

WARMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting
held on Thursday 13th March 2008
At 7.30pm
In the Village Hall, Warmington

1. ATTENDANCE

Mr D Rowell (Chairman)	Mr N Donaldson
Mr M Dixon (Vice Chairman)	Mr D Short
Mr C Ellard	Mr I Cutler
Mrs J Simpson	Mr G Reid

5 Parishioners were also in attendance.

2. **APOLOGIES** : Apologies were received and accepted from Dr T Helstrip and Councillor D Brackenbury

3. **ABSENTEES** : None

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA** : Mr Reid declared a personal interest in Item 9f

5. **TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th JANUARY 2008 AND OF THE INTERIM MEETING HELD ON 24th JANUARY 2008.** Mr Reid proposed and Mr Donaldson seconded that the minutes be signed as a true and accurate record of events. AIF

6. **TO RECEIVE THE POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT.** There was no Police presence at the meeting. Mr Rowell reported that Northants Police had agreed that in the future they would breakdown the monthly crime statistics for the “other” category

7. **TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT 2007 – 2008.** Attached

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- a) Consideration of the timing of the Annual Parish Meeting. After discussion Mr Dixon proposed and Mr Reid seconded that the Annual Parish Meeting be held before the Annual Parish Council Meeting on May 12th starting at 7 pm. AIF
- b) Highways Matters –
 - Highway matters requiring attention. Mr Reid asked about the progress of the project to drop kerbs around the village. Dr Helstrip and Mrs Simpson have still to undertake the survey. This will be done for the next meeting.
 - Speeding through the village. Mr Donaldson had been asked to raise this matter by Parishioners following the collision between the bus and a car. Mr Rowell stated that speed checks have been carried out in the past on Church Street, Stamford Lane, Buntings Lane and Broadgate Way and speeding was not deemed to be a problem. The Parish Council have recently received a further invitation to join the Community Speedwatch Scheme. To qualify for this 20% of Parishioners would need to support the project and declare that they will not speed. Attempts to obtain this 20% in the past have proved problematic. Mr Donaldson, however, suggested trying to obtain the support through a petition in his shop. It was agreed to obtain the necessary paperwork for this to take place.
 - Parking on Little Green. Mr Donaldson had been asked by the people living at Little Green

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about the possibility of providing a lay by for parking opposite their properties. This would reduce the problems caused by their cars parked on the road. After discussion it was agreed that if money was available to be spent, which it rarely is, then there would probably be other priorities in the village eg parking at the School. Discussion followed regarding speed ramps, sleeping policeman, twenty mile an hour signs and signs that light up and it was agreed to ask NCC Highways if they would conduct a safety survey of the village looking particularly at the items highlighted in the above two topics. Mr Ellard and Mr Donaldson both expressed an interest in meeting with Highways.

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c) Street Lights –

- Lights requiring maintenance. None

d) Church Street Street Lighting Project. Progress with funding and consideration of placing order. The current position is a cost of lighting from ABB of £17,985.50 and secured funding of £11,000 - a grant of £10,000 from ENC and a grant of £1,000 from Empowering Councillors (via Councillor Heather Smith). This leaves a shortfall of £6,985.50. The Parish Council previously approved funding of £5,000. The Clerk received a telephone call today from Richard Hall ROW suggesting that the application for funds from the “Safer, Cleaner, Greener Scheme” is still being considered. Mr Dixon has also spoken to Sue Davies at ENC who is looking at other sources of funding. It was agreed to delay the order until the outcome of the above is known.

Mr Hall informed the Clerk that the alteration to the footpath in Church Street would take place in 2008 under the Walking and Cycling Budget.

e) Landscape Management

- Taylors Green. Following the last meeting when the problem with the briars was discussed, the Parish Council have received advice from NCC re the verges. A survey undertaken in 2005 suggested that some trimming of the briars should take place. Mr Northern was invited to meet with Councillors to discuss this but declined the offer. Subsequently he has cleared the briars. The verge now needs the attention of the Parish Council and should be dragged and seeded. Mr Reid offered to obtain a price for seed.

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- Village Litter Pick. This is to take place on Saturday 29th March at 9.30 starting at the Village Hall. Posters have been put up and the event has been advertised in the Parish Council newsletter and in Five All. Mrs Simpson and Mr Ellard offered to help on the day.

