

GRINGLEY ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 20th December, 2006

Present: Councillor J. E. Hargreaves, Chairman. Councillors Chambers, Daniels, Dunkley, Foster, Hargrave (arrived during agenda item 4 – Matters of Information Arising from the Minutes), Hilton and Taylor

06/07/233 MRS. MARION WILD, DECEASED

There was a period of silence as a mark of respect to Mrs. Marion Wild, who recently passed away. Mrs. Wild had been a resident of Gringley on the Hill for 52 years, and was a well-known figure in the village.

06/07/234 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hargreaves declared personal interests at agenda items 10 (NEBF Reports), being a member of NEBF, and 11 (NALC Northern Area Committee Reports), being the Parish Council's representative on the Committee.

06/07/235 APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted by Councillor Foreman (personal commitment) and District Councillor Simpson (at Bassetlaw Planning Committee). Councillor Hargrave submitted an apology for likely late arrival (work)

06/07/236 MINUTES

Resolved: That the Minutes of a meeting of the Council, held on 27th November, 2006, be approved as a correct record.

06/07/237 MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk referred to Minute No. 06/07/202(b) (Minutes), and confirmed that the original, unapproved minutes of the 26th July, 2006 meeting, sent out with the agenda for the extraordinary meeting on 23rd August, 2006, had indeed contained a reference to Councillor Chamber's request for a letter to the owner of an unkempt hedge, as he had indicated at the last meeting.

The minutes had not, therefore, been amended without the approval of the Parish Council, as had been suggested by Councillor Chambers.

06/07/238 PUBLIC DISCUSSION

- (a) The Chairman undertook to investigate a report by a resident about damaged verges on Middlebridge Road.
- (b) A discussion took place about the water level in the village well, when it was accepted that the Millennium Committee had stipulated the current water level.
- (c) Mrs. T. Taylor referred to the fact that the School Governors had (i) written a letter of support in respect of the Home Office application for planning permission at the former detention centre site and (ii) in the letter suggested that a community building could be built near the school. She enquired whether there was any dialogue between the Parish Council and the School Governors. She was also concerned that the Parish Council had argued in its objection that a community building was necessary for assembly purposes as schoolchildren had to visit Misterton to use the school hall. She expressed the view that Gringley schoolchildren had to visit Misterton in any event in order to use the swimming pool.

A discussion ensued when the Chairman said that he had discussed the application with the Head Teacher, who had agreed with the views of the Parish Council. Councillors Dunkley and Hilton, who were also School Governors, said that the school needed an assembly hall.

Mrs. Taylor went on to enquire whether there was any truth in a rumour that the Home Office had indicated that it might seek to re-establish the former use at the site. The Chairman and Clerk indicated that this was something that was referred to briefly in the Draft Planning Gain Options Report, and the Home Office had again referred to the matter when expressing its frustration over the decision to refuse planning permission in an Email to Bassetlaw District Council, copied to the Parish Council.

As regards the frustration experienced by the Home Office, the Clerk reported that, although the report to the Planning Committee recommended approval of the planning application, Mr. A. McMillan, Interim Acting Head of Planning Services, indicated to the meeting that a refusal by the Home Office to include further community provision would in his opinion be a ground for refusal of the planning application.

The Chairman and Clerk then went on to report that, together with Mr. Chris Downton, they had met Bassetlaw Planning Officers and Home Office representatives on 11th December, 2006, in order to try to reach an acceptable solution to put to the Parish Council.

The current position was that, after the Parish Council delegation was asked to leave the meeting, the Home Office representatives were asked by the Planning Officers to consider submitting an identical application with a modest contribution to community facilities. This would be well short of the cost of a community centre, but was most likely to overcome the District Council's sole reason for refusal. The Parish Council was also informed that an appeal against refusal was pending, but details were awaited.

Mrs. Taylor returned to the point about dialogue between the Parish Council and the School Governors, and the discussion became rather heated when, firstly, Councillor Hargrave expressed consternation over the precise purpose of Mrs. Taylor's questioning, and, secondly, Councillor Hilton accused Mrs. Taylor of "hijacking" the public discussion period and writing notes of the discussion for almost a full 15 minutes. Councillor Hilton immediately apologised to the Chairman for losing her temper.

06/07/239 ACCOUNTS

Resolved: That the December Accounts be approved for payment.

06/07/240 BANK RECONCILIATION

Members received the bank reconciliation statement to 29th November, 2006.

06/07/241 BUDGET MONITORING

The Clerk submitted the December budget monitoring statement.

06/07/242 RISK REVIEW AND ASSET INSPECTION

The Clerk was asked to inform Nottinghamshire County Council of the rough condition of the pavement along the north side of the A631 between Westwells Lane and the School.

06/07/243 NORTH EAST BASSETLAW FORUM

There was nothing to report.

06/07/244 NALC NORTHERN AREA COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th November, 2006 were submitted for Members' information.

06/07/245 DOUBLE TAXATION

Letter was submitted from Councillor Hugh Burton, Chair of the NALC Northern Area Committee, enclosing a Report from the Parish Council Working Party on Parish Council Funding (the double taxation issue).

Resolved: That Councillor Burton be informed that the Parish Council's opinion was as follows:

- (a) As regards any transitional arrangement, the view was taken that monies should be allocated along the lines of the cost of actual service provision, including cemeteries.

