

Parish Council Minutes

Wednesday 21st November 2007

SEVENHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on Wednesday 19 November 2007

Present: Bill Jenkin Lynne Jackson Bill Lanfear
Harry Boyd Alison Giles Di Brown

1. There were no apologies for absence.
2. Lynne Jackson declared an interest in any discussion taking place regarding wind turbines.
3. The **minutes**, having been circulated were approved, signed and dated as a true record of proceedings of the meeting held on 19 September 2007.
4. Matters arising:
 - a. The clerk to get quotations for the two new **noticeboards**. It was proposed by Alison Giles, seconded by Di Brown and RESOLVED that the parish council agreed in principle to contribute up to 50% of the cost of the new church noticeboard.
 - b. **Affordable housing** – the clerk to contact Martin Hutchings to ascertain whether the land required for development was actually still available.
 - c. It was decided that there was nothing that could be done about the **path down Spring Bank**.
 - d. Bill Lanfear offered to help the clerk deal with the **hedge cutting by Brockhampton post box**.
 - e. All councillors had attended **training sessions** and the general consensus was that they had been very informative.
5. **Financial:**
 - a. Alison Giles, the internal auditor, had inspected the books and confirmed her satisfaction with the six months accounts.
 - b. The **financial report** for period 4 showed balances on Barclays account of £7740.83 after payments to Bill Jenkin in respect of the web site hosting £70.49, the Clerk £357.82 and Robert Jackson for stream clearance £88.13. The balance on the Leeds & Holbeck account remained £6116.53. The clerk to investigate earmarking some of this fund to satisfy annual accounting regulations.
 - c. Bill Lanfear proposed, seconded by Lynne Jackson and RESOLVED that the **clerk be awarded a payrise** backdated to April 2007 in line with SLCC guidelines for SCP15 to £8.04 per hour.
6. **Budget & Risk Assessment:** The clerk produced the budget figures for the year. These were discussed and compared to last year. It was noted there was a large saving of £425 on grass cutting, and therefore it was proposed by Di Brown, seconded by Harry Boyd and RESOLVED that the **precept be reduced to £5,000** for 2008/09, a saving of £250. It was agreed that the proposed new noticeboards would be paid for out of the Way Forward fund in the Leeds & Holbeck.
 - e. **Risk Assessment** – discussed and RESOLVED that the checklist was adequate.
7. **Gloucester Charter:** to be circulated and discussed at the next meeting.
8. Planning:

Cedars Bungalow and the Dower House – passed.
Elsdon View – refused.
Wind turbine at Nash Barn – withdrawn although it was understood it was to be resubmitted and therefore would be the subject of a special planning meeting.

East Lodge planning appeal would also be discussed at that meeting. The stable problems at Plovers Wood seem to have been resolved in the short term although it was still not an ideal situation. As a result of a letter received from a parishioner regarding that particular matter a complaint procedure would be discussed at the next meeting.

The clerk was to contact other parish clerks to discuss the proposed paperless system for planning consultation which was not ideal for small parishes.

9. In view of the acceptance of the new Code of Conduct and section 12(2) it was RESOLVED that item 1 of the Standing Orders be amended to read "... and shall be preceded by a fifteen minute public question and answer session".
10. (a) Rhodes Memorial Hall Cottage – the letter from Gill Lanfear regarding the availability of the property for local people to rent was discussed. However, the Charity Commission guidelines were clear that the property should be rented at the going market rate.
(b) The clerk to contact the owners of The Old Post Office and Spring Cottage regarding the state of the verges as a result of all the building works.
11. The Way Forward and Parish Plan would be agenda items at the next main meeting which was confirmed as 23 January 2008 (following the special planning meeting on 05 December). There being no further business the chairman then closed the meeting at 9.15pm.