

## AYNHO PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall**

Present Chair – Colin Macklin

Councillors – Hoddinott, Mann, Parkes, Brook, Burge, Anderson and James

In Attendance: Sadie Patamia (Clerk), Amby Hitchcox (RFO), and 2 members of the public

#### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Belcher.

#### **2 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest

#### **3 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011 and 28<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

It was proposed by Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Mann, and agreed that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011 should be approved and signed subject to the following alterations –

The meeting took place on 16<sup>th</sup> May, not 4<sup>th</sup> April

Brook and Burge were spelt incorrectly on page 1

Cllr Brook was elected vice-chair

Cllrs James and Hoddinott are to have responsibility for internal audit not Cllr Brook as stated on page 4

Cllr Anderson will lead the parking committee

Garage 'ROOK' should read 'roof' on page 4

It was proposed by Cllr Anderson, seconded by Cllr James, and agreed that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2011 should be approved and signed subject to the following alterations –

Hoddinott was spelt incorrectly.

#### **4 Matters arising not on the Agenda**

The Clerk confirmed that she had passed the reply from Churchills on to Sybil Stevens. She has also now received a reply from SNC about the lay by and rubbish. SNC had stated that they do not put rubbish bins in laybys nor do they find signs to be effective. They have, however agreed to patrol it more regularly. It was agreed that this was not acceptable and that a further letter should be written to John Townsend.

*Action – Clerk to write to JT voicing dismay at SNC's response*

The Clerk confirmed the insurance deal offered by Zurich had been taken up and that Came and Co had been told they were unsuccessful. She stated she had written to residents of The Glebe inviting them to join the parking group. She confirmed she had also written to Helen Howard enquiring about a solid line in front of The Grammar House and Anglian Water's repair to the road. Helen Howard had responded that they were willing to put a solid white line in front of the drive but that it may take some time and that she will send out a contractor to inspect the road. She has also written to John Spence about the traffic island issue.

The Clerk confirmed she had written to 2 Butts Close re. the builder's rubbish and has requested that Mr Dempsey cuts the grass on the sportsfield shorter. Cllr Anderson confirmed that the grass had indeed been cut shorter.

It was reported that the areas of weeds and overgrown plants reported at the Annual Village Meeting were now all under control as they have been sprayed and were beginning to die. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to SNC re. the seemingly abandoned house on the Glebe.

*Action – Clerk to write to SNC re. house on the Glebe*

## **5 Finance – including annual return**

It was proposed by Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Parkes that the cheques listed on the attached financial report should be agreed and signed (AH/06/11).

The RFO stated that the annual return had to be approved by 30<sup>th</sup> June. She presented the figures that would be put into this (AH/AR/2011 attached). Cllr Brook stated that he had inspected the figures and presented a report showing how these figures appear (SB/AR/2011 attached). Amby stated that these figures needed to be approved and put into the annual return in pencil and the annual return signed after the internal auditor had checked it. It was agreed that this was not acceptable. It was proposed by Cllr Brook, seconded by Cllr Mann and agreed that APC approve the figures in reports AH/AR/2011 and SB/AR/2011 and if these are put into the return after the internal audit the Chair will sign it. If, however the figures change then an extraordinary meeting will be held at which the return will be signed.

The RFO then read out Section 2 of the return, the Annual Governance Statement. It was proposed by Cllr Brook, seconded by Cllr Anderson and agreed that APC approved each of the statements.

*At this point it was decided to suspend standing orders and take item 11 so that Rupert Clark and Colin Peuvre could speak*

## **11 Farming and Footpaths – to include report re. footpaths and History Walk update**

Colin Peuvre reported that he had met with the Rights of Way Officer from SNC and also Gill Phillips. He reported that the footpaths were in good order and the Chair thanked him for his time.

*Colin Peuvre left the meeting at this point.*

The Chair stated that APC had decided to hold a history walk on 11<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm instead of a farm walk this year.

Rupert Clark outlined the route and where there would be talks. There will be approximately 5 talks at various points around the village which will be given by members of the History Society. It was agreed that members of APC would be the guides that took the groups on the walk and that there would probably be about 5 or 6 groups. The road needs to be crossed twice so 2 volunteers will be

needed here. The 'Police Slow' signs will be borrowed from Northants Police. After the walk it is expected that everyone will return to the Pavilion for tea and cake. The possibility of inviting a re-enactment society to set up on the sportsfield is being investigated. It was agreed that the Chair and Clerk would liaise with the History Society to get the walk set up. The possibility of charging for parking as a way of raising money was discussed. It was agreed that this was not a good idea but buckets for a voluntary contribution would be better.

*Action – Chair and Clerk to liaise with History Society re. history walk*

*Rupert Clark left the meeting at this point and standing orders were resumed*

## **6 Risk**

The Clerk confirmed she had sent round a list of the areas each councillor was responsible for. She confirmed she would also send out a copy of the risk area map and bring it to the next meeting so it could be inspected and confirmed. It was also decided that the Clerk would send the inventory of the streetlights in the village so these could be marked onto the map as each councillor was now responsible for those in their area.

*Action – Clerk to bring map of risk areas to next meeting and to send out to all  
Action – Clerk to send inventory of street lights out*

It was agreed that each councillor would carry out a walk round of their area to and highlight any risks in a report to the RFO in time for the next meeting.