- (b) As regards a permanent solution, Option 4 (establish town councils for Retford and Worksop) was preferred, being the most equitable solution and in line with Government thinking in the White Paper on Local Government.

06/07/246 PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

There was nothing to report.

06/07/247 DETENTION CENTRE SITE

This matter had been covered during Public Discussion.

06/07/248 GRINGLEY WHARF

The Chairman reported that the archaeological excavations which were planned to take place on the weekend of 9/10 December, 2006 had been postponed until a weekend to be decided in January.

06/07/249 PUBLIC DISCUSSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

Consideration was given to a suggestion made by Mrs. T. Taylor at the last meeting that it would be helpful to the public if they were allowed to comment on the business of Parish Council meetings as it developed.

Resolved: That, for a trial period of three months, Public Discussion be moved to mid agenda.

06/07/250 PARISH PLANS PROJECT OFFICER

The Clerk reported that Misterton Area Partnership Ltd. (MAP) was to submit a bid for Lottery funding for a three-year full-time post of Project Officer. The main purpose of the job would be to complete implementation of the Parish Plans for Gringley on the Hill and Misterton/West Stockwith - in particular the community buildings aspects. There would be no cost to the Parish Councils, and Misterton Parish Council would provide office space.

Whilst Members were generally in agreement that this was an excellent opportunity to complete implementation of the Gringley on the Hill Parish Plan, and in particular to work on the community building issue, Councillor Foster had reservations over the status of MAP as a private limited company. The Clerk explained firstly that MAP was a charitable company, although not yet registered at the Charity Commission, secondly that it had adopted the Charity Commission's standard Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association, thirdly that it had become incorporated in case it was ever advisable for it to own property, and fourthly that the National Lottery was perfectly happy with Map as a company. However, Councillor Foster remained unconvinced that a charitable company could be incorporated.

Resolved: That the Parish Council supports the bid by MAP.

06/07/251 CRIME STATISTICS AND POLICING

The November statistics were submitted.

The Clerk reported that he was still awaiting a response to the concerns expressed by the Parish Council at Minute No. 06/07/216 of November, 2006 over the fact that P.c. Gregson's beat covered 25 villages. The Clerk also reported that he was investigating a rumour that Nottinghamshire Police was cutting funding for PCSO's by 50% on 1st April, 2007.

06/07/252 MINUTE NO. 06/07/133 OF SEPTEMBER, 2006 - CASUAL VACANCY

The Chairman reported that he had been approached by Mrs. T. Taylor, who complained that the above minute was inaccurate.

He then explained the circumstances surrounding his attempts to contact her prior to 20th September, 2006, and accepted that the minute was not completely accurate. He suggested that the words in the minute "that following several subsequent approaches by him to her, asking that she put her offer in writing to the Clerk, she had not done so" be clarified by recording that the precise position was that, following several attempted approaches and one actual approach by him to her, asking that she put her offer in writing to the Clerk, she had not done so. Members agreed.

06/07/253 CEMETERY

There was nothing to report other than the Chairman had inspected a gravestone at the request of a non-resident and found it to be safe.

06/07/254 PLAYING FIELD

A few small jobs remained outstanding, and would shortly be attended to.

06/07/255 HIGHWAYS

A discussion took place about various highway matters, including:

- (a) The desirability of formalising the layby on Wood Lane, including the provision of a litter bin.

Resolved: That a request be made to the County Council.

- (b) The Clerk would again contact the County Council over the need for various streets to be swept.

- (c) The urgent need to relocate the 30 mph signs on Beacon Hill Road further to the north in the interests of road safety.

Resolved: That a further request be made to the County Council.

- (d) The need for road safety improvements on Finkell Street and Halls Road, which would be referred to the County Council after the Beacon Hill Road signage issue had been addressed.

- (e) The Clerk would contact the County Council about signage which needed completing near to the Buttercross.

06/07/256 MISTERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL

Letter was submitted from the Head Teacher of Misterton Primary School, enquiring whether the Parish Council might make a donation towards essential refurbishment of the school swimming pool, which was estimated to cost £35,000. Members noted that the swimming pool was originally built from the proceeds of public subscription in local villages.

Resolved: That it be agreed in principle that a donation would be made and that the precise amount would be considered at the January meeting.

06/07/257 BASSETLAW PARISH COUNCIL FORUM

Letter was submitted from Mr. John Mann, MP, inviting the Parish Council to be represented at a meeting of Bassetlaw parish councils at Misterton on 19th January, 2007. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss the Local Government White Paper, although Mr. Mann explained that he intended to hold further such forums whenever matters of interest arose.

Resolved: That the Chairman and Councillor Dunkley be authorised to attend, with Councillor Daniels as reserve.

06/07/258 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

23/06/46 & 23/06/47

M. G. Thompson, Esq.

Convert barn complex to with granny annexe and garaging, demolish existing kennel and erect replacement with attached three-car garage on land at The Homestead, Horsewells Street, Gringley on the Hill

Resolved: That no adverse comment be made.

06/07/259 PLANNING DETERMINATIONS

23/06/41

Residential development on land at former detention centre, Westwells Lane, Gringley on the Hill

Permission Refused