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- Autumn Planting. Mr Reid reported that previous years plantings had gone well, but that there was still a lot more to do. Photographs are taken each year as a record of what has been planted. It was agreed to spend approximately £200 on further planting this year. Mr Ellard highlighted the problem of the high ground near the roundabout. This should be cut by the contractors

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Mr Donaldson proposed that the Parish Council write to the builder who reinstated the verges at Big Green to thank him for doing so. It was suggested however that it was his duty to do this and that the Parish Council’s original argument was the dangerous nature of the site and the length of time that this continued for. There was also some dispute as to whether or not all areas had been reseeded. Mr Ellard seconded Mr Donaldson’s original proposal, but with only three Councillors in favour it was rejected.

f) Rights of Way

- Eaglethorpe water problems. The Clerk had received an update re this situation from Richard Hall, ROW today. The ownership of the land where the water is coming from is still unknown. It does not belong to Mr Heath as was previously thought. While ownership is being established the path has been cleared of moss and Atkins have been asked to look at the sump under the road. Mr Heath was in the audience and the meeting was opened for him to speak. Mr Heath has been trying to resolve the problem for about 3 months. The water is now coming out very fast from what would seem to be a spring. There is some suggestion that the land may be owned by Elton Estates. The drain at the other side of the underpass never gets cleared. An option could be to clear this and pipe the water to the drain. The Parish Council agreed to

continue to pursue the matter until it is resolved.

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Mr Dixon queried the access to the Dovecote with the gate being padlocked. Mr Short explained that this is locked because people keep leaving the gate open. It was agreed to ask NCC for a self closing gate.

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g) Leisure Areas –

- Fun Field – Progress report. This was covered in the Chairman’s Report
- Play area – Consideration of quotes for safety matting. The Clerk had obtained quotes from Wicksteed Leisure and Lappset and had also obtained a price for the grass mats from the internet. With very high prices from the two companies Mrs Simpson agreed to research whether people around the village could carry out some of the work. Mr Rowell suggested considering RoSPA for carrying out the annual play area inspection. Mrs Simpson agreed to contact them for advice on the safety matting and also enquire about their inspections.

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h) Consideration of future ownership of Youth Orchestra instruments. The Parish Council previously funded four musical instruments for the Youth Orchestra. When this disbanded the instruments were loaned to the School. Mr Ellard proposed and Mrs Simpson seconded that the instruments now be given to the School. AIF

i) Future Village Projects. Mr Reid suggested revitalising the project to establish a footpath through the trees along the A605. The land is owned by Elton Estates who when approached were happy with the project in principle. The cost of putting in a crossing for the culvert however was expensive. ROW to be approached

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j) Update re reply of Ambulance Service to concerns regarding response times. A meeting took place between Mr Dixon, a resident and the Ambulance service and a letter has been received regarding response times. The original lady concerned however does not want to take the matter any further and so this particular incident cannot be progressed. It was agreed however to look at the letter detailing response times and reply to the Ambulance service regarding their overall response times.

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k) Easter Cultural Community Partnership Event for 8 – 13 year olds. This is to be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 9th April and Thursday 17th April from 2pm – 4pm. The cost per session is £2.

l) Consideration of entry to Best Kept Village competition. Mr Ellard proposed and Mrs Simpson seconded that the Parish Council not enter this competition. AIF

9. PLANNING – Update and to consider applications received

a) Review of Village Design Statement. Mr Ellard reported that he and Dr Helstrip had met looked at the document and suggested three possible outcomes – edit the existing document and publish electronically, produce an appendix or write a separate report to reflect the current position. Mr Ellard stated that recommendations will be brought to the Parish Council for discussion and then a decision can be made as to which of the outcomes would be preferable. Details will be distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting at which it is to be discussed. Mr Rowell suggested that various areas needed clarification eg listed buildings and open space. Mr Montecalvo has agreed to assist with the project

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b) 63 Church Street – EN/07/01872/FUL and EN/07/01963/LBC – New kitchen extension and new access gates – Mr & Mrs P Moules. Planning permission received.

c) 30 School Lane – EN/07/02094/FUL – Glazed link between 28 and 30 School Lane – Mr R Carpenter. Application withdrawn

d) 29 Big Green – EN/08/00031/FUL – Single storey rear extension – Mr & Mrs S Harbour – Planning permission received.

e) 4 Bosworth Close – EN/08/00031/FUL – Extend existing garage to front and create new room over garage and single storey rear extension – Mr G Wilcox – No objections

f) The Old Chapel, Chapel Street – EN/08/00096/FUL – Insertion of French doors to west elevation, insertion of roof lights to north elevation and associated works – Mr G Reid. Mr

