

ALLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Allington Parish Council held on 2 December 2008 in Boscombe and District Social Club at 7.30 p.m.

Those Present:-

Chairman: Mrs Susan Borrett
Councillor Mrs Glynis Barnes
Councillor Michael Brunton
Councillor Peter Smith

Councillor Rob Kitson
Councillor Terry Turner.
Clerk: Mrs C Goodenough

Members of the Public:- Mr Wasling

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

Mr Wasling advised that the fence for the Playpark was damaged on either side of the gate and had kindly drawn up a draft specification for quotations for the repair/replacement.

Chairman Councillor Mrs Susan Borrett opened the meeting at 7.32p.m.

1. **APOLOGIES** Cllr Miles, pressure of work – busy time of year.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – The Clerk, Mrs Goodenough, advised she had an interest in item 19 – Planning matters
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** held on 28 October 2008 were agreed and signed as a true record

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **Footpath No 11 Allington/ Newton Tony**

The Clerk showed members of the Council a drawing showing the new route of this footpath following a meeting held by the RSPB on 28 October 2008 at Newton Tony. The route is just outside of the parish Boundary.

b) **Millennium Book**

Mrs Barnes asked that it be noted that she was the only member of the Parish Council who had been involved with the Millennium project – agreed. A CD Rom of the Book had been purchased by the Council and was being held by the Clerk. To see if it can be uploaded onto village website

c) **Missing Document Update**

The Clerk reported that the Clerk to Winterbourne Parish Council had carried out a search of that Parish's records and had found our missing minute book. This was now in the hands of the Clerk who would arrange for it to be deposited at Chippenham as soon as possible. The missing Asset Register for years ending 2008 had also been found and was now being used.

5. COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

No County or District Councillor was in attendance

6. DELEGATION TO TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS REPORT

Cllr Smith gave a presentation on the meeting of 10 November at Newton Tony by Richard Munroe. The main points were

- **Services :**

Tend not to be concerned with employment of individuals because of liability issues. An example was given of Street cleaning/ maintenance.

- **Main Criteria to consider:**

1. Value for money
2. Attitude to liability – how much does PC want to accept – can get help from WCC
3. Capacity to take on service – in general Parish Councils don't have experience to take these on

- **How to delegate** (eg grass cutting) Choices are somewhere between the 2 extremes of:

1. Employing a person, providing training plus insurance and buying equipment – suitable for larger towns.
2. Task WCC to resource everything and simply direct what is required – PC?

Cllr Smith advised that there is no compulsion for the Parish Council to take on any services. Of those PCs to declare so far, about half have decided not to take on any services for the first year and many others are maintaining just the open(?) services. e.g. Street naming and cleaning.

If we're not sure what services to keep/hold we don't have to take on anything and this can be review each year.

Newton Toney PC asked the question "could the Parish Steward also maintain the cemetery and Churchyard?" The meeting was advised the Steward was fully employed and has no spare capacity. Everyone was also advised that WCC has responsibility for all footways (about 300 miles) in the County and has one officer responsible for all of them.

The Council thanked Cllr Smith for attending the meeting and giving his report

7. RoSPA Playground REPORT

Cllr Kitson had read the report by Playsafety on its annual inspection carried out in September. He was pleased to report that there were no High Risk items needing attention, there was nothing urgent that needed to be raised at the meeting and it appeared the Council had the Playpark "under control"

8. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI)

The Clerk gave a resume of the implications of the Act for the Parish Council. In essence the Council has to proactively publish or make available as a matter of routine information, including environmental information, which is held by the Council and falls into specific classes so that it can easily identified and accessed by members of the public. The deadline for adoption is no later than 31 December 2008

and can be by resolution of the Council without further recourse to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) if the model publication is adopted without modification.

A draft guide to information had been completed by the Clerk and this was approved with the following resolution

The Council formally adopts the New Model Publication Scheme together with its published Guide to Information as laid out by the (ICO) with immediate effect. The Guide to Information is to be published on the Allington village website.

It was also agreed that as the form was too large in its entirety to be displayed on the village notice boards as well, that a separate notice should be prepared and displayed stating any queries regarding FOI should be directed to the Clerk.

