

Minutes of a Meeting of Hargrave Parish Council held on Thursday 4th January 2007 in Hargrave Village Hall at 8.09 pm

Present: Councillor R. Pearson (Chairman)

Councillors P. Attwood, Mrs J. Brotherton, R. Holmes, and R. Smith

In attendance: Cllr D. Lawson (NCC)
Cllr Mrs E. Finch (ENC)
Mrs R. Sheppard (Clerk)
18 members of the public

01/07 Apologies Cllr Mrs L. Pallikaropoulos (abroad on holiday)

02/07 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 2nd and 13th November 2006, which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and signed as correct by the Chairman.

03/07 Members' Declarations of Interest – no such declarations were made

04/07 Precept

AGREED that a Precept of £4,700 will be made for the year 2007 to 2008. The increase from last year's sum of £3,500 was necessary to cover possible election expenses and rises in costs. If there was a significant surplus at the end of the year, then next year's Precept could be reduced accordingly

AGREED that as from 1st April 2007 the Clerk's salary be increased by 5% to £1,295.44 pa. The Clerk was asked to get a current valuation of the triangular field for rental purposes.

05/07 Village Hall

The Chairman reported on recent fundraising activities organised by the Management Committee as well as the imminent Festive Dinner.

06/07 Election 2007

The Clerk reported that she had prepared an informal guide to becoming a councillor for anybody interested in standing for election for the Parish Council in May 2007.

07/07 Youth Forum

The Clerk reported on a letter received from Northamptonshire County Council saying that it would be impossible to introduce systems to allow friends of village children to travel home with them on the school bus.

08/07 Parish Council Website

The Clerk reported that Mr Kevan Jepps, a new resident of the village, had offered to manage the website. Pat Bird at East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) was happy that he should do this on the understanding that the Clerk was responsible for everything that went on it in the name of the Parish Council. It was suggested that visitors to the site should be encouraged to suggest items that could be discussed at future meetings and could also report near-miss traffic incidents and HGV movements.

09/07 Road Safety

The Chairman reported on a visit by Mr John Trimble from NCC to discuss the possibility of Hargrave getting a weight restriction. He recommended that a two-day survey of HGVs coming through the village be conducted and that, if there were sufficient numbers, advisory signs could be erected to the effect that there was "local access only" for larger vehicles. He felt it was unlikely that there could be a legally binding weight restriction as other places were in greater need.

10/07 Street Lighting

The Chairman reported that two new street lights were now up and running. The invoice for the second one had not yet been received so the grant had not yet been paid.

11/07 Commemoration of the Queen's 80th birthday

The Clerk reported that NCC had given permission for a single half-barrel to be situated either side of the road in front of the "Hargrave" sign on Raunds Road. However, as these must be placed more than 1.2m away from the carriageway, there was a danger that the one on the opposite side to the houses would slide into the ditch.

AGREED that two barrels should be situated at the entrance to the village from the B645. The Chairman and Cllr Brotherton would decide on the best position and the Clerk would ask for permission again.

12/07 Planning Matters

EN/06/02119/OUT – two houses on land corner of Brook St. and Church St. This application had been refused. The applicants had lodged an appeal.

Preferred options for Raunds and surrounding villages – consultations would be carried out at public meetings during February. The Nene Valley News would advertise the details in due course. If necessary it was agreed that an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council should be called so as not to miss the deadline.

Millcroft, Shelton – The Chairman outlined the measures being taken by Bedfordshire County Council to make sure the owners of this site comply with planning regulations.

13/07 Parish Council Accounts

Cllr Brotherton confirmed that the accounts were in order.

AGREED to approve the following payments:- ABB Ltd, street light maintenance, £63.79 and Powergen – street light electricity - £265.08

14/07 Parish Council Conference

Councillor Brotherton reported on the conference she had attended on the Government's White Paper and its implications for Parish Councils. The Clerk reported that a follow-up conference was scheduled to take place in the spring.

The Chairman reported that the annual Community Safety Wider Partnership Event would take place in the Council Chamber at Thrapston on 30th January.

15/07 Next Meeting

The next full meeting will be held on Thursday 1st March at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall. The provisional date for a Planning Meeting, should there be any new applications or developments regarding current applications, would be on 1st February 2007.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

OPEN FORUMS

Prior to the meeting Mr Trevor Watson, Head of Planning at ENC, answered questions put by councillors and the public. A record of his comments will be sent to Councillors.

After the meeting it was suggested that action should be taken to prevent the bricks on the Millennium Cairn from deteriorating further. The Clerk agreed to investigate this. It was also suggested that, after the election, Parish Council should prepare a "Mission Statement" by which its actions can be measured.