

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SNITTERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 9TH FEBRUARY, 2009,
COMMENCING AT 7-30 P.M.**

PRESENT Councillor R.J. Fitchford (Chairman)
Councillor A.G.M. Jones
Councillor Miss C. Kimberley
Councillor Mrs. S. Morlidge
Councillor Mrs. M. Rendell
Councillor Mrs. J. Swift

County and District Councillor R.G. Hobbs

Clerk 7 Members of Public

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders and there followed a period of public participation

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Ken Chatland

Referred to the Minutes of the January Meeting and the problem of disposal of sewage at Pigeon Green. He asked what Councillor Hobbs meant when he said that the County Council would be taking full responsibility

Councillor Hobbs responded that the County Council would put into action work to prevent sewage entering the brook; he was unaware of the timescale for this work
He added that the Environment Agency was fully aware of the situation

1. APOLOGIES

None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th January, 2009, having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman

4. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Flood Relief Scheme – The Green

Councillor Hobbs reported that the Environment Agency had given a verbal undertaking to fund the trash screen. He was awaiting written confirmation
The Clerk reported that he had received advice that the Parish Council did not have Authority to fund the scheme beyond the limits of Section 137, Local Government Act, 1972, even though the grants obtained had been specifically for that purpose
He undertook to obtain further advice on the matter

(b) Surface Water – Ingon Lane

Councillor Hobbs said that he had followed up with the County Council the complaints made at the January Meeting. He would continue to pursue the matter. He had also asked for action in relation to Gospel Oak Lane and Kings Lane

(c) Meeting with Chief Executive

Councillor Mrs. Rendell reported that she and Councillor Hobbs had met with the Chief Executive and Mr. Pat Reid to discuss planning enforcement matters. Various issues had been outlined and problems had been admitted. She felt that that it had been a positive meeting but its worth would be proved by the promised co-operation

5. TO RECEIVE COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

- (a) Referred to the Planning Appeals made in respect of caravans sited adjacent to the Reservoir, Kings Lane. He suggested that the Parish Council should respond to the consultations and he spoke of several important issue
- (b) Referred to the Planning Appeal for the gypsy caravan site. He said that no arrangements had been made for a site visit, indicating that a decision was not imminent
- (c) Gave an update on the situation with regard to the Fox Hunter Public House. A letter had been sent to the owner's representative by the District Council Legal Office suggesting a meeting within 14 days to discuss future development of the site. Should such a meeting not happen, then a Notice under Section 79 of the Building Act, 1984 will be served
Such a Notice would be directed at reducing the height of the damaged building and to provide a suitable screen until the site is developed in accordance with an approved scheme
Councillor Mrs. Rendell said that the idea had been raised of a petition to restore the Public House. The petition to be handed to the District Council with media publicity
- (d) Reported that the County Council Precept had been fixed at a 3.79% increase and he outlined the issues involved in setting the Budget
- (e) Reported that an Ofsted Inspection had taken place at Snitterfield School; he expressed optimism regarding the outcome

6. FINANCE

Receipts

(a) HM Revenue & Customs	VAT Refund	£354-24
(b) K.J. Evetts	Grazing Rights – Atteys Field	£330-00
(c) Bank of England	Treasury Stock Interest	£7-42

Payments to be authorized

(a) Thomgarden	Grass cutting contract	£460-00
(b) Good Energy	Electricity supply to Village Hall (Direct Debit)	£54-00

(c) British Gas	Gas supply to Village Hall (Direct Debit)	£95-00
(d) Nildram	Supply Broadband (Direct Debit)	£19-56

Proposed Councillor Mrs. Morlidge, Seconded Councillor Miss Kimberley
‘That the listed items be authorized for payment’
So resolved, nem con

Correspondence

(a) E.on Energy Services	Street Lighting Maintenance Charges An increase of 3.6% with effect from 1 April
(b) Good Energy	Electricity Charges – Village Hall A decrease of 7.5% with effect from 31 January
(c) Bank of Ireland	Changes to the Compensation Arrangements for Deposit Account Deposits covered by the guarantee are fully protected without upper limit until 29 September, 2010

7. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

(a) Mr. William Murphy The Surgery Church Road	Extension to existing dental surgery 08/03177/FUL
<u>Submission</u>	Support. The site is located within the Green Belt and the proposed extension does exceed the 30% volume guideline. However, it is considered that there are special circumstances in that the proposal will improve the village facilities
(b) Mr. Roy Taylor Land adj. Reservoir Kings Lane	Change of Use of land from agricultural to stationing of a caravan for use as a restroom in association with adjoining stables APP/J3720/A/09/2094578/NWF
<u>Submission</u>	To be formulated confirming Objection to the proposal
(c) Mr. M. Andrews Land adj. Reservoir Kings Lane	Alleged unauthorized building and residential occupation of mobile home – Enforcement Order APP/J3720/C/09/2094631
<u>Submission</u>	To be formulated confirming Objection to the proposal

