

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Waterbeach Parish Council held on Tuesday, 5th January, 2010 at 7.00 p.m. in the New Pavilion, Cambridge Road.

Present: Mr. A. Ball; Mr. W. Bullivant; Mrs. J. Cornwell; Mr S. Edwards; Dr. C. Grant; Mr W. Grant; Ms. N Kay; Mr. P. Johnson; Mr M. Leeke; Mr P. Mabbs; Mrs C. Smith; Ms G. Smith; Mrs. J. Williamson(Chairman); Mr. M. Williamson; Mr. A. Wright.

Mr Williamson also attends as the County Councillor for the ward; Mr Johnson also attends as a District Councillor for the ward

In attendance: Seven members of the public; the clerk

Matters raised by members of the public:

Mrs Lloyd spoke for the dog walkers present who claim that the blocking of the gap in the hedge is illegal and object to the Council's decision to keep the gap closed in the south west corner of the recreation. Mrs Lloyd requested that the Council scrutinise how decisions are made and that the concrete block adjacent to the gap is removed. (Item 258)

Mrs Bull expressed concern on behalf of the dog walkers present that dogs would be banned from the recreation ground (Item 259)

2009.242 Apologies

None

2009.243 Declarations of Interests for matters on the agenda

Dr Grant declared a prejudicial interest in item 247 as being listed on the accounts for payment

Mr W. Grant declared a personal interest in item 247 as being an acquaintance of the clerk

2009.244 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st December, 2009

Mrs Cornwell proposed, seconded by Ms Smith and agreed that the minutes be signed.

2009.245 Clerk's report and matters arising from the Minutes

No report

2009.246 To receive and consider any point relating to Health and Safety in relation to employees, equipment, properties and land

Slippery surfaces due to snow and ice – the clerk reminded councillors of previous advice from CALC (now CPALC) that it is best not to clear the paths or to put salt down on the basis that once this is done it is accepted that the Council are accepting that the surface is slippery and that in the event that the surface is not completely cleared and a person slips on a patch of ice that is not expected as it is perceived that the surface has been dealt with the Council could be sued. This advice had been confirmed by S-Tech. It was agreed that a letter be sent to SCDC requesting that they treat the paths when icy where there are vulnerable persons. It was agreed that CCC should be requested to treat the paths when icy and in general assess the condition of the paths .

It was agreed that the offer from CCC to obtain salt bins at a cost of approximately £100 per bin should be accepted. The salt is for use on the public highway by members of the public or District employees on a voluntary basis. Five bins would be ordered and the highway supervisor consulted on positioning.

2009.247 To approve the accounts for payment

Mr Williamson declared a prejudicial interest as being listed on the accounts for payment.

Mr Leeke proposed, seconded by Mrs Cornwell that the accounts be paid with the exception of the sum to Get Online. Mr Williamson agreed to check the validity of the account.

2009.248 To receive reports and minutes of committees

i. Finance Committee held on 3rd December. The Minutes were noted

a. To agree amendments to Financial Regulations as per the meeting of 3rd December
Mr. Ball proposed, seconded by Ms Smith and agreed that the amended Financial

Regulations be adopted.

ii. Recreation Facilities User's Committee held on 8th December – the minutes were noted

iii. Highways Committee held on 16th December – the Minutes had not yet been circulated

2009.249 To consider signing up to the South Cambridgeshire Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership

It was agreed that the Parish Council would not sign up to the Partnership.

The meetings being held in Waterbeach by Cambridge Carbon Footprint were noted. A notice had been displayed on the noticeboard.

2009.250 To appoint a councillor to promote sustainable issues on behalf of the Council in the event that agenda item 249 is agreed

See 249 above

2009.251 To discuss the budget and precept for 2010/2011 as circulated

The circulated budget would mean a 25% increase in the precept

It was agreed that the cost of the groundsman's shed should be investigated.

Concern was expressed that the terms for taking out the loan for the groundsman's shed had not been implemented

Mr. Grant proposed, seconded by Mr Mabbs that a 25 – 30% increase in precept should be worked towards. For: 3; Against 11; Abstain 1.

It was agreed that Mr Ball and the clerk do further work on the budget. Mr Leeke proposed, seconded by Ms Kay that an increase of approximately 15% in the precept should be worked towards. For: 10; Against 4 (Mr Grant and Mr Mabbs); Abstain: 1.

It was agreed that all matters of expenditure be assessed by the Finance Committee.

2009.252 Tillage Hall:

i. To receive report of meeting of Building Task Force

Notes of the meeting had been circulated.

WREN funding – funding approved for £20,000

Criminal Justice Board – meeting attended by Alan Lamb and Janet Cornwell. Funding received.

ii. To receive report of meetings of Management Task Force

Notes of meeting circulated.

2009.253 To receive report of meetings of Alternative use of Buildings Task Force

Meeting to be held in January to commence discussions and reported at the February meeting

2009.254 To consider promotion and information for elections

It was agreed that the document 'Make Sure our Parish Keeps Control of its own Future' circulated by the clerk should be displayed on the website and available to candidates at the parish council elections. The clerk would ascertain whether the 'So you want to be a parish or town councillor' leaflet is being published for the 2009 elections.

The clerk would find out if the council could promote candidates standing for elections.

