

GRINGLEY ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 14th December, 2005

Present:- Councillor D. Foreman, Chairman, in the absence of Councillor Shepherd. Councillors Hargreaves, Taylor, Tremelling and Way

05/06/216 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Dunkley (unavoidable Church choir commitment), Hargrave (work), Hilton (unavoidable Church choir commitment) and Shepherd (holiday).

05/06/217 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

05/06/218 MINUTES

Resolved:- That the Minutes of a meeting of the Council, held on 30th November, 2005, be approved as a correct record.

05/06/219 MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Hargreaves referred to Minute No. 05/06/197(c), and observed that the Parish Council had omitted to record a vote of appreciation in respect of the kind gesture of two anonymous benefactors, who had arranged and paid for the excellent buffet at the Blue Bell Inn, following the Best Kept Village unveiling ceremony on 5th November, 2005.

Resolved: That a vote of appreciation be recorded.

05/06/220 PUBLIC DISCUSSION

05/06/221 ACCOUNTS

Resolved: That the December Accounts be approved for payment.

05/06/222 BANK RECONCILIATION

Members received the bank reconciliation statement to 29th November, 2005.

05/06/223 BUDGET MONITORING

The Clerk submitted the November budget monitoring statement, which showed an estimated year-end balance of £10,697.

05/06/224 RISK REVIEW AND ASSET INSPECTION

There were no matters to report.

05/06/225 PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

The Clerk reported that Mr. James Arguile had kindly offered to repair a stile on path 8. Materials had been ordered from Nottinghamshire County Council.

05/06/226 COMMUNITY HALLS VISIT

Councillor Hargreaves reported that, on 2nd December 2005, four members of the Village Hall Management Committee visited Dunham on Trent, Morton and Hatfield Woodhouse Village Halls. Jonathan Dawson of Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council arranged the visit. Sadly, the average age of the visitors was 69. It was unfortunate that the visit was not supported by younger members of the village who ultimately would be the custodians of the new Community Centre.

Councillor Hargreaves' report gave detailed information on the facilities at each of the village halls visited, together with information on how they were funded, etc. The information gleaned had enabled him to produce a draft specification of the type of facilities he felt would be appropriate for a new community building in Gringley.

During the discussion, the Clerk reported that he had received an Email earlier in the day from Mr. Richard Fidler of Bassetlaw District Council Planning Department. Mr. Fidler said that his Department met Home Office representatives on 24th November, 2005 regarding development of the former detention centre site. The Home Office representatives agreed to prepare costed options for obligations that development of the site could sustain. A further meeting was to take place early in the new year, and a meeting with the Parish Council would also be arranged in order to establish the community's view.

Resolved:

- (a) That a letter of appreciation be sent to Jonathan Dawson, thanking him for arranging a most useful and interesting visit.
- (b) That it be agreed that a village survey take place early in the new year, with a view to establishing the precise needs of the village with regard to a new community building.
- (c) That the kind offer of Councillor Hargreaves to prepare the survey form be accepted with thanks.
- (d) That details of arrangements for the meeting with the Planning Department be awaited.

05/06/227 PARISH COUNCILS LIASION GROUP MEETING

Letter was submitted from Bassetlaw District Council, enclosing a copy of a presentation paper by the Head of Financial Services to the meeting of the Parish Council Liaison Group Meeting held on 23rd November, 2005. The letter also sought to consult parish councils on certain matters relating to funding and service delivery.

The Clerk reported that Bassetlaw District Council had agreed to make no further reductions in concurrent grant beyond the 2005/06 reduction.

Resolved: That Bassetlaw District Council be informed that the Parish Council was in favour of cemetery grant being based on population as opposed to expenditure.

05/06/228 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE STRATEGY FOR EXTENDING SERVICES IN AND AROUND SCHOOLS

Letter was submitted from Nottinghamshire County Council, consulting the Parish Council on the above. A response was required by 23rd December, 2005.

In view of the tight deadline, Councillor Tremelling kindly offered to complete the questionnaire.

