

GRINGLEY ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 27th November, 2006

Present: Councillor J. E. Hargreaves, Chairman. Councillors Chambers, Daniels, Dunkley, Foreman, Foster (arrived during agenda item 3 - Minutes) and Hilton together with District Councillor A. Simpson

06/07/199 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Chairman reported that, in consultation with other Members, he had asked that tonight's meeting be brought forward from 29th November, 2006, in view of the fact that the detention centre site planning application was to be determined that evening, and he needed to represent the Parish Council at the Bassetlaw Planning Committee.

Members welcomed Councillor Daniels to his first meeting. Councillor Daniels signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

06/07/200 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.

06/07/201 APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Hargrave (work) and Taylor (holiday). Councillor Foreman submitted an apology for likely late arrival (work)

06/07/202 MINUTES

- (a) Councillor Foster referred to Minute No. 06/07/174 (Fires at Elm Ridge, High Street, Gringley on the Hill), and requested an amendment to reflect the fact that there had been some recent nuisance.

A considerable discussion followed, during which the general consensus was that the minute was accurate, even though there had been some recent nuisance.

A recorded vote took place, when Councillors Dunkley, Foreman, Hargreaves and Hilton voted that the minute was correct, with Councillor Foster voting that it was incorrect. Councillors Chambers and Daniels abstained.

Councillor Foster also referred to Minute No.06/07/187 (October Beacon Magazine). She was concerned that the minute gave the impression that she had been in communication with District Councillor A. Simpson over the matter, whereas she stated that there had been no dialogue between them.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on 25th October, 2006, be approved as a correct record, subject to an amendment to the final sentence of the fourth paragraph of Minute No. 06/07/187 to read as follows: “This had not happened and she felt that it was possible that this is what had concerned District Councillor Simpson.”

- (b) Councillor Chambers referred to Minute No. 06/07/96 of July, 2006 (CPRE Best Kept Village Competition), and claimed that the unapproved set of minutes for that meeting, sent out with the agenda for the extraordinary meeting held on 23rd August, 2006, had not contained a reference to her request for a letter to the owner of an unkempt hedge. She said that, after she pointed this out at the meeting on 23rd August, 2006, the Clerk said that he would look into the matter. She was unhappy, however, that the published minutes now contained the required reference without an approval by the Parish Council, and that it was incorrectly included under CPRE Best Kept Village Competition.

In response, the Clerk informed Councillor Chambers that, on checking the minutes the following day, he had ascertained that the minutes had in fact included the required reference to the unkempt hedge, and that the matter had been discussed at the end of a review of the 2006 CPRE Best Kept Village Competition.

Councillor Chambers was adamant, however, that the original set of minutes did not contain the particular reference. At the request of the Clerk she undertook to produce those minutes to him later.

- (c) Councillor Chambers stated her belief that Members should agree minutes as being accurate before submission for approval, in order to prevent the chain of email correspondence that had been generated over recent minutes.
- (d) A lengthy discussion took place over matters relating to minutes generally. It was pointed out that the issue over the Elm Ridge minute had led to a huge amount of Email correspondence since the last meeting, and that this was a waste of the Clerk's time and tiresome for Members.

Members observed that the Clerk could not be expected to record Members' speech verbatim, and that, if a Member read from a prepared statement, the Clerk should be furnished with a copy for minuting purposes.

It was considered that there had to be a better way of doing things generally. In this regard, the Clerk reported that he was unaware of any other parish council that (a) Emailed out unapproved copies of minutes to members immediately they were written and (b) published unapproved excerpts in the parish magazine. As regards (a), he confirmed that he had expressed reservations to the former Chairman, Councillor Shepherd, when the system was introduced some time ago.

Resolved:

- (i) That any Member reading from a prepared statement be required to furnish the Clerk with a copy.
- (ii) That, in order to avoid lengthy Email exchanges over the accuracy of minutes, unapproved minutes be only sent out to Members with the agenda for the next meeting.
- (iii) That excerpts of minutes be only published in Beacon magazine after approval.

06/07/203 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

06/07/204 PUBLIC DISCUSSION

- (a) A discussion took place about ongoing problems at Elm Ridge, High Street, Gringley on the Hill.

