

# GRINGLEY ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2006

**Present:** Councillor G. Shepherd, Chairman. Councillors Dunkley, Foreman, Hargreaves, Hilton, Taylor, Tremelling and Way

**05/06/248 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillor Hargrave (work) and District Councillor Martin.

**05/06/249 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**05/06/250 MINUTES**

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

**05/06/251 MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk informed Members that Misterton Parish Council had also objected to the planning application for a wind monitoring mast at Misterton Carr.

**05/06/252 PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

(a) Mr. I. F. T. Threlfall enquired as to progress made regarding the Broadband problem in the village. The Chairman informed Mr. Threlfall that BT denied there was any general problem.

The Clerk reported that, following an approach by a resident over Broadband problems, he had written asking for the assistance of Mr. John Mann, MP.

(b) Mr. C. E. Milward said that a key was required to access one of the storage buildings on the playing field.

Councillor Tremelling said that he thought he could locate the key.

- (c) Mr. J. N. Biggam expressed concerns over the possibility of Gringley Wharf being improved under the County Council's Building Better Communities Scheme. He was concerned that a wildlife habitat would be disturbed, and he was also concerned about the site attracting litter and undesirables.

The Chairman explained to Mr. Biggam that, at the moment, no firm decision had been taken, and there were a lot of outstanding matters to resolve. In any case, the Parish Council intended to fully consult the village before any decision was made to go ahead.

The Clerk read out a recent letter from Mr. Nic Wort, Nottinghamshire County Council, stating that he had submitted a scheme request to the County Council's Landscape Team, who were now in the process of producing some concept drawings which could be used as the basis for community consultation. As there were safety and legal concerns relating to car parking on the Wharf itself, the concept drawings would show parking within a layby in the adjacent highway verge.

As regards consultation, Mr. Wort was of the opinion that a questionnaire exercise would be best.

The Clerk was asked to inform Mr. Wort that the Parish Council had a mechanism for delivering questionnaires to every household.

- (d) Councillor Hilton informed the meeting that there was a dog fouling problem near the beacon.

The Clerk was asked to write a further article for Beacon magazine about the problems of dog fouling.

- (e) Councillor Hilton expressed concerns about vehicles parking on the footpath outside the doctors' surgery.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Group Practice about the matter.

- (f) Councillor Hilton produced two press cuttings relating to the success of the village in winning one of three Best Kept Village prizes in 1968.

The Clerk was asked to file the cuttings and to prepare copies for all Members.

- (g) Councillor Hilton complained that a Neighbourhood Watch leaflet had been left wrapped around her gate.

The Chairman agreed to investigate the matter.

**05/06/253 MEMBERS' SURGERIES**

Councillors Tremelling and Way held a surgery on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2006. No members of the public attended.

**05/06/254 ACCOUNTS**

Resolved: That the January accounts be approved for payment.

**05/06/255 BANK RECONCILIATION**

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

**05/06/256 BUDGET MONITORING**

The Clerk submitted the January budget monitoring statement, which showed an estimated year-end balance of £9,612.

**05/06/257 NORTH EAST BASSETLAW FORUM**

Councillors Foreman and Shepherd submitted a brief report on the meeting of the North East Bassetlaw Forum, held at Walkeringham the previous evening.

Several attendees had expressed particular concern about the cost of public consultation over issues such as the current Bassetlaw Local Development Framework, coupled with the fact that remote, unelected bodies such as the East Midlands Regional Assembly, were formulating many planning policies.

Concern was also expressed over fears that the housing needs of villages such as Gringley on the Hill could be ignored, with development being concentrated in more-urban areas.

Resolved: That, after gauging the impression gained from the meeting by Everton and Misterton Parish Councils, the Clerk be authorised to write a letter to Bassetlaw District Council, in consultation with Councillors Foreman and Shepherd.

**05/06/258 NALC NORTHERN AREA COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st November, 2005 were submitted.

**05/06/259 RISK REVIEW AND ASSET INSPECTION**

Councillor Foreman indicated that his risk assessment document in respect of the changing rooms should be available at the next meeting.

**05/06/260 PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP**

- (a) The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Nottinghamshire County Council, requesting the Parish Council to sign an indemnity letter and contractor licence relating to the use of Ordnance Survey Mapping. The Clerk had referred the matter for advice to Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils and Allianz Cornhill Insurance plc.