*Action – Councillors to walk area and send risk report to RFO for July meeting*

Cllr Mann stated that he felt Raincliffe Close ought to be removed as a risk area as it was a private road and therefore the responsibility of the residents. It was stated that this was also the case for College Fields and The Hill. It was therefore agreed that these areas would not be inspected for risk but that they would still be represented by the councillors that lived there in terms of being a point of contact for residents.

## **7 Highways and Transport**

Cllr Parkes reported that he was trying to find out when the work on Portway would be rescheduled after being cancelled earlier in the year.

Cllr Parkes stated that he had witnessed another accident outside the Grammar House. Cllr Parkes has had a meeting with Matt Clark about the possibility of placing a directional sign to the church, the plans for which will follow. At this meeting Cllr Parkes showed MC the problem outside the Grammar House. MC agreed that the corner was dangerous and will be speaking to Helen Howard re. the siting of a dragon's tooth here and the possible rounding of the corner.

Cllr Parkes is also in discussion re. the gold grit on Roundtown. This was not laid by NCC as part of a work programme agreed with APC and we have noticed it is very loose – large parts having been washed away as a result of the recent heavy rains. Similar problems were being encountered with the Gold Grit laid outside the Grammar House as it was not put on to a "hot tar" base. This issue is being reviewed by Cllr Parkes who will work with NCC to resolve it.

## **8 HS2 update**

Cllr Mann stated that he had found there were a string of groups that were campaigning against HS2 all along the country. He had expected to be invited to a meeting in Greatworth but the invitation was not forthcoming. Cllr Mann intends to attend the next meeting and will report back in due course.

## **9 Ardley Incinerator legal challenge update**

The Chair checked that everyone had received the email forwarded by the Clerk re. this. It was agreed that the Clerk would ensure the information was put into the newsletter so that any interested parties could contact the Ardley group directly.

*Action – Clerk to put info re. Ardley incinerator legal challenge in newsletter*

## **10 Recreational Matters – to include Playground equipment and A.S.R.A**

The Clerk stated that she had found several grant awarding bodies that were involved in play ground equipment. It was agreed that a play company would be contacted for advice on what is possible and further help from residents would be sought in the future.

*Action – Clerk to contact play companies for advice on playground*

## **12 Maintenance**

The Clerk stated that she had received a quote of £435 for the work on the tree at the corner of Portway. It was agreed that 2 other quotes should be sought for comparison.

Cllr Parkes reported that he had issued a list to the Parish Enhancement Gang of works in the village that needed doing.

He stated that he thought APC should push hard to have the footpaths and Charlton Road improved as they are in a very poor state. He also stated that the sewage smell on the Square, Blacksmith's Hill and particularly outside College Fields where raw sewage had recently surged from the manholes was being investigated and he was waiting for an expert from Thames Water to get back to him.

The wall that has collapsed on Charlton Road was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the owners to enquire about its repair as a matter of urgency.

*Action – Clerk to write to owner of collapsed wall on Charlton Road to enquire about its repair*

## **13 Communications**

It was agreed that the parking group, the Ardley incinerator legal challenge and an introduction to the new Council would be the main thrust of this month's submission to the newsletter.

The question of whether the Parish Council ought to consider starting its own newsletter was raised. It was generally felt that at the current time the capacity to do this was not present. Cllr Parkes reminded everyone of the report that Keith McClellan had produced last year after speaking to Sybil

Stevens (see report attached to KM/NL/2010) It was agreed that this would be recirculated and the issue would be revisited in October.

It was also agreed that a 6 monthly Meet the Council Clinic would be held as this is an effective way of hearing people's views.

*Action – Clerk to recirculate report  
Action – 6 monthly Meet the Council clinics to be held*

#### **14 Meetings and Conferences**

Cllr Hoddinott reported that he had found the 'Off to a flying start' course tremendously helpful

#### **15 Correspondence**

The Clerk stated that she had received the following Viridor credits pack, SN homes briefing, info on NHS complaints and info on our bill from Eon

#### **16 Any Other Business (at the Discretion of the Chair)**

The Clerk stated that according to the Internal Audit checklist it was legally required that APC had a disciplinary procedure. She has produced one and will forward to all with a view to adopting it formally at the July meeting.

*Action – Clerk to forward disciplinary procedure to all*

The RFO stated that she was investigating the fact that APC will have to register as an employer.

Cllr Parkes enquired what had happened to the idea of a village shop? Cllr Brook stated that nothing further had been done since the owner of Roots withdrew interest as he had hoped to work with James Perkins. It was agreed that the Chair would speak to JP re. his plans for Aynhoe Corner.

*Action – Chair to speak to JP re. plans*

It was agreed that parking on verges was still an issue and that further letters would be written

*Action – Clerk to write to offenders re parking on verges*

Cllr Brook stated he had read about a company who were installing super-fast Broadband in villages. It was agreed he should send the link to all and it will be discussed in July.

*Action – Cllr Brook to forward link re. broadband  
Action – Clerk to add broadband to July agenda*

#### **17 Date of Next Meeting – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

This was approved.

The meeting closed at 9.32pm