**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD AT THE GUILD HALL, ASTON CANTLOW**

**ON THURSDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2017 – NO. 86.**

1. **Record of Members Present:**

Cllr. Harvey, Cllr. Wallis, Cllr. Berry, Cllr. FitzGibbon and three members of the public.

Part meeting: County Cllr. Horner

**2. Apologies:**

There were no apologies.

**3. Written requests for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests where that interest is not already in the register of members’ interests:**

 No requests were received.

**4. Minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2016.**

These were approved by all Cllrs. and signed by the Chairman.

**5. Public Participation:**

Mr. Evans raised various items for reporting to the Highways Department i.e. the setts outside the pub and into Church Road, Chevron in Mill Lane/Brook Road is hanging off the post, the verges throughout are being spoilt by tractors and The Green outside Beagle Cottage is being spoilt by the occupant parking a vehicle on it.

 Mr. Evans asked if the Parish Council would look into putting some posts along the edge of The Green to prevent vehicles parking on the grass and Cllr. Harvey confirmed that we would do so.

 The damage to verges by tractors is a difficult situation as tractors are allowed on highways. Part of the problem is that over the years they have got much larger and about two feet wider making it difficult for them to keep entirely to their own side of the road. This was agreed by both Mr Harris (a local farmer) and Mr. Green. Therefore whilst the problem was noted it is difficult for the Parish Council to know what if any action would be relevant.

 The other two members of the public, Mr. Harris and Mr. Green from Newnham, joined with Mr. Evans to report that, despite the road closure, before Christmas one 4 x 4 driver took it upon himself to remove the closure notices, drive over and damage the village green, surrounding grass verges and around three fields between Newnham and Aston Cantlow. They also deposit mud on the highway of course. Since that last event heavy barriers have been put in place by WCC at both ends. The registration number of one vehicle was passed to the Police but it transpired the insurance is in the name of the previous owner and they haven’t managed to trace that person. Mr. Evans said the Police have had one vehicle taken off the road.

 Mr. Evans has a large file full of information going back many years about the history of the E5341, including witness statements from that time (although most are now deceased), and has agreed that if the County Council indicates that it is prepared to consider re- designation of the E5341 as a bridleway, not for the use of motorised vehicles, copies of this paperwork may be taken provided he accompanies the paperwork and is present when copies are taken to ensure the originals are safely returned to him.

 After some considerable discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council, and residents of Newnham and Aston Cantlow who are affected by the 4 x 4 issues, should write to WCC requesting either re-designation or a full closure. Cllr. Horner will also take this matter up with the Chief Executive at WCC.

 Cllr. Harvey agreed to liaise with Cllr. Horner and asked that copies of letters from residents be sent to the Clerk to ensure all are working together and basing letters on the same facts.

 No further items were raised.

**6**. **County and District Cllrs. reports for information only.**

 The Conservative and Labour groups at Warwickshire County Council agreed on a joint budgeton 2nd February. WCC will be investing £1m more to extend the successful school safety zones programme, will maintain the Home to School Transport budget, continue investing in LED lighting and maintain the current level of fire cover so that no retained fire-fighter post will be lost. The £67 million reduction in annual Government grant by 2020 will be met by £62 million of annual savings and £5 million taken from accrued reserves. General council tax will rise by 1.99 % and there will be an additional 2% for adult social care making a rise of 3.99% on Council Tax next year.

 A new £2 million grant fund to grow businesses and create jobs in rural Warwickshire has been launched.

 Rogue traders are still beingsuccessfully prosecuted by Warwickshire County Council Trading Standards Service.

**7. Planning matters – update on current planning applications:**

*Planning Application No. 16/02539/OUT Pinehurst, Little Alne*: Outline application for erection of local needs Bungalow with all matters reserved. Outline planning permission permitted. This was an application which went to committee as it was one the PC supported, and fortunately the committee upheld the views of the PC by a majority vote.

