

# GRINGLEY ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 22nd May, 2006**

**Present:** Councillors Chambers, Foreman, Foster, Hargrave, Hargreaves, Hilton, Shepherd and Taylor, together with District Councillor A. Simpson

### **06/07/1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Resolved unanimously: That Councillor Shepherd be re-elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

Councillor Shepherd welcomed Members to the new Council. He also extended a warm welcome to newly elected District Councillor Simpson, who in turn said a few words about her hopes and expectations for the Everton Ward. He asked that an expression of appreciation of the service of former Councillors Tremelling and Way be recorded.

At the request of Councillor Shepherd, Councillors Chambers and Fosters said a few words about their intended roles on the Parish Council. Councillor Foster, in particular, expressed the view that the Parish Council did not consult enough with the village on issues of concern and interest. This led to a considerable debate in which longer-serving Members disagreed with Councillor Foster's views.

### **06/07/2 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Councillor Shepherd signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman, which was then countersigned by the Clerk (Proper Officer).

### **06/07/3 APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was submitted from Councillor Dunkley (Annual Rogation Procession).

The Clerk reported that Councillor Dunkley had not yet signed his declaration of acceptance of office, but was to do so prior to the next meeting.

The eight Members present had all signed their declarations of acceptance of office prior to the meeting.

Resolved: That approval be given to Councillor Dunkley signing his declaration of acceptance of office at, or prior to, the meeting of the Parish Council to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2006.

**06/07/4      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Chambers declared a personal interest at agenda item 45 (The Countryside – Letter from Lovedon Estates), having a family employment relationship with Lovedon Estates.

**06/07/5      ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Resolved unanimously: That Councillor Foreman be re-elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

**06/07/6      MINUTES**

Resolved: That the Minutes of an extraordinary meeting, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2006, be approved as a correct record.

**06/07/7      MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**06/07/8      QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL ACCREDITATION**

The Clerk reported that, on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2006, the Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils Accreditation Panel had awarded the Parish Council Quality accreditation. He added that Everton and Misterton Parish Councils had also been awarded Quality accreditation the same day. A letter had since been received from the Association giving formal notification and congratulations. The Parish Council's Quality Council ID number was QC-05-06-00292.

The letter from the Association also said that the Accreditation Panel would very much like to present the Certificate to the Parish Council at a special event involving Everton and Misterton Parish Councils too. As the three parish councils were the first in Bassetlaw to receive accreditation, the Association suggested that it would be appropriate for the District Council to host the event. District Councillor Simpson advised that she was to discuss the matter at Bassetlaw District Council.

Members expressed great satisfaction at the Parish Council's achievement. They also asked that a vote of appreciation be

extended to the Clerk in respect of all his efforts in this matter since work began on the project in September, 2003.

**06/07/9 PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Mrs. T. Taylor referred to the fact that Councillors Chambers and Foster had been asked by the Chairman to say a few words about their intended roles on the Parish Council, and proposed that, in the interests of democracy and even handedness, the other Members should do likewise, which they did.

**06/07/10 CPRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION**

- (a) Members agreed to hand-deliver leaflets to every household in the Parish.
- (b) Resolved:
  - (i) That an entry be made for the village of Gringley on the Hill in Category C (population 300 to 700) of the Competition.
  - (ii) That no action be taken with regard to associated competitions
  - (iii) That the Clerk arrange for an additional grassed area to be cut during June and July.

**06/07/11 NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE**

- (a) Members made arrangements to deliver and collect the questionnaires along with members of the Village Hall Management Committee.
- (b) The Clerk reported that Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council had kindly agreed to analyse the completed questionnaires, although he was not certain as to whether payment would be required.

**06/07/12 PARISH PLAN WORKING PARTY**

Councillor Chambers left the meeting at this point because of a pre-arranged commitment, and did not return.

Resolved: That Councillors Hargrave and Hargreaves be reappointed to serve on the Parish Plan Working Party for the ensuing year.

**06/07/13      QUALITY WORKING PARTY**

Resolved:    That Councillors Dunkley, Foreman and Shepherd be reappointed to serve on the Quality Working Party for the ensuing year.

**05/06/14      NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS  
NORTHERN AREA COMMITTEE**

Resolved:    That Councillor Shepherd be reappointed to serve on the Northern Area Committee for the ensuing year.

**06/07/15      NORTH EAST BASSETLAW FORUM**

Resolved:    That Councillors Foreman and Shepherd be reappointed to serve as Parish Council representatives on the North East Bassetlaw Forum for the ensuing year, and Councillor Hargreaves be reappointed as the Parish Plan representative.

**06/07/16      ACCOUNTS**

Resolved:    That the May Accounts be approved for payment.