News letter for February Beach News to be dedicated to elections

2009.255 To approve increase in fees charged to sports clubs

Mr Grant proposed, seconded by Mr Ball that as in previous years the percentage increase in precept be applied to the increase on 2008/2009 fees be levied on the clubs for the 2009/2010 season. Agreed that the increase be 5%.

2009.256 To agree type of repair to windows in new pavilion

It was agreed that pin board be put in front of the boarded up sections which could be used as noticeboards. The matter would be reviewed when the new building has been completed.

2009.257 To agree removal of floodlights from play area

It was agreed that the matter be discussed by the Finance Committee.

2009.258 Special Resolution:

To consider decision made at November 2009 meeting (minute 2009.209) to close the gap in the hedge

Consideration was given to the points made by members of the public present; by cricket club members in discussion with the chairman of the recreation facilities users committee when considering siting of the cricket nets in spring 2009; and previous considerations of the Council. Dr. Grant proposed, seconded by Mr Ball that a further risk assessment be carried out to assess the risks associated with an entrance in the SW corner of the recreation ground, the existing entrances on the western boundary and the current location of the cricket nets. For: 13; Abstain: 2. Mr Ball agreed to write terms of reference, to be circulated to councillors for approval, to be followed by the assessor. The clerk would obtain recommendations from the insurers and from AFP Construction Consultants of assessors.

2009.259 To consider whether dogs should be allowed on the recreation ground

Consideration was given to the representation made by dog walkers; issues relating to health implications relating to dog fouling. It was agreed that the matter be referred to the Recreation Facilities Users Committee for recommendation.

2009.260 To consider a means of removing rubbish heap from cemetery and management of rubbish thereafter

It was agreed that an estimate be obtained for the removal of the heap of rubbish at the cemetery and that estimates for alternative provision for dealing with rubbish be obtained.

2009.261 To consider situation in Clare Close in relation to tree roots and drains

CCTV investigations have been carried out by Anglian Water who would contact the Council if the roots are interfering with the drains. It was agreed that the resident be contacted with the information obtained and informed that the tree would not be felled until necessary.

2009.262 To consider estimates for shelving in the groundsman's shed

Estimates of £1018.3 and £978.10 had been received from Mackays for 1800mm span shelving and from Site and Maintenance for shelving and mezzanine floor of £1890. Further estimate for Sealy Power Products 1830mm span shelving for £184.95. Mrs Cornwell proposed, seconded by Mr Ball and agreed that three units be purchased from Sealy Power Products

2009.263 To receive reports from Councillors, officers and representatives of the Council

i. County Councillor

Station Road – CCC need to assess the trench in the road near the level crossing. Councillors noted that CCC had been informed of this on a number of occasions.

Pot holes – these are being mended.

ii. District Councillor/s

Butt Lane recycling – rumours that the site is to close are unfounded

Icy paths – suggestion that salt bins in strategic places are made available to volunteers to use when conditions prevail. See agenda 246

iii. Chairman.

Parish Planning Forum – presentations on how to give the most effective responses to SCDC about planning applications. Meeting pack to be passed to Mrs Cornwell as Chairman of Planning Committee

Icy roads and paths – concerns raised by parishioners. see agenda 246

iv. Library Officer

School reception class children are visiting the library to choose books. This is working

well but adding additional time to the Friday sessions
Library break in – cash box stolen. Culprits identified. Police to keep council informed on action. Safe to be installed to keep cash box in.

Faulty heater and light in entrance hall - the light has been repaired but the heater has not which has meant that although the school could not use it because of low temperature that library has done.

Children's Centre – a meeting with Ms Doyle is to take place to understand the impact on the operation of the library. There is a possibility that the computers may be upgraded. Mr Williamson agreed to support the provision of improved computers

v. CPALC

No report

vi. Neighbourhood Watch

No report

vii. Trees

New trees – groundsman to be requested to mulch all new trees, and the shrubs and hedging on council property and to keep weed free throughout the year.

Deadwood – considerable twigs dropped on the green during the bad weather. Groundsman to check for major damage and broken limbs. Gary Langley to assess Christmas light fixings.

Village Green trees – recommend consideration given to planting further young trees on the green in the Jubilee year of 2012 in preparation for original limes to be felled when necessary

viii. Wicken Vision

No report – next meeting February

2009.264 To receive communications to the Council as seen fit by the Chairman for presenting to the Council

SCDC – Community Transport Strategy – www.scambs.gov.uk/community/transport

SCDC – Community Clear Up Events – www.thebigtidyup.org

SCDC – Community Facilities Audit

CCC – Countywide Advisory Freight Map – lorries@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

CCC – works to footpath from Greenside to A.10

CCC – Capital bids

CCC – salt bins

Young Wives – purchase of tea urn

Harry Cotton – dirt ramps. Mrs Cornwell and Mrs Williamson to arrange a meeting to discuss

CCC – Children's Centre

2009.265 To receive all other correspondence

ACRE – Community Action magazine

Dancing for Fun – Newsletter

NHS – launch of public consultation

2009.266 To answer questions from Councillors

Fire extinguishers – the clerk would check that the correct provision has been made

Employee appraisals – appraisals are due.

Grants – to be advertised in February Beach News

A sample introduction pack provided to newcomers to a village was handed to the clerk for information

2009.267 Matters for the next agenda -No matters raised.

The meeting ended at 10.25 p.m.

Chairman Date