*Planning Application No. 16/0379/FUL* Retreat Farm, Newnham: Conversion of barn to single holiday let. Pending consideration.

**8. Progress Report for information only:**

 All progress will be reported in the following agenda items.

**9. Correspondence received:**

- Community Speedwatch programme.

 Wilmcote Parish Council has been looking into this scheme and wondered whether we would be interested in joining with them and possibly Great Alne in getting a group of volunteers together to take the training in the use of a speed gun. The Clerk is attending a meeting next Monday with the Clerk from Great Alne Parish Council and a member of the Alcester South Safer Neighbourhood Team to obtain further details of the requirements.

 The following items were received after the agenda was circulated:

 - Assets of Community Value.

 - Plunkett Foundation Call to Action.

 - Confirmation from Phil Summerfield that faster Broadband is now available in some parts of Aston Cantlow.

**10. Parish Plan status:**

 Cllr. Harvey has one or two queries to discuss with Matthew Neal prior to finalising modifications to the Plan. Despite leaving a couple of voicemails Mr. Neal has not returned her calls to date.

**12. Millenium Plaque status:**

 The Clerk is awaiting quotations from three contractors to carry out necessary repairs to the stand and re-site, on slabs, on the smaller of the two green areas in front of the Kings Head Public House. Permission has previously been gained for this move.

**13. Lengthsman scheme:**

The grant of £2,500.00 has been awarded by SDC and monies transferred to the Parish Council bank account. Cllr. Berry will liaise with Mr. Keolman and Cllr. Harvey to arrange a mutually convenient time for them to get together to give the contractor an insight into the area we cover and some of the work which he may be required to undertake. It was agreed a schedule of pricing against remedial work should be obtained from Mr. Koelman.

**14. Defibrillator update:**

The funding is now in place and Cllr. Berry will look to placing an order and arranging a meeting with Mr. Gloster to discuss siting of the defibrillator cabinet. Cllr. Berry will also contact SDC to enquire whether they can recommend a suitable electrician to connect the power to the cabinet.

 Whilst the Village Hall Committee is happy for it to be sited on the side of the Village Hall the Chairman of the committee has stated that they do not want to be held responsible for any maintenance of the equipment. Fortunately, these items are low maintenance, the defibrillator is battery operated and this would be expected to

 last for approximately four years. Unused the pads have a shelf life of roughly 15 – 18 months and need to be replaced once the expiry date is reached. A used pad has to be replace without delay.

**15.** **Parish Council Events:**

Cllr. Wallis thanked everyone for their suggestions and will provide an updated list shortly. In the meantime he proposed that a Treasure Hunt, sometime in June, would be a good idea for a first event with some other smaller elements added on to make it more of an inclusive day/afternoon to ensure it attracts as many parishioners as possible to participate . This was seconded by Cllr. Harvey and agreed by all. He will work on the details in due course.

**16. Website:**

Cllr. FitzGibbon had provided a report on her findings on the website and had provided various suggestions to improve the site. A considerable amount of updating is required by various groups and the front page could do with a revamp. Cllr. FitzGibbon agreed to be the Lead Cllr. for this item and in the first instance will make contact with our webmaster and, if and when necessary, Sam Hamilton at SDC.to consider how to revamp the website, what costs would be involved and also to establish how any changes would be supported.

 The Clerk reminded Cllr. FitzGibbon to provide a short write up about herself for the website.

**17. Payment of outstanding invoices:**

 There were no outstanding invoices.

**18. Councillor’s reports and items for the agenda for the next meeting:**

Items for the next agenda:

Lengthsman Scheme update

Defibrillator update

Website update

Parish Council events update

Parish Plan update

Community Speedwatch programme

E5341 update

**18. Date of next meeting:** 9th March 2017.

No further business – Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50 p.m.

For information only.

The following payment was made between meetings:

Aston Cantlow Village Hall BACS payment £13.00