

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held 4th December 2013

Present: D Palmer (Chairman) J Whitworth, P England T Connolly M Bell C Smith, C Lewis C Hagger S Linsell.

Apologies: None.

In attendance: Jo Downton - Clerk.

Declaration of Interests: None

Minutes: The minutes of the parish council meeting held on the 6th November 2013 were taken as read and signed as correct.

OBJECTION: Councillor Patrick England raised his objection to council that he was unhappy that the minutes of the meeting of the 6th November 2013 offered to council did not register his apologies for lack of attending the previous meeting. The Clerk reported to council that Councillor England did indeed send his apologies the day after the meeting on the 7th November 2013 by email which Councillor England confirmed as correct. It was pointed out by the Clerk and the Chair that the minutes **by law** could only record what takes place at an actual meeting, therefore the Clerk would be breaking the law by falsifying the minutes should she comply with Councillor England wishes. Councillor England still wished his objection to be recorded.

Matters arising:

The Clerk reported that the Newsletter had been sent a letter for publication regarding the setting of the precept which had since been circulated. A letter had been sent to RCC concerning the bicycle route put forward by the council from the last meeting. Booklets about being a good councillor had been ordered and received. A faulty light in New Field Road had been reported and repaired. The Grass contractor had been contacted and the rate for grass cutting was to remain at the same price as this year for the forthcoming year.

The Clerk reported that RCC had been contacted about trees within the village. The first tree was inspected by RCC as it appears to be lifting the pavement but after inspection RCC felt at this time it was not considered to be a matter for health and safety but this should be kept an eye on in the future. The second matter referred to trees in Empingham Road which were considered to be of concern to some residents. RCC confirmed that it could not act without confirmation that these trees were dangerous and this report had to be conducted by a qualified tree surgeon. It was suggested that the private residents contact the owner and point out their concerns about this matter.

Draft Precept: Council was given a draft copy of the proposed precept for the forthcoming year and requested to give any comments or thoughts on this. It was initially approved at this stage by councillors but the final draft would be put to council in January.

Chair: The Chair reported to council that he had been reading about the reports of many Clerks taking their council to court because they were doing so many hours over the limit of the hours they were actually paid - therefore resulting in them getting less than the minimum wage. The Chair therefore felt it necessary to ask if the Clerk was happy with the present arrangement knowing that at certain times the Clerk was having to spend

more hours than she is paid for the responsibilities of the position. The Clerk said that at this point in time, whilst the council was actively engaged in a major financial project (ie the lights) and noting that some councillors, such as the Chair, giving three hours per week unpaid contribution to Exton PC and its community she felt happy to continue to donate some of her time without pay.

Items requiring action only:

It was once again raised that dog mess in certain areas in the village was becoming a bit of a problem and it was requested that the Dog Warden should be contacted and requested to replace a dog mess sign in the Empingham Road Area.

Donations: The council was asked to consider the following requests for donations:

Citizen Advice Bureau £100.00. Proposer S Linsell. Seconded C Hagger

Xmas Tree £70.00. Proposer C Smith Seconded S Linsell.

PAGE Insurance and ROSPA £500.00 (approx.) Proposer S Linsell Seconded J Whitworth

NHW village Hall rental room £15.00. C Smith Seconded T Connolly.

Tigers Regiment Monument £20.00. Proposer M Bell Seconded CLewis.

All approved.

Planning Applications: The Chair reported to council that a number of planning applications had not be returned to the Clerk in time to meet the twenty one day deadline set by RCC for feedback. It was appreciated that because of this deadline and timings of meetings it was often difficult to circulate applications swiftly and return them. However all were asked to make a particular attempt to do their very best to circulate the papers amongst themselves and return by the date set by the Chair. Those applications which had not been returned to the Clerk had both recorded as no objections.

Authorisation of cheques:

Page insurance £461.54

EON £112.56

Items for the agenda of the next meeting of the Parish Council – 8th January 2014:
The Tourist Bus. The Precept.