

Minutes of a meeting of Rothersthorpe Parish Council held in the Village Hall Church Street Rothersthorpe on Monday January 14th 2013 at 7.30p.m

Present: Mr P Dickens – Chairman, Mrs C Nolan, Mr S McCarthy, Mr D Parry, Mr J Morphy and Mrs C Kutas.

In Attendance: Mrs S Murphy: Clerk

Julie Botterill, Mr R Boscott, Mrs C Morphy, Mr and Mrs S Jennings, Mrs A Faulkner, Mr R Philpot, Mr R Coombes, Mr and Mrs R Quarry and Mrs J Johnson.

1.Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr J Considine, Mrs J Eliot and Mrs A Addison.

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in relation to matters on the agenda. All councillors present were granted dispensation to take part in Item 6:- To set the budget for 2012/2013.

3. Public Open Session

Julie Botterill addressed the meeting giving more details of the wild flower planning scheme she is planning. The cost of hiring a turf cutter for the weekend would be £42 + vat. The cost of the flower seed would be approx £100.

It was agreed that the parish council would cover the costs of the cutter and the wild flower seed.

Mr Jennings addressed the meeting regarding the planning application for the change of use of The Chequers and asked that the parish council should object to the planning application. Mrs Jennings said that this would allow time to get a buy out organised and to form a co-operative to run the Chequers should the application be turned down and the Chequers is put back on the market.

An extensive discussion took place covering the use of the village survey figures in the planning application, what should happen to the pub, what did people want the parish council to do and how the application would be dealt with.

Mrs Johnson asked how the plans for the playing field were progressing? Mr Morphy explained that they were close to applying to the Highways department for the entrance off Banbury Lane. If this is unacceptable the playing field will not be able to proceed. Mr Morphy also explained that there are power cables which will need relocating for which a 12 months notice needs to be given and a new route for the cables to be offered.

Mr Boscott suggested that it was a difficult site and an alternative possibility would be Kislingbury Road. If affordable houses were built here Section 106 could be used to enable community facilities to be

Mr Boscott spoke about the proposed review of the Conservation Area and his concerns about the areas that would be taken out of the Conservation Area and the consequences of such actions. SNC are still taking comments about the proposals.

At the conclusion of the Public Open Session it was agreed that Mr Morphy and Mr McCarthy would follow up about the playing field. The parish council acknowledged the constructive suggestion from the meeting but after consideration will retain focus on the original objective of developing the playing field.

4. The Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous parish council meeting held on December 10th 2012 were signed and agreed.

5. Matters Arising

Conservation Area Review

Further to the discussion in the public open session it was agreed that more clarification was needed on the proposed changes and to ask Mandy Lumb, from SNC, to come to the next meeting to discuss what it means for the village.

The Cemetery

Mrs Murphy had spoken to Allseasons to see if the fence panels could be replaced with the closeboard fencing using the same posts. This could not be done and all the panels and posts would have to be replaced at a cost of £2,538.91. It was agreed that the fence panels would remain in place.

6. To set the budget for 2013/2014

To help set the budget for 2013/2014 the parish council compared the expenditure for the years 2011/2012 and the forecast expenditure for the current financial year 2012/2013.

As of January 14th 2013 the parish council's financial statement is as follows:-

National Savings Account:- £14,790.98

Current Account:- £7235.86 (after tonight's cheques are signed:£4,656.79)

Mrs Murphy explained that there is approximately £1,500 Vat to be reclaimed.

The main areas of expenditure for the parish council are the gardening contract, street lighting and the clerk's salary. It was agreed to increase the clerk's salary of £1,734 by 3.5% and the gardening contract by 3.5%. It was also agreed that any replacement lights should come out of capital expenditure.

The general principle of the budget was agreed and it was agreed to precept for £10,800.

Proposed: Mr D Parry. Seconded: Mrs K Kutas. All agreed.

7. Resolution: revised Code of conduct

Resolution:-1."The revised code of conduct adopted by South Northamptonshire Council be adopted as the revised code for members and co-opted members of the Rothersthorpe Parish Council from such a date as may be specified in regulations, to replace the current code of conduct and

2. the clerk be requested to notify the Monitoring Officer of South Northamptonshire Council of the passing of the above resolution.

It was agreed to adopt the revised code of conduct from January 14th 2013 and the clerk will notify the Monitoring Officer accordingly.

8. Review of Risk Assessment Policy

The parish council reviewed its current Risk assessment policy and were satisfied that all appropriate steps had been taken to manage the risks facing the council. It was agreed that the councillors would take part in a village walk prior to the meeting in April.

9. Internal Audit Review

The parish council carried out a review of the system of Internal audit of the parish council's accounting records and control systems and carried out a review of its effectiveness. The parish council were satisfied with the current internal audit measures in place. The parish council also reviewed the systems of internal control including measures to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and also reviewed their effectiveness. The parish council were satisfied that they have made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safe guarding the public money and responsibility for safe guarding the public money and resources in its charge.

10. Clerk's Report

Annual Return to the Charity Commission: Rothersthorpe Memorial Hall Garden

Mrs Murphy had submitted the Annual return to the Charity Commission on December 21st 2012. There is currently £305.16 in the NSB account for this charity.

Letter about parking in Church Street

An anonymous letter had been received regarding the problems of parking in Church Street and the smell coming from parked farm vehicles. The parish Council acknowledge the receipt of the letter from a member of the public but there is little to act on.

11. Planning

Applications

S/2012/1541/FUL

Miss Claire Warren

The Chequers

North Street

Rothersthorpe

Change of use from public house to single dwelling.

The Chequers, North Street

Rothersthorpe

Following a discussion on this application, a vote was taken on whether to object to the application. There were 3 abstentions and 3 votes in favour of objecting to this application as this would result in the loss of an amenity to the village.

S/2012/1586/FUL

BP OIL UK LTD

Witan Gate House

Milton Keynes

Decommissioning of existing tank farm
Rothersthorpe MSA J15A Northbound

The parish council have no objection.

12. Finance

Income

Website Competition: Prize Money £30.00

Expenditure

E.ON: Electricity £126.70 Chq.No. 000811

Vat:£21.12

E.ON: Electricity £344.97 " " 000812

Vat:£57.24

Allseasons: Cemetery Fence £1673.90 " " 000813

Vat: £278.98 " " 000814

Mrs S Murphy: salary £433.50 " " 000815

13. Highways /Footpaths

Berry Close Trees

Mrs Murphy is waiting for a quote from Seb Hodge regarding the felling of the ash trees.

Milton Road Flooding

The recent flooding is destroying the tarmac and creating potholes and the adjoining stream is higher than the road. Clarification is needed to see whose responsibility it is to maintain this stream and ditch. Mrs Murphy to write to Anglian Water.

14. Representative Reports

Neighbourhood Watch: Have ordered some posters off Keep Britain Tidy Website encouraging people to pick up after their dogs.

Website: There have been some entries already for the website competition.

15. Dates of the next meetings

Monday March 4th 2013 at 7.30p.m.

Monday April 8th 2013 at 7.30p.m.

Meeting Closed at 9.45p.m.

Signed.....Dated.....