

WAPPENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Wappenham Parish Council held on Tuesday 24th February 2009 at Wappenham Village Hall at 7:30pm.

Present: Councillors Featherstone, George, Lay, Marshall, Wickham
Liz Hart, Parish Clerk

Action

1072 Apologies

Mr King and Mrs Kappler had sent apologies.

1073 Approval of minutes of meetings held on 6th January 2009

Miss Marshall proposed, seconded by Mrs Wickham, that the Minutes of 6th January be approved. All were in favour and Mr Featherstone signed the Minutes.

1074 Matters Arising

None.

1075 Finance

a) Financial statement

Cash and Investment Accounts at 24th February 2009	
Current Account - A +L	441.37
Deposit Account (Post Office)	1475.76
Total	1917.13
Cash book total	1917.13

Miss Marshall proposed, seconded by Mrs George that the Financial Statement be approved. All were in favour.

b) Bills for Payment

A bill for payment from ACRE for entrance into the Village of the Year competition was considered; whilst it was felt that last year's entry had been a useful exercise, it was noted that no new groups or organisations had been formed in the interim which might result in a better score and it was therefore resolved not to enter the competition or pay the entry fee.

c) To appoint a RFO, internal and external auditor in accordance with proper practice

Mrs Wickham proposed, seconded by Miss Marshall that the Parish Clerk be appointed RFO. All were in favour.

Mr Lay proposed, seconded by Mrs Wickham that NCALC be appointed as internal auditors. All were in favour.

Miss Marshall proposed, seconded by Mrs George that BDO be appointed as external auditors. All were in favour.

d) To review the effectiveness of the internal audit

The Terms of Reference were reviewed and the date of review amended to 2011 as it was stated that the document be reviewed every 3 years.

e) To review the Local Council Briefing Document to ensure all regulations have been complied with.

The documentation was reviewed and it was considered that all regulations had been complied with.

1076 Consideration of any land where a change of use may be appropriate

Elm Lodge Bungalow – it was noted that no breach of planning has occurred and therefore no action was required.

Rectory Farm workshop – SNC are aware of the change of use and have requested that an application be submitted.

**1077 To approve the following documents incorporating changes agreed at Jan meeting
a) Standing Orders**

The Clerk confirmed that Order No13 had been amended as agreed at the January meeting. Mrs Wickham proposed seconded by Mr Lay that the revised Standing Orders be adopted. All were in favour.

b) Financial Regulations

The Clerk confirmed that no amendments had been made as agreed at the January meeting. Miss Marshall proposed seconded by Mrs George that the Financial Regulations be re-adopted. All were in favour.

c) Risk Assessment Policy

The Clerk confirmed that no amendments had been made as agreed at the January meeting. Miss Marshall proposed seconded by Mrs George that the Risk Assessment Policy be re-adopted. All were in favour.

1078 Review of general correspondence

SNC

- A/2007/1332/P – 17 Brookside - Appeal against Refusal of Planning Permission – details of appeal decision- upheld - *circulated*
- APP/z2830/A/08/2084910 – Bloxhams Barn – Appeal against Refusal of Planning Permission – details of appeal decision- dismissed - *circulated*
- Register of Electors – monthly update
- Arts News South Northants
- Big Lottery Children's Play Initiative Programme: Mobile Project - details

NCC

- Ben Smith – request for date of Annual Meeting – on Agenda
- Ben Smith – request for feedback on Gritting service – *response given*
- Mineral and Waste Development Framework – consultation details – *Clerk to distribute*

ACRE

- Details of the Village of the Year competition 2009

NCALC

- January/February Update - *circulated*
- Request for Nominations for the Royal Garden Party Attendees

Misc

- Zurich – rural parish council insurance scheme – information flyer
- BDO – Local Council Briefing – *on Agenda and copied for Cllrs Featherstone and Lay*
- Northants Touring Arts information
- Alliance and Leicester – January bank statement balance - £441.37, changes to terms and conditions
- SNH Tenant Newsletter and Calendar

- SNVB – Link Up Newsletter
- Tim Boswell MP – poster for Advice Centre – *on display*
- CPRE – Details of Litter Pick Campaign and Invitation to take part
- West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit – *Clerk to update*
- Neighbourhood Watch – request for support
- Silverstone Parish Council – details of proposed closure of Silverstone Surgery
- Eliza Bond – issues on footpaths – *circulated and issues addressed*

The importance of absent Councillors giving reasons for their apologies as highlighted in the latest edition of Update was noted.

