

AILSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2015
IN THE METHODIST CHAPEL AT 7.30PM.

Present: Mrs J Pickett (Chair), Mr R Perkins, Mr J Judge, Mr R Ingram, Dr M Ellershaw **Clerk:** Miss J Rice

Members of the public: Mr J Hodder, Mr R Sissons Police Chief Inspector

Questions from the floor; Mr Sissons explained that he was doing a tour of Parish Councils in his area at present, to talk about budget issues and any gaps in service that need addressing. There have been large cuts in budget and more are planned. This has resulted in different ways of working, more efficiently, and to match modern day demands, through collaboration, managerial savings, technology advances and partnership working. There is also a push on community involvement and recruitment of more Special Constables – a campaign will begin locally soon.

Mr J Hodder gave an update on the Neighbourhood Plan project. Consultations are continuing, and feed into the different groups and policies. The results of the recent survey will be presented at a joint Parish Council meeting on 22nd January. There is a new application for a 2nd grant to be approved, and he went through the figures/costs to be requested, and also the need for the procedure on when to get 3 quotes for works to be agreed. Some incidental costs can be paid by cheque on production of receipts but not cash as we have no cash float. The latest invoice is to be changed to a 50/50 split with Castor Parish Council.

1. Apologies; Mrs C Murrell (on holiday), Cllr J Holdich, Cllr D Lamb, (both at other meetings)

2. Minutes from the last meeting on 9th November 2015. These were agreed as a true record, proposed by Mr J Judge, seconded by Mr R Perkins and signed as correct by the Chair.

3. Matters arising: Letters were sent to the 2 candidates about the vacant Councillor position.

4. Declarations of interest; Dr M Ellershaw has a planning application to be discussed.

5. Village Defibrillator. Thanks were expressed to those that have recently spent time working on this project, raising the funds, finding a suitable defibrillator as well as cleaning and repainting the telephone kiosk in preparation for the defibrillator to be installed. One training session has successfully taken place and the other is scheduled for 13th January 7-9pm in the school hall.

6. Council reports

6.1 Recreation ground;

6.1a The baby swing has not yet been returned. This will be chased up.

6.1b The spring purchased for a self-closing gate will not suffice, so more options will be investigated.

6.1c Quotes for hedge cutting are being requested.

6.2 Planning

6.2a 15/01714/CTR Pruning and crown lifting/reducing of 9 trees at 54 Main St. No concerns raised.

6.2b 15/01645/HHFUL and 15/01505/LBC proposed demolition of existing pub toilet and building of new annex at rear of 121 Peterborough Road. No concerns from neighbour nor parish council and response sent.

6.2c 15/01920/CTR Removal of 5 trees and tree work to 1 tree at rear of 119 Peterborough Road. Extension granted but no concerns raised. Tree Officer informed that no issue with it. Also associated 15/02044/CTR pollard E2 to 5 m instead of crown thinning.

6.2d 15/01988/HHFUL/LBC Increase in chimney height at 41 Main St. No concerns raised.

6.2e 15/01853/NONMAT Non material amendment to planning permission 13/00716/HHFUL at 2 Helpston Road. Determined 27/11/15.

6.2f 15/01996/HHFUL Single storey side and rear extension to 17 Normangate. To be looked at more closely and neighbours visited.

6.2g 15/02091/CTR fell 2 conifers and thin silver birch at 15 Maffit Road. No concerns raised.

6.3 Neighbourhood plan update. See above. Also, the grant has been received. It was agreed to confirm that the current process of obtaining 3 quotes where expenditure exceeds £500 is advisable but not always necessary, and can be justified in cases where they are not sought. The 2nd grant application was agreed apart from costs for an overhead projector and this will be queried.

6.4 Village groups;

6.4a Woodlands' demolition is on the planning applications summary, although more a pre-notification under permitted development. A letter of support for it to remain will be sent.

6.4b The Queen's 90th birthday celebration committee have asked both Parish Councils to underwrite the event to £1500 each. It was agreed to ask that we underwrite an amount that is pro-rata to our respective differing budget/village capacity sizes at an agreed 58/42%. A reply has been received to say that this will now affect the overall figures that have been agreed elsewhere. It was decided to leave it as it is.

6.4c The tree lighting event was well attended and successful.

6.5 Village Hall; Slow progress continues on the lease.

6.6 Parish Land and Allotments;

The water bill has been adjusted following an actual reading being submitted.

6.7 Footpaths and Rights of Way;

The Helpston Road flashing speed sign is being repaired and will be reinstalled, plus the slow signs on the road will be put back. Enquiries will be made with Hereward Homes about repositioning the 30mph speed restriction sign.

6.8 Bus Shelter/post box.

6.8a The Royal Mail has confirmed that the post box is in their care plan for the next 2 years. Councillors will try cleaning it in the meantime.

6.8b It was agreed to allow extra expenditure up to £50 if needed for more festive lights for the trees on the green.

6.9. Trees and Bio-diversity

6.9a A regular tree inspection is due and a quote has been requested.

6.9b The trees have been looked at for any obvious damage following the recent high winds.

7. Finance:

7.1 Account Status: Current account £15893.31 Deposit accounts £2998.31 (This includes the NP grant). Reward saver £5408.55. £5000 growth bond

7.2 Income: £3275 NP grant received 9/11/15

7.3 Payments: £155 plus vat CGM invoice no. 190218, £52.50 internal auditor fee paid 1/12/15

7.4 Expenses: It was agreed to pay these forthcoming invoices;

7.4a CGM invoice if one

7.4b Revised water bill £13.96

7.4c J Rice website hosting fee £2.49 plus vat (Dec/Jan)

7.4d J Rice postage £3.78 and stationery £3.75

7.4e Open Spaces Society subs £45

7.4f Hercules Marketing data capturing – amount tbc

7.4g Additional Christmas lights

7.4h Clerk's pay £206.94 plus £24 home office costs payable 31/12/15

Proposed by Mr J Judge and seconded by Mr R Ingram

7.5 Mr C Brown carried out the audit and submitted a report asking for an extra bank statement and queried 2 vat amounts. A response has been sent.

8. Budget/priorities/projects Priorities for budget setting were agreed to include renewing the face of the village information board, the neighbourhood plan, more trees/hedging. Money in the reserves for any work needed to the stone wall, village hall, and an allowance for a youth project. A budget meeting will be arranged in January and priorities may yet come from the NP.

9. Parish News to include article on recruiting Special Constables.

10. Report from meetings attended/upcoming meetings; Annual Parish Conference feedback is expected soon. Feedback on safeguarding meeting to be carried forward. The Parish Councils Liaison meeting is on 16/12/15.

11. Correspondence. For circulation;

- Weekly planning sheets
- Community policing team restructure
- Review of polling stations, districts, places
- Commissioner's youth fund
- Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Steering Committee meeting 13 and 14 minutes
- City and Parish Councillors and NP group members meeting minutes
- Rural crime and information update October 2015
- Councillor training by CAPALC
- Fields in Trust newsletter
- Public rights of way improvement plan
- Website data reports
- Open Space magazine
- Clerks and Councils Direct November

Meeting closed at 9.40pm

Next meeting is 11th January 2016 at 7.30pm in the Chapel