Resolved: That, subject to satisfactory replies to the consultation being carried out, the Clerk be authorised to sign the documentation referred to.

- (b) Councillor Hilton submitted a report on a meeting she had on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2005 with Mr. Chris Jackson, the new Wayfinder Officer at the County Council. Matters discussed included map cabinet provision, forthcoming surveys and the possibility of the Parish Council liaising with the County Council in producing a rights of way leaflet.

With regard to map cabinets, the Clerk advised that the County Council had provided the notice board on High Street with the intention of it being used to accommodate a rights of way map as well as public notices.

Resolved:

- (i) That the County Council be informed that the Parish Council was not prepared to conduct another rights of way survey, because of the demand that this put on Members, but any requirements coming to the attention of the Parish Council would be reported to the County Council.
- (ii) That the Clerk discuss the question of producing a footpath leaflet with the County Council.

**05/06/261 CPRE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE  
COMPETITION 2006**

In consultation with the Chairman, the Clerk had prepared a schedule assigning to each Member of the Parish Council a discrete part of the Parish, with a view to Members being responsible for their own part for competition purposes. The first job for Members would be to report to the February meeting on signage, street nameplates, etc. in need of attention. Future responsibilities would include ensuring that the village was free of litter and weeds and reporting any unkempt buildings.

Resolved: That the Clerk write an article for Beacon magazine, (a) urging residents to help on their 'patch', and to contact the relevant councillor if they would like to help with anything in particular, and (b) encouraging someone to co-ordinate the village effort, by doing things such as writing updates in Beacon, etc., bearing in mind that the competition was a community initiative.

**05/06/262 DETENTION CENTRE SITE**

- (a) The Clerk reported that Mr. David Boyne, of CB Richard Ellis Ltd., a property company acting for the Home Office, had recently contacted him and the Chairman. Mr. Boyne wished to familiarise himself with the Parish Council's intentions for the redevelopment of the site, and had requested a meeting in order to pursue the matter. The meeting had been arranged to take place on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2006, and was attended by Councillors Foreman, Shepherd and Hargreaves, together with Mr. Chris Downton and the Clerk. Unfortunately, although a worthwhile discussion took place, Mr. Boyne was not in attendance owing to a family bereavement the previous day. Arrangements were now being made to reschedule the meeting.

Following the discussions on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2006, Councillor Hargreaves had visited the site and now expressed concerns over the proposed location of the new community building. He considered that the building should be located on the nearest part of the site to the village as possible. Members agreed that this matter

should be discussed with Mr. Boyne at the rescheduled meeting.

- (b) Pursuant to Minute 05/06/226(c) of December, 2005, Councillor Hargreaves submitted a draft community centre questionnaire.

Resolved: That Councillor Hargreaves be thanked for producing an excellent document and, that, subject to the amendment now proposed, it be approved for publication in due course.

- (c) Pursuant to Minute No. 05/06/226 of December, 2005, Councillor Hargreaves submitted a written report on the village halls visit of 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2005.

**05/06/263 STANDARDS OF CONDUCT IN ENGLISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT: THE FUTURE**

The Clerk drew attention to the above discussion document, issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The Clerk had studied the document and considered that the majority of suggested alterations to the code of conduct, etc. were sensible.

**05/06/264 CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED NEW PRIMARY CARE TRUST ARRANGEMENTS: ENSURING A PATIENT LED NHS**

This consultation document, which had been circulated to Members, would be considered at the February meeting.

**05/06/265 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PRE-SUBMISSION DRAFT – NOVEMBER 2005**

This consultation document would be circulated to Members.

**05/06/266 PARISH COUNCILS LIASION GROUP MEETING**

- (a) The minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2005 were submitted.
- (b) Letter was submitted from Bassetlaw District Council, drawing attention to the next meeting of the Group, to be held at Retford on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2006. Any items or

questions needed to be submitted by 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2006.

**05/06/267 PROPOSED SITING OF A NEW BEACON ON BEACON HILL**

Because of the importance of this matter and the lateness of the hour, it was agreed that consideration would be deferred to the February meeting.

**05/06/268 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2005**

Pursuant to Minute No. 05/06/235 of December, 2005, the Clerk formally submitted the External Auditor's report on the 2004/05 audit of accounts. There were no further matters to report.