The Clerk undertook to raise certain matters with the appropriate authorities.

- (b) Mrs. T. Taylor said that it would be helpful to the public if they were allowed to comment on the business of Parish Council meetings as it developed. She asked that the matter receive future consideration, and Members agreed that it would.

06/07/205 ACCOUNTS

Resolved: That the November Accounts be approved for payment.

06/07/206 BANK RECONCILIATION

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

06/07/207 BUDGET MONITORING

The Clerk submitted the November budget monitoring statement.

06/07/208 RISK REVIEW AND ASSET INSPECTION

There was nothing to report

06/07/209 NORTH EAST BASSETLAW FORUM

There was nothing to report.

06/07/210 NALC NORTHERN AREA COMMITTEE

The Chairman submitted a brief report of the meeting held on 20th November, 2006. The main business of the meeting was (a) anti social behaviour orders and (b) double taxation. With regard to the latter, a letter was expected shortly from the District Council requesting an early response to points raised.

06/07/211 PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

Pursuant to Minute No. 06/07/177(b) of October, 2006, the Clerk sought guidance from Members on arrangements for installation of P3 furniture. Councillor Dunkley kindly agreed to store the furniture pending installation.

Resolved: That Middlebridge Construction be requested to carry out the installation.

06/07/212 DETENTION CENTRE SITE

The Chairman reported that, contrary to the impression given by Mr. Richard Fidler, of the Bassetlaw Planning Department, at a meeting on 17th October, 2006, the Head of Planning Services had recommended approval of the current planning application for residential development only. The Chairman would represent the Parish Council at the meeting of the Planning Committee and Mr. Chris Downton would represent the other objectors.

The Chairman asked District Councillor A. Simpson if she would speak in favour of a community building on behalf of the Gringley community. She responded by saying that she would not be able to participate in the determination of the application owing to the fact that she was privy to information not made available to the other members of the Planning Committee, and had, therefore, acquired a personal and prejudicial interest. The Clerk suggested that in that case she ought to be able to represent the community.

She claimed that she had been excluded from the Parish Council's deliberations on the matter so far. However, she would be happy to represent the community provided that (a) she could be furnished with information demonstrating that a costed business plan for a community centre had been produced, and (b) she was fully briefed. She would take legal advice on her representing the community the following morning.

06/07/213 GRINGLEY WHARF

Councillor Foreman reported that further archaeological excavations were to take place on the weekend of 9/10 December, 2006. He asked for active involvement from Members, etc.

06/07/214 AUDIT OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2006

Letter was submitted from UHY Hacker Young, the Parish Council's External Auditor, confirming that the audit was complete. There were no matters to report. Notice of Completion of Audit had been published.

06/07/215 GRANTS 2007/08

- (a) An Email was submitted from Mrs. M. Davies, requesting financial assistance towards the establishment of a toddler group to operate at the Village Hall one morning each week. She enquired whether the Parish Council required her attendance at a meeting.

Members agreed that there was no need for attendance, and the Clerk would enquire as to the nature and amount of funding requested.

- (b) Letter was submitted from Mr. M. Sharpe, Head Teacher of St. Peter's C.E. Primary School, requesting funding for the purchase of the 2006/07 DARE programme t-shirts.

Resolved: That a donation of £59.50 be made to cover the purchase.

06/07/216 CRIME STATISTICS AND POLICING

The October statistics were submitted.

The Clerk reported that both Everton and Misterton Parish Councils had written to Nottinghamshire Police, complaining that it was unreasonable to expect P.c. Gregson to cover 25 villages.

Resolved: That the Clerk write on similar lines on behalf of Gringley on the Hill Parish Council.

06/07/217 LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER

Letter was submitted from Mr. John Mann, MP, enclosing a briefing containing key points for parish councils on the Local Government White Paper, and offering a meeting.

Resolved: That Mr. Mann be informed that the Parish Council welcomed a meeting of Bassetlaw parish councils with Mr. Mann.