- 9. COMMUNITIES IN CONTROL** – A consultation document prepared by the Department for Communities and Local Government had been received relating to a code of Conduct for LA members and employees The Council gave their responses to the questions and the reply is to be sent off by the Clerk by 24th December deadline.

10. CEMETERY FEES

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) had suggested that each Parish Council should examine the fees charged in any civil cemetery. Newton Tony PC charges £60 for the purchase of a burial plot, Salisbury District Council (London Road cemetery) charges £340 and the CofE fees for an internment (no rights to purchase plot) were £184. NALC also advised that the annual costs of running a burial ground should (if possible) be covered by annual income. The Council voted to increase the fees for a purchase of a grave from the current level of £60 to £120 with effect from 1 January 2009. The advance notice being given so that any residents could have the opportunity to make arrangements at the current price. The fee is to be reviewed again in the budget setting process (Nov-Dec 2009) for the financial year 2010-11

11. BUDGET REVIEW

The Clerk presented a spreadsheet showing the amounts spent in year 2007-8 the amounts spent to date and the projected total spending for the current financial year. The Councillors were concerned that the Budget for 2009-10 should reflect the current economic situation and by making some financial restrictions in the expenditure for grass cutting and even allowing for inflation increases in other matters that the current precept of £7600 could be maintained albeit with a smaller credit balance at year end. Agreed.

12. GRASS CUTTING

The Clerk reported that she had received a telephone call from a Parishioner (Mr Paye) who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr Paye, having seen this item on the Agenda, wanted to convey to the Council how neat and tidy the village was looking and that he hoped this level of maintenance would continue in the future.

Mr Burroughs had advised Cllr Barnes that he was “retiring” and would no longer be maintaining the Boscombe cemetery. Estimates had been received from Mr Bowden

in respect of the grass cutting contract for 2009-10 and also for cutting the Boscombe cemetery. The Clerk had prepared a spreadsheet showing the total amounts spent on grass cutting in relation to the precept for the past 5 years, together with costs and cutting regime for the individual identified areas for the current and previous year. It was noted that the total grass cutting and maintenance costs accounted for nearly 50% of the Parish Precept and that after discussion the budget for grass cutting for year 2009-10 should be fixed at £3000 including the cemetery. The cost savings could be achieved by removing the April and May cuts for area 7 (Chalk pit), ending all grass cutting in the parish by the end of October and perhaps leaving clippings on the ground rather than to collect and take them off site. Mr Bowden to be informed of this, it is likely that the Parish will need to negotiate with Mr Bowden to achieve the savings required before finalising any contract.

13. R2 MONEY

The Clerk advised that there was £4480.71 available for children and £5686.92 for adults (over 13yrs) to be spent by the end of April 2009. Cllr Kitson displayed photos of the Playpark and reminded the Councillors that original plans for the Playpark improvements were in 2 stages, the first phase had been completed in 2008 and the R2 money available should now be used towards the second phase. The matter of the broken fencing was introduced at this point and it was estimated that £1500 would be required to repair this, the toe boards in the bark area and top up the bark level, leaving the rest for additional equipment. It was agreed that Cllr Kitson would get some quotes and options for spending the remainder of the children's R2 money.

Cllr Turner said a lot of money had been spent on the Playpark in the past and the £5000 available for adult R2 money might be spent on obtaining a piece of land within the parish for recreational use. Various locations in the village were identified and the Clerk is to write to 2 landowners to see if they would sell or release land for such a project. Cllr Barnes reported that she had spoken to James Bament after the last meeting and that East Farm had already deposited its R2 money with SDC and did not have any suitable land to sell.

Cllr Brunton suggested that part of the adult portion be spent on the purchase of modular marquees/tents/gazebos that could be used individually or collectively on the Playpark area or on land in Boscombe as a temporary "village hall" and this would allow the community to meet and socialise. The events could be purely recreational or fund raising towards a more permanent structure in the future. The question of storage was raised and it was thought this would not be a problem. Cllr Brunton would make some enquiries regarding sizes and prices for these.

It was agreed that rather than lose unspent adult R2 money that Cllr Kitson would also look into options and (climbing?) equipment available for over 13year olds. The matter to be fully discussed at the next meeting.