**05/06/269 THE BUTTERCROSS**

Pursuant to Minute No. 05/06/232 of December, 2005, a report was submitted on a site meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2006, attended by Councillors Hargreaves and Shepherd, together with the Clerk and Mr. Tim Allen of English Heritage. Mr. Simon Britt, Conservation Officer at Bassetlaw District Council had unfortunately been unable to attend, but had made a prior visit to familiarise himself with the problem of vehicular overriding of the grassed surround to the Buttercross.

Since the site meeting, Messrs. Britt and Allen had liaised, and suggested that three nice, dressed stones be provided, one at each corner of the green, in order to prevent overriding. This approach would not require Scheduled Monument Consent or planning permission. Councillor Dunkley said that he had some stones that might be suitable.

The Clerk also furnished Members with copy documentation, kindly provided by Councillor Hargreaves, giving full details of the Buttercross (actually named Market Cross) with regard to its status under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, as amended. It was Monument Number 29950.

Resolved: That it be agreed in principle to proceed along the lines suggested by Messrs. Britt and Allen.

**05/06/270 PERSONAL PROPERTY REGISTRATION**

The Clerk had previously circulated Members with an open letter from Chief Superintendent Johnson regarding property registration at a new website recognised by the police service and the Home Office: [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com).

In consultation with the Chairman, the Clerk had written an article for Beacon magazine, drawing the attention of the public to this facility, and suggesting that anyone without Internet access should contact him for advice.

**05/06/271 CEMETERY**

Councillor Hargreaves kindly offered to treat the newly installed seat with preservative.

**05/06/272 PLAYING FIELD**

- (a) Members agreed to hold a site meeting at the playing field to inspect the old sheds which had recently suffered vandalism.
- (b) Pursuant to Minute No. 05/06/234 of December, 2005, Councillor Taylor submitted his report on (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 Foreman undertook to discuss the matter further with Councillor Taylor with a view to bringing firm proposals for action to the February meeting. Whilst discussing this matter, Councillor Foreman confirmed that his enquiries regarding the availability of a local contractor to carry out further wet pour safety surfacing had proved unsuccessful.

**05/06/273 HIGHWAYS**

Pursuant to Minute No. 05/06/236(c) of December, 2006, the Clerk reported that advance notice had been received from Bassetlaw District Council that the mechanical street sweeper would be in Gringley on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2006. Councillor Taylor had kindly prepared leaflets and delivered them relevant households.

Members observed that High Street had been fairly clear of vehicles as a result.

**05/06/274 BASSETLAW LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – CORE STRATEGY: PREFERRED OPTIONS**

Consideration was given to the above consultation document, copies of which had been circulated to Members. A Sustainability Appraisal Report would also be circulated.

**05/06/275 PLANNING APPEALS**

**23/05/25**

Mr. & Mrs. M. L. Hopkinson  
Erect garage/store/playroom at Valley Farm, Middlebridge Road,  
Gringley on the Hill

Appeal Submitted

**23/05/27**

Mr. & Mrs. M. L. Hopkinson  
Erect stable block at Valley Farm, Middlebridge Road, Gringley  
on the Hill

Appeal Submitted

**05/06/276 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**23/05/30**

Mr. & Mrs. S. Wilson  
Erect two-storey extension and carry out alterations at 39  
Laycock Avenue, Gringley on the Hill

Resolved: That no adverse comment be made.

**23/05/31**

**Mr. K. Hogg**  
Erect detached garage and alter existing access at Woodcarr,  
Wood Lane, Gringley on the Hill

Resolved: That no adverse comment be made.

**23/06/1**

Mr. N. P. Sennett  
Demolish bungalow and erect new dwelling and alter existing  
access at The Bungalow, Low Street, Gringley on the Hill

Resolved: That no adverse comment be made, but that  
Bassetlaw District Council be informed that this property was  
actually named Hidden Meadow.

**05/06/277 PLANNING DETERMINATIONS**

There were no planning determinations.

**05/06/278 ANNUAL AUDIT REQUIREMENTS**

- (a) Members were satisfied that the Parish Council's Risk Assessment Policy was working efficiently, and required no amendment.
- (b) Members were satisfied that the Parish Council's internal controls, financial systems, financial regulations and standing orders were all satisfactory, other than an amendment to Standing Order 1(a) relating to the commencement time of meetings – now 7.30 p.m.
- (c) Members were satisfied that the Parish Council always endeavoured to ensure compliance with legislative requirements.

**05/06/279 BUDGET 2006-07**

During consideration of this item, Standing Order 1(c) was suspended to allow the meeting to continue beyond 10.00 p.m.

