

GREAT WITCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. Gt. Witchingham School on Thursday 22nd January 2009

Present : Roy Church, Tania Spelacy, Mark Pead, Kevin Francis, Stephen Williams and Ron Cornell in the chair.

Clerk: Peter Dilloway,

(873). Apologies: Pauline Brown and James Joyce (County Councillor).

(874). Minutes of the meetings held 23rd October 2008 were agreed to be a true record. Proposed Roy Church seconded Kevin Francis and duly signed by the Chairman.

(875). Matters Arising: None

(876). Correspondence:

- (i). Most correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- (ii). Kevin Francis had received neighbour notification of an application for change of use of Lenwade House Hotel to an adult residential centre. The Clerk will obtain details tomorrow and ensure the parish receives the application.
- (iii). Weekly list of approved planning applications from BDC
- (iv). Clerks & Councils magazine
- (v). Request for donation from Macmillan Cancer Support. Member agreed to continue support in memory of Councillor Trevor Wright, who received excellent care in his final weeks.

(877). Memorial Hall/Low cost housing scheme.

- (i). The hall Committee and two Parish Councillors met with the Housing Enabler, Hazel Ellard and other interested parties. A report of that meeting is appended.
- (ii). In essence BDC wishes to allow further development of the site with the erection of a further 12 dwellings. As a result this would act as a financial gain towards hall funds of around £180,000. With other funding grants and the sale of the old site, there is potential for the cost of new hall to be covered.
- (iii). Broadland Housing Association would manage the project on behalf of the Hall Committee.
- (iv). Further meetings will be held to tie up loose ends, but the project cannot proceed further until the Committee are granted charity status and a business plan is formulated.
- (v). Further public consultation will take place in the coming months.

(878). War Memorial.

- (i). Stephen Williams said that he was disappointed that the Council had resolved to eventually move the memorial at the last meeting. The Chairman explained that the land upon which St. Faith's Church (and the memorial) is sited was a reversionary gift and has to be returned to the owner now that church is not used. The PCC minutes apparently make reference to the parish council being granted permission to erect the memorial on the land, but at that time neither party foresaw closure of the church and ultimately, reversion of the land. There is no documentary evidence to allow the memorial structure to remain in place.
- (ii). The previous PC meeting concluded that relocating the memorial to the new hall site was the most appropriate action. The general fabric of the memorial is decaying and has few years' life in it. A new structure will be built to house the original stone (once refurbished) and can possibly be located in a small remembrance garden.
- (iii). It was resolved to consult with the British Legion and to seek public opinion as to the new location of the memorial.

(879). Data Security. The Council will check what measures are necessary to ensure the security of data held on the Clerk's computers.

(880). Parish Plan. It was felt that given the move to build a new hall, the completion of a parish plan would assist in attracting further funding, perhaps even assist future projects as they arise. The clerk will arrange for copies of other completed parish plans to be circulated for inspiration and assistance.

(881). Planning Matters:

- (i). Clay Hall Farm. The Clerk gave a resume of the situation.
 - (a) The first appeal which was turned away by the Planning Inspectorate is undergoing reconsideration as to its validity.
 - (b) The second appeal is active and all representations by objectors will be in place within time. A pre-Inquiry meeting is to be held to settle procedural matters. The validity of this appeal is also being challenged.
 - (c) The enforcement notice has been appealed but has yet to be validated by the Planning Inspectorate.
 - (d) There is some indication that an alternative use for the building is being considered by BCL and a planning application and publicity of such are expected to be forthcoming in the near future.
- (ii). 12 The Street – Application to convert outbuilding to en-suite bathroom. Permission granted.

(882). Payments/Financial Matters:

- (i). Parish Precept 2009/10. Members discussed the requirement against the calculations prepared by the clerk. It was resolved to increase the precept by £500 to £4000 to cover the possible costs of defending the Parish position at a Clay Hall Farm appeal.
- (ii). War memorial/ litter clearance. The hourly rate was set at £5 (minimum wage) some years ago. Members considered it appropriate to revise the payment to the current level of £5.75/hr. Payment for Oct - Jan. R Cornell. Cheque no. 100539 £104.23
- (iii). Clerk's Salary award 2008. National scales had been awarded an interim increase of 2.45% bringing the new hourly rate to £9.814 per hour totalling £1020.66 for 2 hours per week.
- (iv). Clerk's Salary £273.50 & expenses £51.80 to date. P. Dilloway. Cheque no. 100540 £325.30
- (v). Replacement 'keep out' signs for hall. R Church Cheque no. 100541 £15.00
- (vi). Macmillan Cancer Support – donation to funds. Cheque no. 100542 £100.00
- (vii). Great Witchingham Fuel Allotment Charity. Donation for 50% cost of computer. The Council's computer is no longer reliable. The charity is better placed to acquire software at a discount which more than compensates for the cost of VAT. It is considered prudent for the Council's clerk to use this machine instead. GWFAC Cheque no. 100543 £242.00
All payments proposed by Roy Church seconded by K. Francis and approved by unanimous consent.

(883). Any Other Business:

- (i). Low cost housing. The housing has been allocated and evidently none of the applicants has connection with the village. The Housing Enabler will publicise the list shortly.
- (ii). Policing. It has been many months since a Beat Officer attended a meeting. The clerk will see if this situation can be reversed.
- (iii). There is further evidence that the Bridge Inn is serving alcohol to underage customers. The matter will be reported.
- (iv). With the hotel evidently closed on a permanent basis, subject to agreement with the school meetings will be held there for the foreseeable future.

(884). Date and Time of next meeting: 26th March 2009 following the Annual Parish Meeting to be held at, Gt. Witchingham School.

Meeting closed 9.25pm

AGENDA
GWPC – 26th March 2009
7.30pm at Great Withingham School

- (885). Apologies
- (886). Minutes of meeting 22/1/09
- (887). Matters Arising
- (888). Correspondence:
 - (i). All correspondence has been circulated
- (889). Memorial Hall/Low cost housing scheme
- (890). War Memorial
- (891). Computer data security.
- (892). Parish Plan
- (893). Planning Matters:
 - (i). Clay Hall Farm.
 - (ii). White House Farm – application for B1 use
- (894). Payments/Financial Matters)
 - (i). Hire of Weston Village hall £12
 - (ii). Litter clearance/war Memorial maintenance payment R. Cornell
 - (iii). Payment of Clerk's salary (£252.07) & expenses
- (895). Any other Business
- (896). Date & time of next meeting: Council AGM - Provisionally Thursday 28th May 2009 at **Gt. Withingham School**