

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held Wednesday 1st December 2010

Present: Mr MP Bell, Mr DR Howison (Chairman) Mr D Palmer , Mr JW Whitworth. Mr THG Cooper, Mr C Hagger. Ms C Smith Mrs B MacDonald. Cllr T King.

Apologies: Mrs J Swinfen

In attendance: Mrs Jo Downton, the Clerk, Mr Paul Taylor.

Declaration of Interests: None

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 3rd November 2010 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with in the main agenda

The Clerk reported that enquires had been made regarding work on the Spinney. Councillors brought to the attention of the council Heroes for Help Project, in which members from RAF Cottesmore undertake voluntary projects in local communities. A bid for such has been applied for in respects of the work required on the Spinney.

The Light opposite the farm had been reported as not working and it was noted that a cable had actually been cut and it would take a number of weeks to repair this. The blocked drain in the Brooks area had also been reported along with an overgrown bush.

The Clerk had written to the school concerning a contact number for the alarm when it is set off outside of school hours.

The issue of the BT phone box was to be investigated by the Chairman.

A letter had been received from RCC confirming that we have been approved for a bus shelter in the Empingham Road area, subject to budget considerations. They should be in touch in spring of 2011.

Enquires had been made concerning the cutting down of ivy on two light poles within the village and the trees on the town pump which require further attention. Once all the leaves have fallen the trees will be attended to and a quotation sent regarding the other work.

Spire Homes had been contacted regarding the state of the car park in Vicars Close. They promptly replied that they are no longer responsible for this but however this had been passed on the Vale group and they had agreed to conduct this work but could give no date as to when this could be done.

Neighborhood Watch informed the council that they intended to hold a meeting on the 17th January 2011 and enquired as to whether anyone had any issues to put on the agenda.

An E-document (of some considerable size) had been received entitled Affordable Housing Guide and councilors were offered the opportunity to have a copy printed if they so wished.

The council was informed that parking in Vicars Close had become an issue for some residents. It was said that residents continue to park badly and often on pavements. This issue is to be looked into.

The Precept: The Chairman informed the council that the draft precept was very much like the previous

years budget. However there were two noticeable differences. £500.00 is the sum allowed for the expenses which will be incurred for the Empingham Bus Shelter. The Council also has had to make provision for the possibility of a May Election the cost of which the Clerk had been told might be in the region of £1500.00. These two items has resulted in a slight increase in the precept for this year. It was noted that should neither of the above take place this money would be carried forward to the following year and thus could result in similar reduction in the following precept. The Council approved the draft precept.

The issue of salt bins within the village was discussed. An email had been received concerning the possibility of a salt bin in the vicinity in Pudding Bag Lane/Top Street. The council debated where the citing of another salt bin would be most beneficial. It was agreed that as one bin was already located in the Brooks area it would be most difficult to justify situating another slightly further up in the village. However by placing one in Pudding Bag lane it would benefit the other side of the village. Thus the council agreed for the purchase of another bin. However it was also noted that at this present time RCC is considering its position regarding the filling of such bins. Up until now parishes pay for the bins and RCC fills them free of charge. However the cost of this service in recent times has become considerable; this was in some part due to an increase in the number of bins and poor weather conditions. Moreover it was reported that the contents of the salt bins had increasingly been stolen and used by people for their own private paths and drives. Obviously this situation cannot be allowed to continue and at present a review of a number of measurers (such as charging parishes to refill or put a dye in the mix) are being considered. When decisions are taken the council will be informed.

P.A.G.E. Mr Bell reported that he has now been the Chairman of PAGE for the past eleven years and he felt it was time to retire. He hopes to stand down in May of 2011. It was said that very little support for this organization, outside of raising funds a number of years ago, had come from the village. It was felt that an appeal should be made in the Newsletter next year for new volunteers.

Cllr Terry King gave a brief talk on the potential impact of the closure of local bases upon the county. The key areas of concern were noted: economic, unemployment, impact on local schools and health services. Final decision will not be known until March.

The council was asked to adopt a legal document (produced by Leicester and Rutland County council) concerning freedom of information to display on the new village website. The council agreed .

Planning Applications: Barnsdale Country Club Exton – Erection of 5 hotel lodges. No objections.

Correspondence (items requiring action only):

Authorisation of cheques:

ESPO (Folder Newsletter) £8.82

Colemans (Stamps 5x12 1st Class) £24.60

Items for the Agenda of the next Meeting of the Parish Council – 26th January 2011: none