

Minutes of the Meeting of Hargrave Parish Council held on Monday 3rd November 2008 in Hargrave Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors J. Brotherton (Chairman), G. Brown M. Herd, R. Holmes, N. Sheppard,

In attendance: Mrs R. Sheppard (Clerk) and 4 members of the public

90/08 Apologies Cllr R. Farrington (working) and Cllr Mrs L Travill (away on holiday)

91/08 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held 1st September 2008, which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and signed as correct by the Chairman.

92/08 Members' declarations of interest

None were made

93/08 Planning Application EN/08/01445/FUL New dwelling with boundary fence at 1 Nags Head Lane.

New plans were available showing accurate proposed boundaries. Missing dimensions were worked out. The Chairman reviewed the previous outline planning application which was refused in 2003. Following discussions about the possible visual impact of a building on this site and the definitions of 'infill' it was

AGREED that no objection be made to this application.

94/08 Updates on Planning Applications and Appeals

(EN/08/00346/FUL) Top Farm, Church Street - complaint against ENC for not taking into account Parish Council's objection. The Clerk read the response from the Chairman of the ENC to Phil Hope M.P. which re-iterated it's apology but could offer no further redress.

Millcroft, Shelton – the Clerk outlined the current status of various applications and appeals. The Chairman commented that if matters could be dragged out for four years then the entire development would be deemed to be lawful automatically. The Clerk was asked to ascertain what the situation was regarding the revised access.

95/08 Freedom of Information

AGREED to adopt the New Model Publication Scheme in its entirety.

96/08 Parish Council Publicity

AGREED to continue to publicise Parish Council's business on Page 7 of the Grapevine and to donate £100 annually to the magazine in order not to undermine its future.

AGREED to use the pages of The Herald to also publicise Parish Council business and to offer a small donation; amount to be decided at the next meeting

97/08 Open Space Strategy

The Clerk reported that this would not be finalised until a new team had been appointed at ENC.

98/08 Road Maintenance

The Chairman and Cllr Holmes agreed to meet the new area manager to discuss works needed to village roads.

99/08 Footpaths

Cllr Brown reported on the situation relating to NA12, which is one of the least used footpaths in the village. As its route runs close to the headland the landowner is not required to spray it, but as it is not on the headland neither does he have to mow it. Otherwise the Footpath Warden has been round cutting back growth to make all the village paths walkable.

100/08 Dropped Kerbs

It was agreed that dropped kerbs at the church gate and post box would make these more accessible for disabled residents using wheelchairs or scooters. Funding would be sought and, once this was in place, the process would be put in motion..

102/08 Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Herd reported that the bright new signs were now up and brought to 6 the total number of signs in the village. The Police continue to advise that potential thieves are put off operating where they see the signs. It was agreed to advertise the cost of SmartWater in the Herald and to take orders at the reduced price.

103/08 Minerals and Waste Strategy proposals

Bedfordshire – plans are not up for consultation yet.

Cambridgeshire – plans show no sites near the border with Northamptonshire.

Northamptonshire – The Chairman reported on Northamptonshire County Council's approval of the site at Chelveston despite well argued and vociferous objections from local villages. A consultation document had been circulated and responses were agreed. Subjects on which it was felt NCC had got it wrong were: Impact on local residents – cumulative impact – projected tonnages of waste could not be generated locally – opinions at pre-application discussions ignored – insufficient expertise of public at large and councils in particular, to formulate legal objections – the proposal goes against NCC's own guidelines. The consultation document itself was agreed to be too long, too woolly, too repetitive and questions were designed to get the answers NCC wanted.

104/08 Planters

Permission and funding for a planter to be put up under the 'HARGRAVE' sign on the Raunds Road had been granted. Once again Cllr Derek Lawson had kindly requested NCC to provide the funding. A request for tenders to make the planter would be advertised in both the Grapevine and the Herald.

Thanks were expressed to the Conservation Group for funding the winter planting of the barrels on the B645.

105/08 Village Noticeboard

The Clerk reported on problems relating to the present noticeboard, especially the fact that the agenda for this meeting had been taken down by unknown persons. Should a new noticeboard be provided one half of it would be lockable and for the use of Parish Council and Village Hall only. Tenders to make the noticeboard would be requested in the Herald and Grapevine.

106/08 Parish Council Accounts

The annual accounts had been successfully audited and were accepted by the meeting. They would be posted on the noticeboard for a minimum of two weeks and would, thereafter, be available to view on request.

The following payments were approved:

E.ON, maintenance of street lights £144.55, E.ON, electricity for street lights from 8 Jan 08 to 30 Sept 08 £, BD Auditors - £170.38.

107/08 Remembrance Day

Cllr Sheppard reported that he had been asked by the Rev. Peter Parry to lay the wreath on behalf of Parish Council.

108/08 Next Meeting

The next full meeting will be held on Monday 5th January The provisional date for a Planning Meeting, should there be any new applications or developments regarding current applications, would be on Monday 1st December 2008.

The meeting closed at 21.20

OPEN FORUM

Concern was expressed about overhanging bushes and branches along Brook Street.

Walkers had been seen to be straying from the official routes of footpaths, and horse riders were sometimes to be seen away from bridleways. It was stressed that this was illegal and maps and signposts were available to help people to stay on the authorised paths.