- Reid left the meeting for this item. It was felt that it should be in wood which it is. Mr Short proposed and Mr Ellard seconded that there be no objection to this application. AIF.
- g) 18 Little Green – EN/08/00386/FUL – Detached single storey garage and workshop – Mr McCormack. Mr McCormack who was in the audience was invited to speak about his application. It is a timber garage with workshop set approx 5.5 m from the road. Mr Dixon proposed and Mr Ellard seconded that there be no objection to this application. AIF
- h) Tansor Grange Application – For information only. This is a conversion of farm buildings to holiday homes. It is not in the Parish but the Parish Council should have been notified as it could increase the traffic on the old Roman road. It already has permission for 5 homes and now wants to change this to 4. The developer has been asked to ensure that the road is used as little as possible. The Roman road is maintained by Mr Simpson who has the right to put gates on it.
- i) Home Farm, Ashton Wold – EN/08/00165/FUL – Conversion of redundant farm buildings to four holiday accommodation units and associated works – Dr C D Lane. This is also outside the Parish, but the Parish Council has been notified as a near neighbour. It should pose no problems for Warmington.

10. FINANCE

- a) To approve payment of accounts paid under Standing Order 14.2
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| Allianz Cornhill add premium | 113.27 |
| Underwood Contractors Fun Field | 176.25 |
| V Hall Hire | 12.00 |
| K Sewter Portacabin | 230.44 |
| EON Electricity | 132.69 |
| ENC Newsletter | 575.00 |
| G Yeatman Fun Field exp | 186.58 |
| D Rowell Portacabin lock | 25.83 |
| Hort Soc Allot Memb fees | 63.00 |
| EON Fun Field | 62.62 |
| R Whiteman reps to portacabins | 159.20 |
| EON Street Lighting | 132.69 |
| J Pendred Bus shelter plaque | 94.00 |
| Anglian Water Allots & Fun Field | 121.29 |
| J Brashaw Fun Field exp | 19.86 |
- b) To receive details of balances on accounts
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| ▪ Current Account | 5,745.87 |
| ▪ Deposit Account | 14,779.61 |
| ▪ Pocket Park Account | 159.64 |
| ▪ Contingency Account | <u>4,109.39</u> |
| TOTAL | 24,794.51 |
- c) To approve payment of outstanding accounts
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| A Webb – Clerks Salary & Expenses | 697.41 |
| Village Hall Hire | 15.00 |
| D Rowell Phone calls – Jan & Feb | 46.50 |
- d) Consideration of Budgets. Mr Dixon queried some of the figures in the budget and they were explained by the Clerk

Mr Short proposed and Mr Donaldson seconded that items a) – d) be approved. AIF

- e) Consideration of Cemetery fees. Councillors were in possession of a sheet comparing charges for Brackley, Moulton, Thrapston, Oundle, Nassington and King's Cliffe. Mr Dixon proposed and Mr Reid seconded that Warmington's charges remain the same for the life of the current Parish Council. AIF

11. OUTSTANDING CORRESPONDENCE : Mr Rowell has received a letter from Mr Peck asking if the litter pick can be well advertised and asking for a dog bin for Big Green. After discussion Mr Reid proposed and Mr Ellard seconded that a dog bin be put by the Pocket Park on Big Green. AIF

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12. PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- a) Alms Houses. All three properties are now empty. There has been a delay in obtaining a mortgage to carry out the work but as soon as this is in place the work will be done.
- b) Village Hall. Mr Cutler reported that a meeting had been held on 28th January. There is an amount of equipment from the Youth Club which is currently being stored and the Committee were keen to know who was responsible for it. The Parish Council will take responsibility for it and will look into the question of insurance. Mr Cutler to convey this to the Committee.
- c) Warmington Charities. Mr Cutler reported that a meeting is to be held next month.
- d) Pocket Parks. Mr Rowell reported that he, Mr Barker and Mr Atkinson had set up a structure in the Pocket Path to encourage insects. Mr Ellard suggested adding Pocket Parks to the review of the Village Design Statement to consider what they have achieved and where they are going.
- e) Allotments. Mr Ellard reported that a working weekend had been held where the hedge had been trimmed, rubbish removed and the guttering on the shed replaced. An extra water butt has been acquired. All Allotments are currently in use.
- f) Newsletter. The current issue is now being distributed. Mr Dixon asked Councillors for their input into the newsletter albeit by articles or by suggestions of subjects which could be covered.
- g) Reports from Councillors attending outside meetings/courses. None

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13. PARISHIONERS' QUESTION TIME

Mr Cooper commented on the following:-

- a) There is a pot hole on the corner of Big Green and Orchard Close
- b) He expressed thanks to Mr Dixon for the newsletter
- c) He suggested considering the small flashing speed signs such as can be found at Benefield and Titchmarsh
- d) Mr Cooper asked if flowering trees could be considered when planting. These have not been used in the past because they do not tend to appear in the lists of trees recommended by NCC.

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14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 12th May 2008

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.