

PAPPLEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PAPPLEWICK VILLAGE HALL,
LINBY LANE, PAPPLEWICK ON WEDNESDAY 8th April 2009**

Present:

Cllr Mr C Womble (chairman)

Cllr Mrs S Roberts (vice chairman)

Cllr Mr D McCracken

Cllr Mrs G McCracken

Cllr Mrs J Robinson

Cllr Mr B Zinn

Absent

Clerk - Kay Mackenzie

Parishioners

3 + Cllr P Andrews

The meeting commenced at 7.45pm

OPEN FORUM

Mrs. Kerr requested that copies of minutes and agendas be provided for the public at meetings. Chairman explained that the Clerk was absent tonight and that on the occasion of the previous meeting the new copier/printer had not been working. It was hoped that this new equipment would enable copies to be printed up more readily.

Mrs. Kerr raised the question of cutting grass on Moor Road between Clover Court and Moor Pond Wood. Chairman stated that the matter had been pursued with NCC last year who had promised to cut the section in question twice annually. The situation would be monitored.

Mrs. Kerr said that a traffic survey had recently been carried out on Forest Lane, at both ends. It was requested that we seek the results from NCC.

Cllr Robinson reported that two vehicles had today been parked partially on the pavement on Main Street outside nos. 51-55, obstructing the pavement.

COUNCIL MEETING

Minute
No.

31/09 1. APOLOGIES

Clerk absent due to annual holiday.
Cllr J Lonergan - NCC

32/09 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Womble - NCC matters

33/09 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th March were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr. Roberts seconded Cllr. D McCracken and signed by the Chairman.

34/09 4. MATTERS ARISING

Open Forum

Clerk had written to NCC Highways with regards to various matters raised at the last meeting both under Open Forum and at minute 25/09. A response was currently awaited.

25/09 e) Highway Matters

Cllr D McCracken stated that someone from Highways had examined the lamp columns in question two days after the last meeting. They should therefore be aware of their state.

35/09 5. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been received and circulated as appropriate:

- a) E-mail from Cllr J Lonergan - traffic using S-bend, Main Street
- b) Rural Community Action - notification of fee implementation for membership with effect from April 2009
- c) Information Commissioner's Office - requests for information
- d) T W A & A S Cundy Ltd - proposed enhancement scheme at Hall Gates
- e) E-mail from Cllr J Lonergan - Calor Village of the Year Competition

In relation to item b) Cllr Roberts said that they did an amazing job and felt that the Council should support them. Upon discussion other councillors expressed opposition to subscribing to RCAN, expressing the view that it was difficult to discern any direct benefit to the parish. It was proposed that the Council become a member of RCA at a cost this year of £70. Upon being put to the vote, one councillor voted in favour, five voted against. The motion was therefore not carried.

Following on from the above, it was also agreed to review the Council's subscriptions to other bodies as they came up for renewal.

d) It was agreed to proceed with the fencing and erect 'No Waiting' signs on the fencing to deter parking. Also, after discussion it was agreed to erect other signage pointing out the village centre and suitable locations for parking either on Main Street or in the lay-by at the top of Walter's Hill.

36/09 6. THE POSITION OF CLERK

Chairman reported that the Clerk, Kay Mackenzie, had been employed by the Council for three months. There had inevitably been a settling in period and Kay had progressed well into her new post. Unfortunately, her induction had not proceeded as smoothly as the Chairman would have wished due to lack of time for training purposes.

Kay had been requested to keep a note of the hours she had been working each week since the start of her employment. Even after making allowance for the 'settling in' period, it was evident that she was working rather more than the five per week she had been contracted to do. In part, this was as a result of the current high volume of work the Council was engaged in. However, devoting this number of hours to the post was, on a long term basis, unacceptable and it had become clear that choices had to be made on how the Council's workload was to be managed in future.

Chairman stated that the Council was fortunate to have secured a Clerk who was enthusiastic and dedicated to the job but that such enthusiasm and dedication could not be relied on indefinitely on a voluntary basis.

Further, the Chairman stated that the burden upon himself had become increasingly onerous over recent months. Numerous hours were being spent each week on Council business and yet even this input of time was hardly sufficient to attend to all matters in a timely and full manner. The position was a voluntary one and he was

simply not prepared to continue donating such a high proportion of his time to what was a voluntary and unpaid post. He would not therefore, be offering himself for re-election as Chairman at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

There also appeared to be an expectation around the parish that councillors had unlimited time to devote to their duties when this was rarely the case and councillors often shoe-horn their voluntary work into otherwise busy schedules.

Options available included increasing the Clerk's hours (which had not been budgeted for), reducing the amount of work the Council transacted, or relying on greater voluntary input from councillors. To a certain extent, reducing the workload was not easy because many of the Clerk's duties had a statutory basis to them - issuing agendas, preparing minutes, financial accounting, preparing for audit etc.

Cllr Roberts stated that work which required doing for the Council was the Clerk's responsibility and we needed to look at increasing the Clerk's hours. If the amount of work to be done takes extra time we had to look at financing and providing these hours. When seeking grants for specific projects we should seek to include the cost of work instead of doing it voluntarily.

