

PAPPLEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 14th March 2007

Present: **Cllr Mr C Womble (chairman)**
 Cllr Mr I Griffiths
 Cllr Mr R Hull
 Cllr D Hubbard
 Cllr Mr S Walker
 Cllr Mrs S Roberts
 Cllr J Robinson

Apologies None

Parishioners 8

The meeting commenced at 7.15 p.m.

OPEN FORUM

PC Andy Vale (beat manager) reported on the latest crime figures. 7 thefts from vehicles and 4 vehicles broken into. 3 burglaries, 1 drugs offence and 1 theft of a bicycle.

A Local Area Group covering the Newstead ward was being set up by the Police. Each of the four Parish Councils, Linby, Bestwood, Newstead and Papplewick would be asked to send a representative.

The group would agree on top priorities nominated by each council to which police resources would be directed. After discussion it was agreed that for Papplewick the present top priorities were, speeding traffic, anti social behaviour at the Griffins head and Fly tipping.

Concern was expressed over lack of police presence in the area. PC Vale explained that one of the PCSO posts was currently vacant but that an officer was being reallocated from city division to cover the area. Weight restriction signs on Forest Lane (adjacent to the Griffins Head) were still being moved by brewery delivery vehicles. PC Vale agreed to again take this up with the Landlord.

1. Chairman's report

"This is my first annual report as Chairman and, as always, it has been a busy year for the Council.

The Council's main activity throughout the year has undoubtedly been centred on the Playing Field. The provision of a skate park immediately comes to mind but our efforts have been much wider than that and I will deal with these other areas shortly.

The skate park base was laid during last October and November and if it were not for delays on the part of our suppliers, the entire project would now be complete. The Council successfully obtained a grant towards the cost of equipment from WREN and it is hoped that this facility will be fully available for use shortly. Indeed, even without the equipment, children have been using the concrete base for ball games so it is not stood idle.

In relation to the skate park, our thanks have been passed to the Papplewick and Linby Leisure Enterprise Group for the donation they have made towards this project and I offer no excuses for repeating those thanks now because without their help, both financial and practical, the project would not be under way.

A very successful Bonfire and Fireworks event was held on 4th November and I thank particularly Cllr Hull for all the work he put in to that event to make it such a success. The Playing Field Committee have been very active in pursuing grants towards yet more equipment for the Playing Field, both new and replacement, and we look forward to seeing the results of all that effort over the coming year. Two work days were held to undertake tasks on the Playing Field, most recently with the installation of picnic benches and I thank all those who sacrificed their time to assist.

Elsewhere, the Moor Pond Wood Steering Group have been active again on various fronts and I hope that the project will continue to have equal impetus once it is handed over to the Friends.

As regards communications between the Council and the outside world, our web site has been significantly up-dated over the last year and now contains an archive of past Newsletters and Council minutes for the last five years. Also available are the Council's adopted policies. It remains a central plank of the way in which we disseminate information and from the responses received, is evidently studied far and wide. Thanks go to Cllr Walker for keeping the web site in proper order.

We continue to monitor the work of outside agencies within the parish, particularly the state of our roads. Although various concerns regarding

either outstanding maintenance items have been reported to the highway authority, response has been variable. Equally, at the request of residents concerns regarding the volumes and speeds of traffic using parochial roads were passed on but we have struggled to obtain answers let alone any promises of action.

I now come to what I believe is the greatest challenge facing the Council. Under present arrangements, administration of the Council's affairs has become fragmented between the Clerk and various councillors, including myself. This, in turn, has often led to delay at best and confusion at worst. It arises principally from a lack of knowledge and cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely if we are to provide the efficient service parishioners expect and deserve. Councillors need to be exercising sufficient control over the Council's affairs and this is not currently happening. There is a clear and immediate need for the Council's administration to be centralised. To this end, preliminary steps were taken towards acquiring the Council's own premises. It was proposed that these be obtained as part of a Heritage Centre which would doubtlessly prove to be an admirable asset to the parish. However, at present we have neither the plans nor finance in place to pursue this objective and I earnestly request that the Council's full attention be diverted towards remedying this deficiency with the utmost alacrity and especially draw the attention of the immanent new council, and the parish in general, towards this aim.

Finally, a parish council cannot function effectively without commitment from everyone involved in its organisation. I am indebted to my fellow colleagues on the Council for the help and assistance they have provided throughout the year”.

Colin Womble
Chairman

2. Cllr Mrs J Robinson reported that :-
The drive to school has been laid to tarmac to reduce the dust by quarry traffic. The new staff room and office is now under construction.

The walk to school steering group is ongoing, the Linby children have been made aware of safer routes too and from school which will be improved when the footpath on Hayden Lane is gated. Linby Lane has had the hedges cut back. The footpath from Papplewick to Linby may possibly have funding to create a hard path instead of the muddy path in existence.

The new owner of the quarry may apply to have the entrance to the site re-routed along Hall Lane in Papplewick which will reduce vehicle movements adjacent to the school. Also there is the unofficial sighting of lorries already offloading materials into the quarry as landfill.

3. Financial Officers report.
Report attached

4. Representatives reports

Moor Pond Wood

Cllr Mr S Walker told the meeting that it had been a pleasure to represent the council on the Steering Committee and to be the Chairman of the 'Friends' group. He also thanked the steering group for their hard work.

This was a year of consolidation. Planned archaeological features conservation completed. National archaeology day dig uncovered a 3rd sluice. Exploration had centred around the 'plughole' and investigation of the culverts that controlled the pond levels.

LHI funding runs out this year. The group were trying to complete planned work on interpretation to finalise the account.

An exciting mapping project had been started to create a digital terrain model. (3 dimensional computer graphic showing the landscape)

Thanks were also expressed to the Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers for their work.

Support is not as good as it could be and there is a need to again motivate local residents to take part in the project.

Julian Cahn Trust

Cllr Mrs S Roberts reported that :-

There is a temporary shortfall in funds due to a higher level of repairs to the various properties. Two new tenants have now moved in.

Maintenance charges to tenants have been set at £30.00 per week.

There is currently one vacancy for a trustee to join the panel.

Parish Paths Partnership

Cllr Mr Colin Womble

"I am pleased to report that it has been an uneventful year. The parish's rights of way network have remained open and usable throughout the year in question. Indeed, as before, footpaths continue to be well used by parishioners and walkers from further afield alike.

Fire destroyed some way marker posts at the southern end of Papplewick 6 and these will be replaced in due course. Grass cutting continues to be undertaken by contractor at Stanker Hill. The network has again been surveyed at the County Council's request with only minor problems identified.

The County Council has recently launched its Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan which will can be used to further our aim of extending the network within the parish.”

Playing Field
Report attached

Village Hall
Report attached

The meeting ended at 8.20pm

Signed Chairman

Vice Chairman

Initials Chairman.....