and will inform the Parish Council of any developments. Grants should be available for community projects.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

CHEQUES AND PAYMENTS ISSUED NOVEMBER 2013

Westcote Ltd	Flashing Speed Sign	£3,150.00
Solstice Signs	Play Area Signs	£36.00
Drain and Sewer Ltd	Pavilion Cess Pool Empty	£93.60
Just Outdoor Toys	Swings	£194.99

Standing Orders

Aviva	Insurance - November	£133.70
R.N. Waterman	Wages - November	£150.00
EON	Pavilion Electricity November	£18.00
		£3,776.29

INCOME. None since last meeting.

WORKING BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE AFTER ABOVE - £2,681.41

2014/2105 Precept: The Clerk produced a balance sheet showing the estimated results for the year 2013/2014 and the budget for the year 2014/2015. Each item was explained. The Parish Council agreed that there would be no increase in the precept. The 2014/2015 Precept was set at £7000. The Borough Council Limited General Grant of £1100 will also be requested. Proposed by the Chairman and seconded by the Vice Chairman. All agreed.

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Mrs C Read: Reported on a recent Vitacress Community Forum Meeting. The Vitacress Community mini bus is still available. A decision is still to be made on which side of the Vitacress Site the new reed beds are to be positioned. Cllr Mrs C Read will be attending the next Bourne Rivulet meeting. The sale of Cressington has been agreed and should be completed shortly. It has been purchased by a property developer. Nitrates in the river were discussed. The Planning Application has gone back to court. Vitacress was fined £5,000 for the diesel spill, it was noted that the situation was handled well by the company, who are now working with the EA to site permanent fixings for movable booms along the river in case of any future accidents. Vitacress are now double decking their lorries, this will result in fewer lorry movements.

Cllr Mr C Ekins stated that he would like to attend the next Vitacress meeting

Cllr Mr M Williams: Reported that he had spoken to Winchester Councillors at the Wind Farm Open Evening and suggested to them that it may be a good idea to organise a trip for the Planning Officers and Councillors to view the various 'Green Energy' sites in the area, as an alternative to Wind Farms. Cllr Mr M Williams reported that they thought this was a good idea.

Cllr Mr M Williams reported that he had attended a recent Hill and Valley Business Group Meeting; some of the current editors have indicated that they wish to stand down. With this in mind, Hill and Valley are looking at bringing in paid editors and how this would be funded; the publication has a healthy balance in the bank.

Cllr Mrs S Sorby: Spoke about the recent vandalism caused to the Bus Shelter and bin. This now needs repairing and the bin replacing. The Clerk will ask Brian Pearce to take a look at the Bus Shelter and will get prices for a new bin.

Footpath Report: Cllr Mrs C Read reported that, as far as she knew, all the footpaths were clear and walkable.

Recreation Ground Report: The Clerk reported that Brian Pearce has started work on repairing the Play Area as per the Playground Inspection report. Two new swings have been fitted, a panel from the climbing frame has been taken away to get a new one cut in marine-ply. Mr Brian Pearce will paint all the equipment once the repairs have been completed. The new signs have also been made and will be fitted once the refurbishment has been completed.

Cllr Mrs C Read reported on the Recreation Ground finances. Cllr Mr M Williams gave the Clerk a Cheque for £80 from Mr Adeny and £40 in cash as the donation for the fun day, held in the summer. Cllr Mrs C Read asked Cllr Mr M Williams for the balance of payments from the season, as per an email which detailed the payments outstanding. Mr Williams assured her that he would drop the money to the Clerk by the end of the week, so it can be paid into the bank.

Cllr Mrs C Read stated that the payment of the hiring fees needed to be tightened up and produced a draft booking form. Cllr Mrs C Read proposed that, as from the 2014 season, fees are paid by the hirer by BACS, with the reference number issued with each form; this will aid the Audit Trail. The Parish Council thought this a better system than the current one. Cllr Mr M Williams noted this and stated that he would alter his booking form to ensure bank details and a match reference would be included for next season.

Cllr Mr M Williams stated that he was looking into accepting Credit Card Payments for fees. The Parish Council agreed that the costs incurred outweighed the benefits and decided not to proceed with this.

Village Hall Report: Cllr Mrs S Sorby reported that Marilyn Smith has stepped down as Chairman of the Village Hall and that she has taken over as Chairman. The Village Hall Committee is looking at improvements that need to be made to bring the Hall up to local standards.

Correspondence: The Parish Council has received an invitation from HALC to rejoin their organisation, several discounts have been offered.

A new publication from NALC - DIS (direct information service) has been offered to Parish Councils for a £2.90 an addition subscription. This publication offers :-

All the latest sector news and information

A round up of government statements and publications

Up to date legal information, ministerial statements and consultations

Regular events and vacancy listings

The Parish Council discussed this and agreed that, at the moment, they would not re-join HALC but that they would subscribe to the DIS publication.

Declaration of Interest on Planning: Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby asked Cllr Mrs M Williams, for the record, if he had any interest in the Apsley Biodigester. Each time the Planning Application has been discussed at Parish Council Cllr Mr M Williams has been absent and therefore has not made any declaration of interest. Cllr Mr M Williams stated that he had no financial interest in the Apsley Biodigester and therefore did not need to declare any interest. Cllr Mr M Williams stated that he has helped the applicant

in a personal capacity as he felt that it was a good project.

Cllr Mr M Williams stated that he thought that the Parish Council's response to the Apsley Planning Application was poorly written and full of inaccuracies. He stated that the Parish Council did not stick to the criteria laid down for planning responses. Cllr Mr M Williams stated that he was the only Councillor sitting on the Parish Council who had been trained in Planning Procedure.

Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby stated that Cllr Mr M Williams had been copied into all correspondence on the Apsley Planning Application and had made no comment. Indeed when he had been unable to attend the Parish Council meetings he had not even sent a note of any comments he might have, which was odd given the strength of his feelings about Apsley projects in particular. The response had been made taking all the comments raised by the Councillors as a result of the applicant's presentation at the October Parish Council Meeting.

Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby apologised if Cllr Mr M Williams had taken exception to the comments made but as he had not shared his expertise with the Parish Council, this knowledge could not be drawn upon.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council have submitted planning comments on other planning applications that have received praise from other parties; the work that Cllr Mr M Williams and Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby put into the Wind Farm response was also used by neighbouring parishes.

Planning Training will be looked into by the Parish Clerk.

Dates for 2014 Meetings:

January 29

March 26

May 28 - and AGM

July 30

September 24

November 26

Close of the Meeting: The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.