06/07/218 CEMETERY

The Chairman reported as follows:

- (a) He had investigated a complaint about grass cuttings on memorials, and found that, whilst there were some cuttings present, it was unavoidable.
- (b) He had discussed with the Handyman the need to treat Cemetery seating with preservative.
- (c) The Cemetery hedge had been cut.

06/07/219 PLAYING FIELD

- (a) The Chairman reported that Middlebridge Construction had done a first class job in demolishing certain buildings and clearing the site. Some dense vegetation needed removing, and he suggested a working party later in the winter.
- (b) Councillor Foreman reported on progress regarding transfer of the Playground Appeal bank balance to the Parish Council, to be used to improve playground surfacing.
- (c) The Clerk referred to Minute No. 06/07150(c) of September, 2006, and reported that the stated figure of £25 per match payable by Retford Town Reserves was a typing error, and should read £20.
- (d) The annual playground inspection report from Wicksteed Leisure Ltd. was circulated. Members noted the action recommended, and Councillor Foreman confirmed that it would be carried out.

06/07/220 HIGHWAYS

A discussion took place about various highway matters, including:

- (a) Councillor Hilton reported that, despite the fact that the County Council had recently swept High Street, there remained an unacceptable amount of grit on the highway, particularly on Mill Road. Councillor Daniels reported that Middlebridge Road also required sweeping.

The Clerk would request the District Council to sweep the village.

- (b) Thanks were expressed to Councillor Taylor, in his absence, for repairing, at his own expense, the mirror at Pitt Lane, which was a vital road safety facility.
- (c) District Councillors A. Simpson and R. A. Simpson (Misterton Ward) reported on action they were taking to improve road safety on Horsewells Street.

06/07/221 BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Bassetlaw District Council, advising that the Statement of Community Involvement had been formally adopted on 20th November, 2006, and could be viewed on the District Council website. Copies were available for purchase at a cost of £10.

06/07/222 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAM WASTE CORE STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL POLICIES – ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION OCTOBER, 2006

Resolved: That the Clerk prepare a response, in consultation with the Chairman.

06/07/223 REHOUSING OPPORTUNITIES WITH A1 HOUSING

Letter was submitted from A1 Housing Ltd., giving details of its services, and seeking the assistance of the Parish Council in promoting it as a rehousing option for local people wherever practical.

Members agreed that assistance would be given.

06/07/224 TREE, ETC. WORK

Councillor Hilton reported that (a) a dead tree and undergrowth needed clearing from Lancaster Road, near The Green, and (b) there were a number of dead trees on the Fairpiece.

Resolved:

- (a) That the Clerk investigate the situation on Lancaster Road, and be authorised to take any appropriate action.
- (b) North Notts Landscapes Ltd. be requested to remove the dead trees from The Fairpiece.

06/07/225 CHRISTMAS TREE

A discussion took place on arrangements to provide the Christmas tree on The Fairpiece.

06/07/226 FLY TIPPING

The Clerk would report instances of fly tipping to Bassetlaw District Council.

06/07/227 FORMALISATION OF THE LAYBY ON WOOD LANE

An item would appear on the December agenda.

06/07/228 PARISH COUNCILS LIAISON GROUP

Letter was submitted from Bassetlaw District Council, enclosing the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November, 2006, and advising that the next meeting would be held at Retford Town Hall on 14th February, 2007.

06/07/229 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications.

06/07/230 PLANNING DETERMINATIONS

23/06/39

P. Pilton, Esq.

Erect single-storey extension and alterations at The Coppers, High Street, Gringley on the Hill

Permission Granted

06/07/231 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.

06/07/232 APPOINTMENT OF CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Consideration was given to six applications for the above post. The Chairman and Clerk drew attention to a mistake the Clerk had made in the job advertisement in which he had understated the salary range.

Resolved:

- (a) That the following be invited for interview on 5th January, 2007, with a view to the successful applicant taking up his/her duties on 1st February, 2007:

Mr. P. Baines
Mr. N. S. Sherrin-Jones
Mrs. A. Titmuss

- (b) That an Appointments Panel comprising Councillors Foreman, Foster and Hargreaves be authorised to make an appointment and set a salary within a range or on a spot basis.