**06/07/17      BANK RECONCILIATION**

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

**06/07/18      BUDGET MONITORING**

The Clerk submitted the May budget monitoring statement.

**06/07/19      ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2006**

The Clerk submitted the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March, 2006, which included the following documents:

- ÿ Receipts & Payments Summary including year-end Bank Reconciliation
- ÿ Summary Receipts and Payments Account
- ÿ Supporting Notes to the Accounts
- ÿ Annual Return - Sections 1 (Statement of Accounts) with explanation of significant variations & Section 2 (Statement of Assurance)

Resolved:

- (a)    That the Accounts be approved.

- (b) That all elements of the Statement of Assurance be answered in the affirmative.

**06/07/20 RISK REVIEW AND ASSET INSPECTION**

There were no matters to report, other than the need to reallocate the Asset Inspection Schedule following the election, which the Clerk undertook to attend to.

**06/07/21 ANNUAL REPORT 2005/06**

Resolved: That the draft Annual Report be approved, and arrangements be made for Members to hand-deliver copies to every household in the Parish by 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2006.

**06/07/22 MEMBERS' SURGERIES**

Councillor Shepherd held a surgery on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2006. No members of the public attended.

In view of the low public attendance at Members' Surgeries, a discussion took place as to whether there was any point in continuing them, especially as there were other methods of communication with the Parish Council and its Members.

Surgeries had been introduced as a Quality service, as a contribution to the discretionary criteria required for accreditation. The Parish Council had to comply with nine out of a possible 18 criteria, and had actually complied with all 12 criteria submitted to the Accreditation Panel. Discontinuing surgeries meant that the Parish Council would still comply with 11 criteria. The Clerk had discussed the matter with the County Secretary of Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils, who had agreed that it would be acceptable for surgeries to be discontinued owing to the low attendance.

Resolved: That surgeries be discontinued forthwith, and the Clerk write an article in Beacon stressing the availability of all Members and the Clerk through published contact details.

**06/07/23 NORTH EAST BASSETLAW FORUM**

There were no meetings to report.

**06/07/24 NALC NORTHERN AREA COMMITTEE**

The NALC Northern Area Committee was meeting that night, and so the Parish Council could not be represented.

A letter was submitted from Councillor Hugh Burton, inviting parish councils to give their views on their workloads – increasing or

otherwise – for consideration by the Northern Area Committee. The Clerk had written on behalf of the Parish Council.

**06/07/25 PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP**

- (a) The Clerk reported that he had that day submitted the 2006/07 P3 grant claim to the County Council.
- (b) The Clerk referred again to the County Council's request that the Parish Council sign an Ordnance Survey mapping agreement and indemnity letter. It now seemed likely that the County Council would drop the requirement for the indemnity letter.

**06/07/26 DETENTION CENTRE SITE**

Councillor Hilton left the meeting at this point because of a pre-arranged commitment, and did not return.

Councillors reported on the recent site meeting with Mr. David Boyne, agent acting for the Home Office, when arrangements had been agreed for topping-out of trees requiring attention.

As to future progress regarding development of the site, Councillors Foreman and Shepherd expressed disappointment and disillusionment that no further progress had been made. The matter remained with the Home Office.

**06/07/27 GRINGLEY WHARF**

- (a) Councillor Foreman expressed satisfaction with the community archaeology weekend, which, although dogged by wet weather, had been very successful, interesting and enjoyable. He expressed thanks to everyone who had helped over the weekend. Because of the wet weather and time constraints, it had not been possible to complete the necessary archaeology, and Dr. Chris Robinson, of the County Council, had expressed a wish to return with heavier equipment later in the summer in order to complete the job.

Resolved: That approval be given for further work to be carried out.

- (b) An Email was submitted from Mr. Nic Wort, of the County Council, raising certain queries regarding the main project.

Resolved: That Mr. Wort be informed as follows:

- (i) Consultation should be by way of an information event at the Village Hall.
- (ii) There were no objections received when the site meeting took place with Mr. Wort in 2005. Since then concerns had been raised about possible litter, etc. but there had been no objections.
- (iii) Once the concept plan was received, consultation would take place with the occupiers of Middlebridge Farm and Carrholme Farm, prior to the village consultation event.
- (iv) The Parish Council was only aware of two people who had expressed the view that the Wharf should be kept as a wildlife area. The legal advice given by the County Council indicated the requirement for the Wharf to be maintained as a village green, although there was no reason why part of it should not be set aside as a wildlife area.
- (v) That, with regard to the Parish Council's wish for moorings to be provided, observation of passing boats indicated that wash against the canal bank was minimal.

**06/07/28 THE BUTTERCROSS**

Councillor Dunkley had indicated that he intended to attend to the matter of the stones shortly.