All

Regarding recent poor weather the role of the Snow Clearance Officer was queried.

NCALC – nominations for the Garden Party attendees – Mrs Wickham proposed seconded by Mr Lay that Mr Featherstone be put forward as a nominee. All were in favour.

Clerk

CPRE Litter Pick – this campaign was considered but it was agreed not to participate as Brian Peart does such a good job that it is not needed.

Mr Featherstone praised Mr King and Miss Marshall for their rapid response regarding Eliza's Bond correspondence concerning footpath issues.

1079 Review of correspondence concerning the Horse Chestnut on the Knob

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Loss Adjusters have recommended that Allianz refute the claim against the Parish Council as the land upon which the tree stands belongs to NCC. In any case, the causal link was not felt to have been proven.

1080 Wappenham Recreation Committee Proposal

Mr Lay had circulated the disappointing response from the Land Agents appointed by the Diocese and will respond with a holding letter referring to the main points. Mr Lay will also consider submitting a Pre Planning Enquiry Application to SNC and enlist the support of the District Councillor Ashley Warren.

Mr Lay

1081 Proposed site of a memorial bench consideration of response from NCC

The meeting considered the response from NCC regarding the request to site the bench on the verge by footpath SC40; it was felt that the conditions imposed by NCC were extremely onerous upon the Parish Council and it was therefore resolved that the Clerk should inform to Mrs Davies that this position should not be pursued and that the site on landowner's land adjacent to the Village Hall would be a better option.

Clerk

1082 Footpaths Report

Miss Marshall had submitted the following:

2 new bridges have been built recently after a request from the Parish Council to the Rights of Way department .

SC9

The bridge from Brookside on the path towards Spring Hill/ Bucknell Woods has been replaced. Unfortunately an additional job, that of making the stile immediately to the right of the bridge more robust, has not been carried out, so I shall be pursuing this.

SC22

New bridge over the river on the path to Lois Weedon. I understand it is planned to replace the plank bridge (which can be slippery) immediately beyond Mr and Mrs Tomkinson's fields, on the same path.

SC22 and SC23

Walkers are asked to note the route of the path which leads from the playground please.

The right of way goes towards Lois Weedon with one branch, diagonally, towards the back of Watson's farm (leading to Astwell). The paths are well signed. To assist walkers the landowners have put up a map by the playground which explains the routes, along with a similar map for the return route, at the far end of their land.

The farm is being developed with conservation and wildlife in mind. Barn owls are being encouraged by the erection of nesting boxes; later in the year there are likely to be ground nesting birds, such as skylarks, so it is important for walkers to keep to the paths so that disturbance of wildlife is kept to a minimum.

Miss Marshall will send Colin Wicks photos of the disturbance thought to be due to badgers. She will also make contact with Helmdon regarding the production of a footpaths map.

Miss Marshall

1083 Dates of future meetings

31st March – confirmed

13th May – Annual Assembly - confirmed

19th May – AGM followed by Ordinary Meeting - confirmed

1084 AOB

Mrs Wickham will make enquiries with Abthorpe Parish Council regarding the caravans on the Abthorpe Road.

Mrs Wickham

Miss Marshall had taken a photo of sitting water on the Abthorpe Road; the Clerk will forward this to NCC.

Clerk

The meeting noted that Ken Abbott a long standing Wappenham resident had sadly passed away recently.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.