14. "WHITELEY LANE"

Cllr Barnes asked if we could join forces with Newton Tony PC as "Whiteley Lane" must be important to their parishioners too. To be discussed fully at the January meeting so that a response can be made from the parish to the Planning Inspectorate Public meeting to be held on 20 January 2009.

15. PARISH STEWARD

No Issues

16. BOURNE VALLEY GOOD NEIGHBOUR LINK SCHEME

The BVGNLS had sent a letter to the Council with a copy of their annual report and suggested that an annual grant is made based on a per capita basis of 35p per head. The Parish has 381 inhabitants. This suggestion was agreed by the Members making a grant of £133.35 and also set as a budget for 2009-10.

17. BOURNE VALLEY ALLIANCE

The Council discussed the letter sent by the Bourne Valley Alliance of Parish Councils in October to the South Wilts Conservative Association. **Chairman Mrs Borrett** explained that Allington Parish Council had sent its apologies to the October meeting and Idmiston PC had abstained from the discussion prior to the letter being sent. She felt that BVAPC acted outside their remit, which should be non-political and that this was at variance with their constitution. The resulting BVAPC letter of 24 October was factually incorrect in speaking for Allington Parish Council which was absent from the meeting. **Chairman Mrs Borrett** to draft a letter to the BVAPC and get the content agreed by all Members of Allington Parish Council and this is to be sent prior to the next meeting of the BVAPC on 10 December 2008 at which **Cllr Brunton** will be representing the Council.

18. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS

Mr Bowden had reported the gate post at Boscombe cemetery was broken and needed attention, to be an Agenda Item at next meeting.

The Clerk reported that she was attending a training seminar on 11 December in City Hall on the SDC Code of Conduct for Councillors. SDC democratic services had reported that there had been a couple of breaches recently and that it would be helpful if Clerks could attend and then brief their Councils. It was agreed the next meeting would commence at 7.45 p.m. for the Public so that Councillors could be given a training/briefing session by the Clerk on the Code of Conduct at 7.30 p.m. The Clerk drew attention to the fact that that all Parish correspondence conducted by email could be viewed by anyone under the FOI act. Members must bear in mind. Emails should not cause offence, be defamatory, untrue, breach confidentiality etc. The Clerk reminded the Council about the Amesbury Area Pilot Board meeting to be held on 4 December at Antrobus House, but no Members were available to attend due to work commitments.

The Clerk also reported that she had been advised that some items within the village had been vandalised probably during the early hours of Monday morning. The telephone box at Bourne View had its glass smashed – reported to BT for action. The ex SABRA seat in the chalk pit had been upturned, Bottles had been thrown in Mr & Mrs Hill's garden, The sign at Cloudlands Farm had disappeared and the For Sale board in Wyndham Lane had been taken down and the pole snapped in two. All matters have been reported to Wilts Police.

Chairman Mrs Borrett reported that the street light in Bourne View was out of order. Clerk to report to Wilts CC Clarence Hot line.

19. PLANNING

Planning Ref	S/2008/1901	Description	TWO STOREY RESIDENTIAL DWELLING & GARAGE Including works to the access Track
Date Valid	12 November 2008	Address	Land Adjacent to Springfield, Tidworth Road, Allington
APC Response deadline	3 December 2008		Objected <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overdevelopment of a small private drive• Access issues from private road onto and from A338• Situated too close to boundary of adjacent property

Planning Ref	S/2008/1930	Description	THE ERECTION OF A SIDE EXTENSION
Date Valid	17 November 2008	Address	1 Bishops Reach, Allington
APC Response deadline	8 December 2008		Objected <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overdevelopment of the site• Too large for the space

- b. **Reports.** Decisions made by Salisbury District Council – There were none

20. FINANCE

a) **External Audit 2007-8**

The External Auditors Report had been received and everything was in order

b) Breakdown of Income and Expenditure since last meeting was presented and agreed.

c) Cheques were signed to pay the agreed payments of expenditure.

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

 There was none

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the Next meeting is to be Tuesday 13 January 2009 at 7.45 p.m. at Boscombe and District Social Club after the Councillor's training/briefing session (7.30p.m.)

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 p.m.