

Minutes of a meeting of Rothersthorpe Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Church Street Rothersthorpe on Monday March 5th 2013 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Mr P Dickens – Chairman, Mr J Considine, Mrs K Kutas, Mr D Parry, Mrs C Nolan and Mr s McCarthy.

In Attendance: Mrs J Eliot – District Councillor
Mrs S Murphy – Clerk
Mandy Lumb – SNC Conservation Officer
60 members of the public (approx)

1.Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr J Morphy, Mrs A Addison and Mrs J Kirkbride.

2. Declaration of Interest

Mr Dickens declared an interest in relation to any discussion on the conker field.

3. Public Open Session

Mr Dickens introduced Mandy Lumb, who then addressed the meeting about the Conservation Area review. Ms Lumb explained that the commitment by SNC to undertake a review of all conservation areas in the district was agreed by the Council in the Conservation strategy approved in 2011.

The existing conservation area for Rothersthorpe was designated in 1976, when there was little or no guidance about how and what to designate. The process now requires identified areas to be justified through the identification of, and definition of the areas special interest and its character and appearance. Ms Lumb said that Conservation Areas include buildings, not necessarily open spaces and that agricultural land is not included. Ms Lumb explained about the exclusion of the paddock and the conker field and said that even if the paddock was retained in the Conservation Area and with its Article 4 it would not prevent development.

Mr Boscott addressed the meeting and expressed several concerns about the way the Conservation Area Review had been prepared. These included:-

- i.No character statement had been completed when the conservation area was originally set up.
- ii. The use of an earlier guideline document, not the most current version printed in 2012.

Mr Boscott said that SNC should be looking to preserve what is special about the district and pointed out that the paddock is a very special area of importance to the villagers of Rothersthorpe. He spoke about the history of the area and why it is worth retaining in the Conservation Area. The conker field has high status as a recreational area, and the trees with protected status, there is no need for the field to be taken out.

Ms Lumb said that following visits to the area the official feeling is that the proposed boundary line is in the right place.

Mr C Davies spoke and said that he fully supported the comments of the villagers and asked why the parish council had not informed the villagers of the proposed review and if SNC have already made

the decision to take these areas out of the Conservation Area?

Ms Lumb inferred that there is no requirement for consultation under the Conservation Area Reviews and that there was little if no right for appeal. It was also implied that the final decision on the review was a delegated one taken at officer level. Ms Lumb said that the Rothersthorpe Conservation Area Appraisal (Draft for Re-Consultation) would be sent out shortly for re-consultation although the paddock and the conker field were still excluded from the new boundary.

An unofficial vote was taken between the members of the public which unanimously called for the paddock and the conker field to be retained in the conservation area.

It was agreed that the parish council would keep everyone informed of progress on the review and what steps would be taken.

Mrs Johnson said that the field opposite the houses on Kislingbury Road had a large heap of horse manure against the hedge, which could cause problems in the summer months.

Mrs Murphy to contact Environmental health at SNC.

Following the departure of the public, the parish council discussed the need for an action plan to prepare a response to the comments made at the meeting and to prepare a response to the Re-Consultation of the Conservation Area Review when it is received. Mr Considine agreed to draw up a letter in response to the meeting this evening which would be sent to Andy D'Arcy at SNC. It was agreed that a committee would put together a response to the new draft document and following that the parish council would communicate with the village as to their response. It was also agreed to ask Mr Boscott to help in drawing up the response as he has an extensive knowledge in that subject.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous parish council meeting held on January 14th 2013 were agreed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

Budget and Precept for 2013/2014

Following the information that had been received from SNC regarding the Draft Parish Council Tax base and associated matters the parish council had agreed that as the precept had already been set, they did not wish to reset the precept in light of the additional information.

Mr Considine had spoken to Mrs Murphy regarding the role of the clerk and her salary. It was agreed that Mrs Murphy would detail her work and to get further information on salary rates and to update her contract

Trees – Berry Close

Seb Hodge has quoted as follows :-Works to trees off Berry Close: fell ash trees and reduce large shrub overhanging pathway

Remove all risings and poison stumps

£100.00 + Vat £120.00

The parish council agreed to the quotation.

Parking: Church Street

An email had been received from Claudia Englefield regarding the problem of parking in Church Street. Mr McCarthy had responded on the parish council's behalf saying unfortunately there was little that the parish council could do.

Affordable Housing

Mr McCarthy had spoken to SNC regarding the use of a section 106 to be built a developer built affordable homes in the village. There has to be more than 10 houses built to invoke a Section 106 and there are only plans for 4 in Rothersthorpe.

Mobile Library

The Mobile library has agreed to move to the Memorial garden.

6. Clerk's Report

Summer Sports Scheme

SNC are running the SPLAT summer activities play scheme again and have asked if Rothersthorpe want to take part. The parish council agreed to be involved and to cover any hall hire costs if the scheme has to go inside.

Recycling Changes

SNC have introduced changes to their recycling. Collections will go to a 4 day week but the list of materials collected is expanding. Food waste collection is also being introduced. SNC have offered to come and talk to the parish council regarding the changes. It was agreed just to put the information in the newsletter.

Re-pointing of the Churchyard Wall

The parish council have been informed that the churchyard wall adjacent to Church Street need repointing. The clerk has asked the PCC to obtain three quotes for the cost of repointing the wall.

Internal Audit

Mr Considine will be checking the parish council books shortly.

Rothersthorpe Memorial Hall(Rothersthorpe Memorial Garden Charity)

Mrs Murphy is meeting with Mr Barber to look at how the charity was set up and who the trustees are.

Gardening Contract.

Mrs Murphy pointed out that the contract is up for renewal this year and that the contract needs reviewing and possibly updating.

7. Planning**West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (the JCS) Examination.**

The parish council are content to rely on the original representations made and do not wish to make any further comments and do not wish to participate in the hearing.

8. Finance**Income**

VAT Refund	£1,916.01
NSB Interest	£79.59

Expenditure

Postal Meadows: Wild Flower Seed: paid prior to meeting	£96.10	Chq. No.	000815
	Vat:£16.01		
HSS Hire:Turf Cutter: paid prior to meeting	£59.37	“ “	000816
	Vat:£11.87		
Allseasons: Cemetery Fence	£798.00	“ “	000817
	Vat:£133.00		
Village of the Year fees	£15.00	“ “	000818
Mrs S Murphy – Salary	£433.50	“ “	000819

9. Highways/Footpaths**Community Enhancement Gangs**

CEGs (formerly Parish Enhancement Gangs) carry out a variety of tasks such as sign cleaning, vegetation clearing and any works that may enhance the aesthetic look of the parish. Mrs Kutas and Mrs Nolan agreed to carry out the Village Walk and also to see what needs doing by the CEGs.

10. Representative Reports

Neighbourhood Watch: Mrs Nolan agreed to attend the Parish Councils Meeting at Towcester Police station on 26.4.2013 with PCSO Jen Harrison.

Rothersthorpe Website: There had been insufficient entries this month so no prize would be awarded.

11. Dates of the Next Meetings

Monday April 8th 2013 at 7.30p.m

Monday May 13th 2013 at 7p.m.: Annual Parish Meeting followed by Annual General Meeting followed by Parish Council Meeting

Meeting closed at 9.10p.m.

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