05/06/229 LOCAL COUNCILS ADVISORY SERVICE

Resolved: That a subscription be taken out to the above service for 2006, and continuation of the subscription be reviewed annually.

05/06/230 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BILL

Letter was submitted from Local Works, thanking the Parish Council for supporting the Sustainable Communities Bill. It requested a copy of the Parish Council's latest newsletter, and also requested a few sentences about the problems the Parish Council was aware of in Gringley in terms of community decline, e.g. local service and facilities closure and knock-on effects such as increased traffic and less community involvement.

The Clerk undertook to furnish Local Works with the requested newsletter and Councillor Foreman undertook to provide the requested information.

05/06/231 PROPOSED SITING OF A NEW BEACON ON BEACON HILL

Pursuant to Minute No. 05/06/205 of November, 2005, the Clerk reported that, following a telephone conversation with Mr. James Arguile, he was expecting Mr. Arguile to reply to his letter shortly.

Members agreed that the matter would be considered at the January meeting.

05/06/232 THE BUTTERCROSS

Pursuant to Minute No. 04/05/297 of March, 2005, the Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Mr. Dexter Pollard that recommended an insurance value of the Buttercross of £10,000. This should cover the cost of a full restoration in the case of serious damage.

Resolved: That the Clerk seek the advice of English Heritage and Nottinghamshire County Council Highways Department, and submit a further report in due course.

05/06/233 CEMETERY

Councillor Hargreaves reported that the newly installed seat needed treating with preservative. Members agreed that this would be attended to in due course.

05/06/234 PLAYING FIELD

The annual play equipment inspection report of Wicksteed Leisure Ltd. was submitted. Two matters reported were (a) failure of the 2 bay 2 flat seats swings under BS EN 1176 due to snagging hazard from excess chains, and (b) failure of the slide under BS EN 1176 due to insufficient safety surface. Councillor Taylor kindly undertook to inspect and take appropriate action if appropriate, and to report back to the January meeting. Other matters in the report were noted.

**05/06/235 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST
MARCH, 2005**

The Clerk reported that he had received the External Auditor's report on the 2004/05 audit of accounts which he would formally submit to the January, 2006 meeting. Each year 5% of parish councils were selected for intermediate (detailed) audit, and 2004/05 was Gringley's turn. Happily, the Parish Council had received a clear certificate from the External Auditor. He had, however, made two observations: one related to the level of fidelity guarantee insurance and the other to the fact that not all the Parish Council's fixed assets were insured.

Resolved:

- (a) That a vote of appreciation be extended to the Clerk in respect of his excellent stewardship of the Parish Council's affairs.
- (b) That the level of fidelity guarantee insurance be increased to £25,000, and the External Auditor be informed accordingly
- (c) That the External Auditor be informed that there were two reasons for the difference between insurance cover and value of fixed assets. The first was that play equipment safety surfacing did not need to be insured, and the second was that the multi court was deemed by the insurer to be 'fencing', and so it was only possible to get cover for vehicular or animal impact, which was a remote possibility given the nature of the construction and its location well away from roads.

05/06/236 HIGHWAYS

- (a) An Email was submitted from Nottinghamshire County Council, giving details of action being taken on matters previously reported.
- (b) The Clerk was asked to report two matters to Nottinghamshire County Council, being firstly that previous patching was coming out on Little Lane and secondly there were two potholes on Middlebridge Lane.
- (c) A discussion took place about the fact that the mechanical sweeper had difficulty on High Street because of parked cars. The Clerk was asked to approach Bassetlaw District Council to enquire as to whether residents could be given advance notice of visits.

05/06/237 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications.

05/06/238 PLANNING DETERMINATIONS

There were no planning determinations.

05/06/239 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Resolved: That, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be excluded, and they are requested to withdraw.

05/06/240 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE – HANDYMAN

Pursuant to Minute No. 05/06/213 of November, 2005, further consideration took place as to the duties carried out by the Handyman and whether any changes or new duties were desirable.

Resolved: That the Clerk discuss the matter with the present Handyman prior to further discussion at the January meeting.