

GREAT WITCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at 7.45 p.m. at Gt. Witchingham School on Thursday 26th April 2007

Present : Roy Church, Pauline Brown, Stephen Williams and Kevin Francis. Ron Cornell in the chair.

Clerk: Peter Dilloway, James Joyce (County Councillor and 23 members of the public:

(751). Apologies: Bridget Wright and Simon Woodbridge (District Councillor).

(752). Minutes of the meeting held 22nd March 2007 were agreed to be a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:

- (i). Village Hall. The closure of the hall means the loss of an important focal point for the village. Whilst land has been set aside at Hall Walk as part of the low cost housing scheme, it is likely that this will 2 or 3 years before it comes to fruition. Once we have title to the land this will give us a basis for grant funding. At present costs a hall is estimated to cost around £350K. It was questioned why the present hall is not to be refurbished. The answer is that the presence of asbestos and the general condition mean that refurbishment is not economically viable. It was suggested that to take any hall solution forward the committee needed new blood to assist. A number of people expressed interest. The Clerk will write to the Hall Committee to ask them to invite interested parties to meet.

(753). Correspondence:

- (i). Note from Paul Williamson seeking the Council's backing for a grant application for a First Response team. Council agreed to support the application.
- (ii). Email from Gt. Witchingham PCC requesting donation for churchyard maintenance for St. Mary's & St. Faith's
- (iii). Email from Rev. Selwyn Tillett explaining the situation in respect of St. Faith's Church. Members discussed the request for a donation and agreed that it was appropriate to assist St. Mary's. With respect to St. Faith's it appears that under the reversionary lease, maintenance of the site is not deductible from any sale proceeds. Council felt this to be an extraordinary state of affairs and resolved that it was not considered appropriate use of public funds to maintain the site for the benefit of an unknown vendor. A decision upon a donation will be made during the next meeting.
- (iv). Letter from Broadland District Council advising that 5 Parish Councillors are returned to office unopposed. A further two Councillors may be co-opted after 8th May.
- (v). Email from Simon Woodbridge advising that BDC Planning Committee has rejected the application from Banhams and conveyed the reasons to NCC. In addition should the Banhams not prove to BDC that their pollution control cannot be proven to safeguard the quality of life for local residents, BDC would not issue an operating licence.

(754). Payments/Financial Matters:

- (i). 2006/7 Accounts. The Clerk had prepared and circulated the balance sheet for member's inspection. Members resolved to adopt the accounts for audit.
- (ii). The annual audit governance statement was approved
- (iii). Insurance renewal 2007/8. Allianz Cornhill. The Playing field fencing has been removed from the policy. Cheque No. 100498 £392.84
- (iv). NCAPTC subscription 2007/8. Cheque No. 100499 £114.84
- (v). Litter/War memorial clearance. R. Cornell Cheque No. 100500 £40.00
- (vi). Clerk's expenses to date. P. Dilloway. Chq no. 100501 £68.10.
- (vii). R. Church telephone expenses in relation to Clay Hall Farm. 100502 £14.00.
- (viii). GW Ratepayers Association funds. The Post Office account holds approximately £101. Members that resolved that best use would be made of the funds by closing the account and adding it to the Planning Consultancy Fund. The Clerk will make the arrangements.

(755). Planning Matters

- (i). Planning Application 20070477. 8 The Street, Lenwade – Side extension. Members had no objection to the proposal
- (ii). Planning Application 20070528. Bernard Matthews PLC, North Site, Gt. Witchingham – erection of computer server building. Members had no objection to the proposal

(756). Any Other Business:

- (i). Due to the Local elections the Council must meet between 8th and 21st May. The only available date is 10th May. The Clerk will arrange a venue with the school as first choice. A permanent venue is needed but the school is double the cost of any other. The Clerk will try to negotiate a competitive deal.
- (ii). There was a complaint that tree felling at the charity lakes had been excessive. Councillor Church (Chairman of the charity) advised that any felling and clearance was carried out in accordance with a management plan laid down by Natural England (formerly English Nature). He will investigate whether any unapproved work had been carried out.
- (iii). A47/A1067 link Road. It was asked whether any decisions had been taken as yet. The Chairman and County Councillor outlined what had been discussed and confirmed that as yet no firm conclusions had been reached.

(757). Date and time of next meeting: Annual General Meeting 10th May 2007 at 7.45pm **Gt. Witchingham School**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

AGENDA
GWPC AGM – 10th May 2007 at 7.45pm
At Gt. Witchingham School

- (758). Apologies
- (759). Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
- (760). Co-option of Councillors
- (761). Statutory declarations and Register of Interests
- (762). Minutes of meeting 26/4/07
- (763). Matters Arising
- (764). Correspondence:
- (765). Planning Matters:
- (766). Payments/Financial Matters)
- (767). Any other Business
- (768). Date & time of next meeting **Date and venue to be advised.**