It was resolved to increase the Clerk's hours by 3 per week for the next 3 months and review the situation again.

37/09 7. ACCOUNTS.

a) Parish Council General

Income

None

Expenditure

617	£20.55	G McCracken	Bulbs/Plants
618	£32.94	C Womble	Chairman's Expenses
619	£258.75	Playdale	Playing Field Bin
620	£1,388.28	NCC	Footpath surfacing
621	£74.99	A Mackenzie	Portable Hard Drive
622	£212.64	K Mackenzie	Clerk's wages
Total	£1,988.15		
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b) Moor Pond Wood

Income

None

Expenditure

None

38/09 8. PLANNING

The following planning applications had been received since the previous meeting:

2009/0253	12 Main Street	Erect replacement garage - no objections subject to controlled asbestos removal and disposal.
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Chairman reported that Gedling had approved the application in relation to 23 Main Street for an extension, subject to materials being agreed.

39/09 9. PLAYING FIELD

a) General

Installation of the new shelter had been undertaken by volunteers on 14th March. Richard Hull reported that more work days were required to level the field off following removal of old equipment last year. The CCTV was ready to be installed but conduit and cable needed installing first.

As it was Easter school holidays next week regular visits were required to the Playing Field to ensure it was kept in order.

Cllrs G & D McCracken reported that there had been problems with glass on the Playing Field and drinks cans which they had cleared up. Large stones had also been found strewn about on the Field. The timber around the slide had been maliciously damaged by children.

A further litter bin had been ordered for the 13th April which would then be installed.

b) Play Day

Documentation regarding the Play Day had been circulated. Cllrs G

& D McCracken had attended a meeting at the Village Hall together with Richard Hull, Playing Field Committee member. A number of promotional items had been requested from GBC. Criminal Records Bureau checks were not required for councillors as the Council was not organising the event.

NCC Road Safety Team, Mini-golf, Extreme Wheels BMX display team, circus skills, air pump rockets, and Heart Radio would be attending and free fruit given away to promote healthy eating. There was also a possibility of Rock Divas attending.

c) NCC Building Better Communities Initiative

Chairman reported that as a result of the County Council's Building Better Communities event he had attended on 14th March, a project suggestion had been submitted for land drainage to be installed under the Playing Field. Each suggestion needed the approval and support of the local county councillor and Chairman thanked Cllr Lonergan for the support and advice he had given.

40/09 10. HIGHWAY MATTERS

Chairman reported that despite two previous requests to NCC drainage gullies on the east side of Mansfield Road on the bend outside no. 49 had not been cleared.

Cllr G McCracken mentioned damaged street nameplates on Forest Lane opposite the Griffins Head and Mansfield Road at the Forest Lane junction that were broken and in need of replacement. Chairman confirmed that both had previously been reported and NCC had said GBC had been notified.

Cllr Robinson reported a pothole on the corner of Forest Lane and Moor Road.

41/09 11. CAPITAL GRANT

Clerk had contacted Stephen Walker regarding surfacing of the new footpath between the northern end of Papplewick Dam and Meadows path. She had organised the work with Lee Scudder of NCC and submission of their invoice.

£310.24 of the allocation for 2008-9 had been returned to Gedling unspent. The grant for 2009-10 was £940.00.

The Clerk had obtained an external hard drive for backing up the Council's digital archive. However, she had stated that issues of security remained and that the Council ideally needed a second hard

drive which could be swapped at each meeting so that a back-up was always stored off-site.

Chairman reported that he had attended the County Council's Building Better Communities presentation on Saturday 14th March. As a result of Cllr J Lonergan putting the Council's proposal for a seat outside Hall Gates forward, one had been awarded to us. Chairman had entered into discussions about installation and this would be undertaken by the County Council's contractors in June/July.

42/09 12. REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

a) Village Hall

No further report to that provided at the Annual Parish Assembly.

b) Julian Cahn Trust

No further report to that provided at the Annual Parish Assembly.

c) Association of Gedling Parish Councils

No report available.

43/09 . COUNCILLORS REPORTS

a) Moor Pond Wood Steering committee

Cllr D McCracken stated that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 6th May. The Village Hall was booked for 11th July to hold a celebration day. Mrs. Ker reported that a moth hunt would be held around the same time.

b) Parish Paths Partnership

Nothing further to report following Annual Parish Assembly.

c) Other Business

i) Cllr Roberts promised snow drops for Cllr G McCracken to plant on Moor Road.

ii) Fly-tipping at junction of Rigg Lane with Saw Pit Lane. Cllr G McCracken to report to GBC.

iii) Cllr Zinn referred to a hedge being taken out off Forest Lane reason unknown.

iv) Cllr Roberts reported that snow drops and aconites had recently been planted around parish. Other bulbs would be planted during the summer. Bulbs previously planted on the Playing Field were now coming.

44/09 . DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council meeting will be held on 13th May, preceded by the Annual General Meeting of the Council at 7.15pm.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm.

Signed Chairman Vice Chairman