

ALLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Allington Parish Council held on 3 February 2009 in Boscombe and District Social Club at 7.30 p.m.

Those Present:-

Acting Chairman: Michael Brunton
Councillor Peter Smith
Councillor Rob Kitson

Councillor Terry Turner
District Councillor Mike Hewitt
Clerk: Mrs C Goodenough

Members of the Public: - Mr & Mrs Anthony Bowden

Members of the Public were invited to speak, prior to the commencement of meeting on matters of concern.

Acting Chairman Councillor Mr Michael Brunton opened the meeting at 7.45p.m.

1. **APOLOGIES:-** Mrs Susan Borrett, Mrs Glynis Barnes, Michael Miles
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – There were none
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** held on 2 December 2008 were agreed and signed as a true record
4. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a. **EXTERNAL AUDITOR** – The External Auditor's report stated "The Council should undertake a full risk assessment of existing operations covering financial and operation risks, -refer to NALC/SLCC guidance" The Clerk felt that this would be covered under Item 14.
5. **COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS-** Councillor Hewitt had nothing to report
6. **AMESBURY PILOT AREA BOARD MEETING 4 December 2008** – A report from Cllr Mrs Barnes had already been previously circulated by email to all members, in which she stated the role of this Board is to get everyone used to the new structure. The election of Chair and Deputy was followed by a briefing on how the various bodies that make up the Unitary Authority should work together. A Parish Council rep needs to be at every pilot Area Board meeting and would get ample opportunity to put forward views on the format of the meetings and raise any concerns. The Area Board will work very much like the old Northern Area Committee, albeit with more participants. There will be 6 Unitary Councillors, a Wiltshire Council cabinet member, parish council reps plus reps from Wiltshire NHS, Police, Fire & Rescue etc. and the Community Area Partnership. The cabinet member (by invitation) will be the portfolio holder relevant to any major item under discussion. The object is to speed up decision-making, with direct contact between all levels, and with technical and professional support. There will be an Area Board meeting every month to 6 weeks the aim is the single point of contact, local issues dealt with at local level and "the role and influence of parishes enhanced". Planning will essentially work in the same way as before, with the board taking over the

role of the Northern Area Committee. The Parish Council rep will be able to speak on any local planning issue. There are no changes to the R2 system being planned at present and anything in the present Local Development Framework will continue as normal. The next LDF might see some changes but Central Government has not announced anything yet.

7. CEMETERY FEES (Agenda Item 8) – A review will be delayed to the next meeting.

8. GRASS CUTTING (Agenda Item 9) Cllr Kitson introduced Mr Anthony and Mrs Bowden to the Council. Mr Bowden has the current contract for grass cutting within the village. Cllr Kitson advised he had been in contact with Mr Bowden with a view to negotiating the grass cutting contract so that it met the Budget figure of £3000 p.a. The Clerk referred to the Quotations section of Financial Standing Orders agreed by the Council in 2008 "Where a contract is entered into by the Council, or work is undertaken for the Council, or a purchase made by the Council for goods or services under a single transaction with a total value in excess of £200.00, at least three written quotations will be obtained and considered before a choice of supplier is made". Some of the members felt that this was not a new contract but an amendment to the existing contract and the above Standing Order would not apply. District Cllr Hewitt suggested that the Council could amend the areas as necessary within the existing contract and take out a new one for the additional area of Boscombe Cemetery and this would then not need to be dealt under the quotation process. Cllr Kitson and Mr Bowden informed the Council that if areas 4 (Boscombe Village-area in between railings) and 8 (Allington – Bend opposite Pub and back to church) were removed from the schedule that including the Boscombe Cemetery that the annual cost to the Council would be under £3000. Chairman Cllr Brunton asked Mr and Mrs Bowden to send their written quote to Cllr Kitson and a copy to the Parish Clerk. The Parish Clerk referred to Cllr Mrs Barne's dealings with Wiltshire County Council regarding taking over the Old Chalk Pit (Area 7) and it was agreed that no cuts on this area would be made until resolved one way or the other with WCC. Mr Bowden expressed concern that grass in this area could grow long in the interim and this could make his job difficult should he subsequently be asked to resume mowing. He was reassured by Chairman Cllr Brunton who stated that any additional costs incurred to bring the area back into maintenance would be paid by the Council.

9. R2 MONEY (Agenda Item 10) The Clerk advised the up to date figures received from Salisbury DC of £10320.49 for adults and £5381.71 for children: this includes amounts where development has not started. Cllr Kitson advised he had an outline estimate for the repair of the fence in the Playpark of around £300.00. The Clerk produced photographs of the damaged areas of the Playpark fence and said she had asked the existing fence installer for suggestions for repairs. He advised fitting galvanised stretcher bars all around the top of the fence to strengthen the whole structure and along the base in the area to the left of the gate, replacing some uprights on the Wyndham Farm Cottages side to make them closer together and replacing damaged chain link fencing. His verbal estimate was just over £2000 and he would include replacement of the broken gatepost at Boscombe Cemetery in this price. Cllr Kitson also mentioned the amount of £6000.00 perhaps for a new swing and a log cabin; he also suggested some "monkey bars" for older children. Cllr Hewitt said he understood that when the Parish Council took over the Playpark it had a restriction for over 14year olds, the Clerk agreed with this understanding. Chairman Cllr Brunton