**06/07/29 THE VILLAGE BEACON**

The Clerk reported that he had received no response to his letter to Mr. Arguile, referred to at Minute No. 05/06/366 of April, 2006, and would write again.

**06/07/30 DISCIPLINARY AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

Pursuant to Minute No. 05/06/317 of February, 2006, the Clerk submitted revised draft procedures as requested.

Resolved: That the procedures be approved and adopted.

**06/07/31 HANDYMAN POST**

The Clerk reported that the vacancy was to be advertised again in June Beacon.

**06/07/32 CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005**

Letter was submitted from Defra relating to the provisions of the above legislation, which gave powers to parish councils with regard to littering, graffiti, flyposting and dog control. Parish councils were invited to request a guide for parish councils: "Getting to grips with the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 – a parish council guide to environmental enforcement".

The Clerk had requested a copy of the guide.

**06/07/33 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS NEW COUNCILLOR TRAINING**

The annual training course was to be held at Retford on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2006.

Resolved: That Councillors Chambers and Foster be authorised to attend.

**06/07/34 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CIVIC SERVICE – SOUTHWELL MINSTER – SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2006**

Members noted an invitation to attend the above.

**06/07/35 PROPOSED MERGER OF THE EAST MIDLANDS POLICE FORCES**

Councillor Shepherd kindly agreed to prepare a response to consultation regarding the above.

**06/07/36 PARISH COUNCILS LIAISON GROUP**

- (a) Letter was submitted from Bassetlaw District Council, giving details of forthcoming meetings of the Group.
- (b) The minutes of the meeting of the Group held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2006 would be circulated.

**06/07/37 VILLAGE WEBSITE**

Councillor Hargrave left the meeting during discussion of this item because of a work commitment, and did not return.

This item had been placed on the agenda as a result of a suggestion by Councillor Foster in her election manifesto that the accounts be posted on the website.

A discussion ensued, when Councillor Foster expressed the wish that detailed accounts, including full details of expenses, be posted on the website. She reported that residents had expressed concerns to her

over the level of the precept. District Councillor Simpson confirmed that she too had been informed by residents of such concerns.

Other Members were unhappy about the extra work that would be caused for the Clerk in having to attend to this matter on a regular basis, and pointed out that he was already working more hours than paid for.

The Clerk suggested that a suitable compromise might be to publish the official audited accounts and the annual budget statement on the website. Councillor Foster indicated that she would be happy with this.

Resolved: That the official audited accounts and the annual budget statement be posted on the website.

#### **06/07/38 PLAYING FIELD**

- (a) Pursuant to Minute No. 05/06/369(b) of April, 2006, an Email was submitted by Mr. S. V. Taylor, on behalf of the PTFA, giving details of sports day equipment that needed storing.

Resolved: That Mr. Taylor be informed that, following this year's sports day, all equipment should be stored away from the old Gringley Celtic pavilion, to facilitate its demolition.

- (b) Councillor Taylor reported a fire in the viewing stand, which had been extinguished by Mr. I. Hinch. Members praised Mr. Hinch's quick response to what might have been a serious incident.

#### **06/07/39 CEMETERY**

Councillor Shepherd informed Members of a complaint received that the bushes on the western side of the Cemetery were obscuring graves. It was agreed that the bushes should be trimmed as soon as the bird nesting season was over.

#### **06/07/40 HIGHWAYS**

Email correspondence was submitted from Nottinghamshire County Council, explaining the reasoning behind the work carried out on High Street to secure the embankment outside The Old Vicarage. Members accepted the reasoning.

**06/07/41 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

District Councillor Simpson left the meeting at this point, explaining that, as she was a Member of Bassetlaw Planning Committee, she felt it best not to be present whilst planning applications were under consideration until she had taken further advice on the matter.

**23/06/17**

Mr. D. Coates

Erect detached garage with workshop and fuel store at Bleak House, High Street, Gringley on the Hill

Resolved: That no adverse comment be made, but attention be drawn to the fact that the drawings were seriously deficient insofar as there was insufficient detail and an absence of dimensions.

**06/07/42 PLANNING DETERMINATIONS**

**23/06/5**

Mr. M. G. Thomson

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

Application withdrawn

**23/06/6**

Mr. M. G. Thomson

Demolish dog kennel at The Homestead, Horsewells Street, Gringley on the Hill

Application withdrawn

**23/06/78L**

Mr. B. D. Shepherd

Erect detached double garage at Mill House, Mill Hill, Gringley on the Hill

Listed Building Consent not required

**06/07/43 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.

**06/07/44 THE COUNTRYSIDE**

Letter was submitted from Lovedon Estates, explaining, amongst other things, that there was no public footpath along the Idle bank and stressing the importance placed on wildlife protection by the Estates.