The Clerk furnished Members with a preliminary set of Budget proposals. Letters were submitted from the Village Hall Management Committee, explaining that financial assistance would not be needed in 2006/07, and from Safe@Last, requesting financial assistance. Councillor Foreman reported that the Playgroup was grateful for past financial assistance, but did not require assistance in 2006/07.

Resolved:

- (a) That no action be taken with regard to a request for financial assistance from Safe@Last.
- (b) That Cemetery fees be increased by 5%.
- (c) That donations of £150 and £200 be approved in respect of Gringley Celtic Football Club and Five Villages First Responders respectively.
- (d) That a quotation of £480 from Middlebridge Construction for replacement of the north elevation path in the Cemetery be accepted.
- (e) That it be the policy of the Parish Council to build a capital fund over the next few years, with the intention of replacing the windows in the Chapel of Rest.
- (f) That £1,000 be allocated in 2006/07 towards the fund to be established at (e) above.

- (g) That a legal contingency fund be established in the sum of £500, with particular reference to the forthcoming changes at the former detention centre site.
- (h) That a firm commitment be made to selling web space to advertisers, whilst accepting the advice of the Clerk that trading might require the Parish Council to register for VAT purposes.
- (i) That the remainder of the Budget be approved in accordance with the statement to be circulated.
- (j) That the precept be set at £20,963.

**05/06/280 LOCAL POLICING**

A discussion took place over the relocation of P.c. Cooper to Retford, without any consultation with the Parish Council. Almost 50 members of the public had attended a recent meeting of Misterton Parish Council to protest. Councillor Shepherd had also attended and expressed his concerns. Superintendent Busuttil, Acting Inspector Antill and Sergeant Bellamy represented the police.

Under new arrangements, the part-time officers would cover Misterton, Walkeringham and West Stockwith. P.c. Gregson would now cover Gringley on the Hill in addition to his normal duties.

The relocation of P.c. Cooper had caused great public concern, articulated by the public present at the meeting at Misterton. In summary, the main points made were that P.c. Cooper was a highly respected police officer, who had achieved a great deal during his time at Misterton and surrounding villages. His style of community policing had worked well in the area, and his knowledge and understanding of the area was unsurpassed: he had done tremendous work in both detecting crime and in preventing it. His work with schoolchildren at Misterton Primary School, where he was a school governor, was greatly appreciated by the community. P.c. Cooper was a policeman for the people, who had restored confidence in local policing.

At the meeting, Councillor Shepherd stressed the unique function and purpose of community policing, and pointed out that P.c. Cooper was particularly adept and knowledgeable in this regard. He asked Superintendent Busuttil to rethink the issue. In response, Superintendent Busuttil said that P.c. Cooper would not be returning to the Misterton area in the short or medium term.

On the positive side, Superintendent Busuttil gave a commitment to continued excellent policing in the local area, a commitment to keep the community better informed in future, and a commitment to The Misterton Centre which he said would enhance policing of the area and would have an important role to fulfil in neighbourhood policing.

At the end of the meeting, the Clerk to Misterton Parish council had been asked to write to Superintendent Busuttil, summarising the main points made during the discussion, and repeating the request made by Cllr. Shepherd for reconsideration.

The Clerk now informed Members that he had been privately informed that one of the new part-time officers was a Police Federation representative who, because of his Federation commitments, might not be able to commit much time to local policing. Councillor Shepherd confirmed that the role of a Federation representative was particularly demanding.

Resolved: That a letter be sent to Superintendent Busuttil along the same lines as the Misterton letter.

**05/06/281 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.

**05/06/282 CLERK'S CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT**

The Clerk submitted a report drawing attention to the fact that a new contract of employment was required following implementation of the National Agreement by the Parish Council in 2005. He submitted his current contract of employment together with a draft replacement contract. He was asked to leave the meeting during preliminary discussion of this matter. When he returned to the meeting, further discussion ensued.

Resolved: That new contract of employment of the Clerk to the Council, now submitted, be approved, subject to the following amendments:

- (a) Paragraph 8.3 be amended to read: "The Council will pay an annual office allowance of £139 to take into

account the use of space, electricity, heating and lighting arising from working from home”.

- (b) Paragraphs 12 and 13, providing for sick leave payment, be deleted.

**05/06/283    REMAINING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

The remaining items on the agenda were deferred to the February meeting.