reiterated that the current available R2 (£4480.71) amount for children would be available for the Playpark and any unspent adult funds could be used for the project rather than be returned to the developer. The Clerk reminded the Council the Bourne Valley Alliance had stated that after 1 April, 10% of the Parish's R2 funding would be allocated to the Area Board, and Cllr Hewitt advised the Parish Council this was not compulsory. **Chairman Cllr Brunton** said he had made enquiries about the purchase of a marquee/tent that could be used within the villages as a temporary "village hall" and that a suitable sized one was in the region of £400- £500 although there would then be the question of where it would be stored. Cllr Hewitt suggested that the Parish Council might wish to purchase a Table Tennis Table (cost around £500) to be located in the Boscombe and District Social Club. He suggested that some of the funds could be used to purchase a rental contract of say 5 years for the hire of the Club one evening a week so that the Youth of the villages could socialise and use the Table Tennis Table, some payment towards Supervision would also be required. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Secretary of the Boscombe and District Social Club asking for a scale of charges for the hire of the Club for one evening a week and which evening the Club had available for hire. Cllr Turner asked for an update on enquiries to village landowners regarding any land for Sale. The Clerk advised that Cllr Mrs Barnes had been in touch with Mr and Mrs Hill who had advised their land was not available. Mr Patterson, the owner of land in Bourne View had responded to the Parish Council's letter of 15th December 2008 and stated he has "never considered selling the land but ... considering the development of it. ...It is not inconceivable that land could be offered to the Parish Council on the future. This would however have to be part of a development scheme, for which permission has not yet been granted."

10. "WHITELEY LANE" (Agenda Item 11) The Clerk advised that the Planning Inspectorate had held a hearing on 20 January regarding the diversion of part of Bridleway 29. It was agreed by the Council that this diversion had no impact on Whiteley Lane.

11. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE (Agenda Item 12)

- a) Broken Gate Post Boscombe Cemetery
- b) Bus Stops and Seats

To next meeting

12. PARISH STEWARD- (Agenda Item 13) To next meeting

13. STANDING ORDERS- (Agenda Item 14) To next meeting

14. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS (Agenda Item 15)

A letter had been received advising the MoD section of Winterslow Road would be closed 9 Feb to 12 February between the hours of 17.30 to 19.00.

The Campaign for Rural England had sent a letter regarding the Best Kept Village Competition 2009.

WCC had sent information regarding the Parish Improvement Grant Scheme for Rights of Way

SDC sent a circular giving the dates of the various committee meetings to 30 March 2009

RoSPA had sent a flyer asking the Council to indicate if it wanted future Playground inspections - Passed to Cllr Kitson for action.

SDC had sent an invitation re a Climate Change Workshop on 4 February 2009.

The Stonehenge Community Partnership had sent an invitation to the Parish for a meeting on 11 February, the Council declined to send a representative.

The next Amesbury Pilot Area Board meeting dates are 19 February and 19 March. Cllr Turner took note of the dates, Clerk to forward information to him.

15. PLANNING (Agenda item 16) The planning applications and notices of decisions received by the Council were noted. **Chairman Cllr Brunton** expressed a comment that despite the Parish Council discussing Planning Applications and giving input that Parish Council comments are overruled by the Planning department. **Cllr Smith** advised he had attended a training seminar on 30 January with **Cllr Barnes** this was to explain how Development Control would operate under the new Wiltshire Authority. He explained the process would be more technical and streamlined that material considerations factor in Planning Applications. If a Parish Council wishes to object to a particular Application it will need to contact its Unitary Councillor.

16. FINANCE (Agenda Item 17) The breakdown of income/expenditure since last meeting was submitted and cheques signed.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 18) **Chairman Cllr Brunton** said he noticed that Allington as a heading was not mentioned on the Agenda and that he and **Cllr Turner** had asked for this at the last meeting. The Clerk referred to her notes from that meeting and could find no specific mention of this. Agreed that it be raised as Allington Parish Plan for next meeting

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda Item 19) Tuesday 17 February 2009 at 7.30 p.m. at Boscombe and District Social Club

19. BOURNE VALLEY ALLIANCE (Agenda Item 4) **Chairman Cllr Brunton** reported that he had attended a meeting of the BVAPC on 10 December 2008 and advised that the Alliance is going to see if it can become a Partnership under the new Unitary Area Board. He told the Council that most of the Parish Council's in the Alliance are not going to take on services (such as Grass Cutting) from the Wiltshire Council and will wait, watch and see what happens in the first year. He explained that most Parish Council's such as Newton Tony only cut their churchyard. Allington is different as it is a "through way" and that's why the Parish Council wants the village to look nice. The Clerk advised that WCC cut the verges twice a year and she understood that WCC grass cutters did not appear to mow areas that were being maintained by the village. **Chairman Cllr Brunton** suggested that he should write to Mr Peter Hanson of Wiltshire County Council to see if WCC will increase the number of cuts on our village verges could be increased each year.

Chairman Cllr Brunton said he was attending an A338 meeting on 4 February and the next BVAPC meeting was scheduled for 11/12? February and he would attend. A revised BVAPC mandate was circulated to members and reflected the amendments suggested in the last meeting.

Chairman Cllr Brunton stated he was very unhappy with the letter sent to the BVAPC on 9 December, he referred to his email of 4 December and to those sent by **Cllr Smith**

and **Cllr Miles** in which they all requested that the tone of the first draft letter be softened. The number of paragraphs in the initial draft had increased from 3 to 5 in the final draft and he was surprised to see that the letter had been signed by the Clerk and not the chairman. **Chairman Cllr Brunton** explained he had been personally embarrassed in the matter and expressed the opinion that the Clerk had abused her position and he wanted the matter to be put on the Agenda for the next meeting to be discussed fully. The Clerk responded to the many points raised by **Chairman Cllr Brunton** advising that that it was her understanding that the Chairman had delegated the signing of letter to her. A discussion then ensued.

The Clerk gave verbal notification of her resignation with 1 month's notice from 3 February 2009.

The meeting formally closed at 8.55 p.m.