Decisions

(a) Ms. L. Kelleher Poachers Cottage The Green	Proposed read ground and first floor extension 08/02998/FUL
<u>Refusal</u>	

(b) Mr. William Murphy Extension to existing dental surgery
The Surgery 08/03177/FUL
Church Road
Permission with Conditions

(c) Asthan Babe-Ke Trust Use of land for religious festival. Erection of four
Babe Ke Farm marquees, toilets, temporary office tent and
Warwick Road caravans in August each year
08/01069/FUL
Permission with Conditions

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Warwickshire County Council

- (a) Proposal to upgrade a short section of footpath to bridleway – SD146
Noted – no further action
- (b) Route from Church Road to Lodge Farm
Noted – no further action

Warwickshire Association of Local Councils

- (a) Royal Garden Party Invitation
To nominate former Councillor Mr. G. Stammers
- (b) Briefing Seminar – 7th March
No Member to attend

9. AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Charles Barlow, Housing Enabler, in which he detailed the recent exercise to verify the level of affordable housing need in Snitterfield. This confirmed that there was a continued need and Mr. Barlow asked if the Council was now in a position to support, in principle, the development of 14 houses on the two suggested sites.

Members received advice from Ms. Lesley Ford of Ford Associates who said that, should the Parish Council support the development, then details of the scheme could be displayed and explained at an Open Day / Consultation Day.

Councillor Jones pointed out that an undertaking had been given by the Council to meet with residents affected by the development and take note of any objections before making a decision on the proposed scheme.

After discussion, it was agreed to arrange an informal meeting with affected residents; the meeting to be held in the Village Hall with publicity by individual letter.

10. PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT

Councillor Mrs. Morlidge presented the Inspection Report prepared by Digley Associates Ltd. She outlined a number of recommendations, most of which were of low priority.

After discussion, it was agreed to make further enquiries in order to prepare an action plan.

11. TO RECEIVE COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS FROM COUNCILLOR

Councillor Mrs. Rendell

Said that she had recently attended a meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch Association. She expressed her concern that the Snitterfield Neighbourhood Watch appeared to be no longer active

Councillor Fitchford

Reported that Mr. David Robotham had spoken to him of a line of willow trees that used to stand opposite his house in Brookside

It was agreed to speak to Mr. Prescott, Tree Warden on the possibility of replacement planting

Reported that Mr. Henson, whose wife had recently been buried in the Cemetery, had approached him and volunteered to fund the planting of a hedge beyond the last line of graves as a screen from any green waste

After discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Henson be thanked for his offer but to be informed that such a screen would be unnecessary

Said that the Girl Guides had been holding their regular meetings at the Village Hall. They had requested a discount on the hire charge, but this had been refused.

He expressed his concern that the Guides were now holding their meetings at Norton Lindsey at a reduced cost

Councillor Jones

Submitted correspondence from Friends of the Earth on the subject of renewable energy and conservation issues. Permission was requested to add the Parish Council to the Roll of Honour for taking action to reduce carbon footprint

Also, to sign a post card to John Maples, M/P. requesting his support for the commitment to deliver 15% of energy from U.K. renewables by 2020

Both requests were agreed

Referred to the Fire Risk Assessment for the Village Hall and the need for an Annual Review. He pointed out that such a review must be carried out only by persons specifically qualified for that purpose. He expressed his willingness to assist, but said that he did not possess overall competence

It was agreed to ask the other two members of the team which carried out the Assessment, i.e. Mr. John Jacobs and Mr. Gerry Stammers to join with Councillor Jones to complete the Review

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow any further public participation

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Ken Chatland

Brought to attention the numerous occasions of motor vehicles parked half on the Road, half on the footpath. This served no useful purpose for the free flow of Traffic, but was a potential danger to pedestrians forced to walk on the road

It was agreed to monitor the situation and to attempt to enlist police attention

12. MOTION

Proposed Councillor Mrs. Morlidge, Seconded Councillor Miss Kimberley
'That the following matters be considered in closed session by reason of the confidential nature of the business'

So resolved, nem con

13. REFURBISHMENT OF BUS SHELTER

Councillor Mrs. Morlidge introduced the subject and said that extensive repairs were required to the slate roof and pointing to the brickwork

She also referred to a previous decision of the Council to investigate the provision of seating in the shelter

She submitted a quotation from Jonathan Best, Bidford on Avon to include all these works

The Clerk said that funds were still available under the Stratford District Public Realm Grant Scheme; this would entail match funding of 50%

He undertook to make further enquiries with a view to submitting an application

14. TO CONSIDER QUOTATIONS FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

The Clerk submitted for consideration quotations from

(1) Snitterfield Cricket Club

(2) Thomgarden

After careful consideration, Councillor Mrs. Morlidge proposed, Councillor Fitchford seconded and it was agreed

(1) to award the contract to Snitterfield Cricket Club for grass cutting the Large Playing Field

(2) to award the contract to Thomgarden in respect of the play area in the Large Playing Field, the Small Playing Field, the Cemetery, the area around the Stocks Tree and the area around the War Memorial

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 10-05 p.m.