

Minutes of a meeting of Rothersthorpe Parish Council held in the Village Hall Church Street Rothersthorpe on Monday February 13th 2017 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Mr R Boscott – Chairman, Mrs C Nolan, Mr S Major, Miss H Griffiths and Mrs J Botterill.

In Attendance: Mrs S Murphy – Clerk

Members of the Public:- Mr D Faulkner, Mr J Morphy, Mrs Y Morgan and Mrs J Pitt.

Mr Boscott opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and informing all present that Parish Council meetings can now be recorded as long as this did not disrupt the smooth running of the meeting taking place.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs J Johnson (holiday), Mrs J Eliot (illness), Cllr Mrs A Addison (meeting), Cllr Mrs K Cooper (meeting) and Cllr J Kirkbride (meeting).

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on any items on the agenda.

3. Public Open Session.

Mrs Pitt and Mrs Morgan addressed the meeting regarding the horsefield at the Banbury Lane crossroads. Mrs Murphy had written to the land owner expressing concern about the amount of manure that was being piled up against the stables opposite the houses on Kislingbury Road following complaints from some residents. Mrs Pitt and Mrs Morgan explained that it would be very difficult to move the manure at the moment because it was so muddy. The manure will be moved in the summer when access will be easier. It was agreed that if there was a problem between now and then that parish council would speak to the ladies directly. It was also agreed to try and keep the ditch clear on Kislingbury Road.

Mr Faulkner addressed the meeting and spoke about the work that Western Power Distribution will be carrying out in the village over the following months. The transformer at the back of the school is to be removed. Excavation work will take place along Banbury Lane, North Street and Berry Close. The aim is to make the village more backfeedable and more secure in case of storms and power cuts. Western Power will keep villagers informed of the proposed works.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous parish council meeting held on January 9th 2017 were agreed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

Play Area Project Update

Mr Boscott said that it was too premature for the parish council to apply for any funding at present and that it would be sensible to wait for the re-submission of the Community Space Project plans. Mr Major had received a negative response from the Robinson sisters regarding The Berry

Rothersthorpe Crossroads

Mrs Nolan and Mrs Murphy had met with NCC Highways and NCC Road safety about what road safety improvements could be made at the crossroads and are waiting to hear about the proposals.

Community Enhancement Gang

Suggestions for the Community Enhancement gang include:- cutting of elderflower down behind bus stop, cleaning of street signs, clearing fallen leaves against the wall of the conker field in Church Street, edging of verge between end of houses and Kislingbury Road and New cottages and the verges at the junction of North Street / Banbury Lane/Kislingbury Road.

6. Gardening Contract

Mrs Murphy had sent out 6 invitations to tender for the Garden Contract for the next three years from April 1st 2017. Two tenders had been received and one reply declining to tender. There had been no response from the remaining 3 invitations. The two remaining quotes were as follows:- £5,705.00 and £8795.00. The parish council carefully considered the two tenders and it was agreed to offer the contract to Allseasons Garden Services of Roade from 1.4.2017 for three years.

Proposed: Mrs C Nolan. Seconded: Miss H Griffith. All agreed.

7. Damage to Wild Flower borders.

There has been considerable damage to verges in Rothersthorpe, particularly the wild flower beds, following the recent work that has been carried out in the village for the new solar farm. Mr Boscott and Mrs Botterill had met with the company concerned who agreed that all verges will be grass seeded, the verge at the crossroads will be flattened with a roller and re-topsoiled. The company will also make a donation to the parish council for the inconvenience.

8. Play Area Project Team Update.

This had been previously discussed under matters arising.

9. Risk Assessment/Internal Audit

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 Harriet Griffith should replace Jeff Morphy as the internal control councillor for the parish council.

The parish council also 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.

10. Clerk's Report

Rural Wellbeing

This service is provided by Northamptonshire Acre and involves visiting villages in Northamptonshire with a mobile information unit to provide advice and a signposting service to help older people living in rural Northamptonshire to manage their health and finances and to help with social isolation and loneliness. The scheme also recruits volunteer "Good Neighbours." The Information bus will be

visiting Rothersthorpe on Tuesday 4th April and Tuesday 2nd May 2017 from 1.30p.m to 3.00p.m. and will park in Mumford Drive.

New External Auditor

PKF Littlejohn LLP will be carrying out the external audit for the year ending 31 March 2018.

The Great British Spring Clean

The dates for the above action is planned for March 3,4, and 5 but a litter pick can be organised anytime between now and midsummer.

Defibrillator

Mrs Nolan reported that the school is going to proceed with the purchase of a defibrillator. Harriet Griffith agreed to research different suppliers.

Parishes against Pollution

Milton and Collingtree Parish councils have asked surrounding parish councils if they wish to join a group called Parishes against Pollution to register the growing concern over the environmental impact on our communities caused by developer led traffic growth and the consequent air, noise and light pollution that results. The statement of principle is as follows:

Along with neighbouring Parish Councils, we are alarmed at the number and scale of major traffic generating developments in our area and their likely impact. We draw attention to the specific requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework(NPPF) namely **“preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water and noise pollution or land instability”**. We strongly urge that this requirement is stringently and robustly followed and the cumulative impact considered when major planning decisions are being taken,

11. Planning

Application: S/2016//2722/FUL – Accessible 4/5 bedroom house Studleigh Cottage.

A site meeting will take place on 28.2.2017 at 9.30a.m. The application will be discussed at the planning committee meeting on March 9th 2017.

Rail Central:

The next meeting will be on 22.3.17 at The Walnut Tree Blisworth at 6.30p.m.

12. Finance

Income:

National savings – Interest £91.37

Expenditure:

Village of the year –fee £15.00 Chq. No. 001011

13. Highways / Footpaths

Plotland: Mr Major agreed to try and find out the names of the owners of the plots in the field.

14. Representative Reports

VHMC:- meeting next week

Neighbourhood watch:- success of reporting issues on Facebook

Speedwatch: No volunteers have come forward to take over the organisation from Mrs Nolan.

15. Date of the Next Meeting : Monday March 20th 2017 at 7.30p.m.

Meeting closed at 8.50p.m.

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