

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Aslockton Parish Council held in the Thomas Cranmer Centre, Aslockton, Nottinghamshire, on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

**Parish councillors present:** M Barker (Chair), C Haslam (Vice-chairman), J Brown, B Marshall, K Auckland, R Sharpe, A Crowley (left at 20.30pm).

**Present:** Cllr M Stockwood (arrived at 19.53pm), the clerk, 15 members of the public

### **17.074 Apologies**

Cllr F Purdue-Horan

### **17.075 Declarations of pecuniary or personal interest**

None

### **17.076 Public Meeting**

Mr + Mrs Bridges were interested in the planning item on the agenda. They said that before they complete their intended purchase of Mr Richard Ogden's field - to be retained as land for agriculture - they want to see planning permission in place to improve access to it.

Mrs Fiona Barker asked why the WAPFT meeting minutes had not been made public since last October. Mr Gregg Redford had volunteered to update the WAPFT website said Vice-chairman of the Playing Field Committee, Cllr Haslam, so all minutes should soon be available to read.

Mrs Fiona Barker reported that the footpath connecting Abbey Lane to Mr Brian Crawford's farm was now a gully. It cannot be used while the housing development is being built but she suggested the Rights of Way team should be kept informed.

Several members of the public had concerns regarding the travellers who stayed for a week on Mr David's Hunt's land off Abbey Lane in July:

- Mr + Mrs Epton who moved to the village in 2016 asked that the parish council continue to stress to the relevant authorities that the village does not want a repetition of a large number of travellers camping locally. Cllr Barker said that the landowner was within his rights to allow the recent event to be held on his land but APC would not like to see a similar event happening again either.
- Miss Ophelia Marshall asked if APC felt that the landowner would consult before agreeing to host another festival. Cllr Barker felt that it was unlikely Mr Hunt would want to host a future event following the disapproval locally and the fact that the borough council was very unhappy about the lack of notice given.
- Mrs Jean Marshall said Mr Hunt's lack of consultation before giving permission was very disrespectful. She observed that the travellers did not stay on the site and local people felt intimidated. Cllr Haslam said that there were only two specific incidents reported to the police – to which another resident responded that the word needed to be spread as to how to report crime as perhaps residents didn't know how to do this.
- Ms Sarah Hales wanted to know what had been done since the travellers had left. Cllr Barker said that APC had been in communication with RBC + the police. RBC are investigating whether the organisers had applied for their 'Certificate of Exemption' (they hadn't needed any particular licences for the type of religious festival held but they should have had a certificate issued); and whether Mr Hunt could be made responsible for any costs to the tax-payer incurred– eg extra policing; litter-picking. APC would be discussing any further action to take later in the evening's meeting.

### **17.077 Adoption of the minutes of the July meeting**

APC resolved to adopt the minutes; these were signed off by the chairman.

### **17.078 Planning**

#### **17/01642/FUL Vehicular access + gate, Speller Hill Farm, Cliffhill Lane**

No objection.

An extension for the parish council to comment in respect of application **17/01883/FUL** had been given by planner Mr Jeff Hall. Agenda item at the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Permission refused to **17/00969/OUT** for up to 90 dwellings off Old Grantham Road, Whatton.

### **17.079 Clerk's Report**

The report was received + noted by the councillors.

### **17.080 Whatton + Aslockton Playing Field**

Cllr Haslam reported that:

- The current focus is on the play equipment and the committee are in support of APC's intended bid to the SLC fund in the autumn.
- Committee member Mr Tim Moxey was looking into play equipment designs but had not been present at the last committee meeting so no further updates on the options.
- The committee have decided to approach to Archbishop Cranmer School to see if they want to be involved in the design of the play area and in future fund-raising.

### **17.081 Revision of Standing Orders**

The clerk said she had made a further couple of small alterations following changes in legislation. She had sought advice from the local Nalc office and will send the final version to the councillors by email. APC agreed in principle with the new extended version. A copy of the orders will be put on the website by the clerk.

### **17.082 TCC Committee**

Cllr Sharpe attended the latest committee meeting. He is happy from now on to liaise between the TCC and APC. He reported that there is not much of a programme of events in place for the autumn. There had been a change with 'Village Ventures' in that profit can no longer be kept by the venue so it will be less motivating to run these events in the future. The members of the committee are Mr Graham Harper (church-warden); Mr Graham Hancox (community representative); Mrs Mary Marsh (contact for room bookings); Mr + Mrs Rowe until they leave the village; Mr Keith Howard who is taking over finance from Mrs Sue Rowe. APC asked Cllr Sharpe to advise the committee that the parish council is supportive of increased advertising of the centre's facilities and events + the need for further recruitment to the committee.

### **17.083 Public Transport**

The new bus time-tables are available in the village; and soon to be so at Bingham Library.

#### **17.084 Severn Trent**

Following the site visit of Ms Ann Price, RBC's Environmental Health Officer and her contacting STW ; STW technicians are due to conduct further tests this week – a blockage is suspected.

#### **17.085 Travellers in Aslockton in July**

APC felt that under the circumstances RBC, the police, Borough Councillor Stockwood and parish councillors did what they could to monitor the situation as it unfolded. RBC + police officers visited the site several times during the week the travellers were camping.

Cllr Brown reported that she had attended the quarterly police priority setting meeting. The police representatives present had relayed the following information: no temporary event notice had been needed, nor alcohol or music related licences required. It is a travelling festival - the organisers don't tend to let it be known where they are going to turn up to avoid hostility when they arrive. The two incidents reported consisted of damage to a car and a report of fighting between the travellers. The organisers had appointed stewards and some litter pickers. On the first day entry to the site caused traffic congestion problems as lots of campers arrived at the same time.

APC agreed to wait for a reply from RBC's Mr Dave Banks and discuss a formal parish council response to that and a possible letter to Mr Hunt at the next parish council meeting.

#### **17.086 Review of Conservation Area**

The chairman suspended Standing Orders so APC could listen to a report from resident Mr Chris Smith. The latter explained that the Conservation Officer at RBC says Aslockton is getting near the top of the list for review but resources in his department are strapped. If the parish council + local history society could express their commitment to do some of the initial work this would speed up the process.

The current Conservation Area was defined ten years ago – it could possibly be extended councillors agreed. The clerk will email Mr Bate, the RBC officer, to say APC are happy to help and to ask for guidelines in how to proceed.

#### **17087 Village sign on Mill Lane**

The sign needs re-positioning. A quote had been sought by the clerk and was presented to the coouncil but was it felt to be expensive. The clerk was asked to seek further quotes.

#### **17.088 Purchase of a lap top as required by the transparency fund grant**

The clerk had begun thinking about the parish council's requirements and looking into what could be purchased. It was decided that although it could cut the cost down, buying a refurbished model was not ideal – better to purchase a new machine. Anti-virus software would be needed and the clerk felt Windows 10 should be on the machine. Microsoft Office could be purchased just the once and then moved on to a future laptop when the first one

reaches the end of its shelf life.

The discussion moved on to purchase of other office equipment. The clerk confirmed that when she applied for the grant she applied for funds to cover a laptop with software and a scanner as the council had none of these but all are considered necessary for the council to comply with the new transparency code.

### **17.089 Abbey Close Allotments**

The tenants of plot 16 agreed to APC's offer to have their rent waived for a period of four years in return for the tenants organising and paying for skip hire to take away the heap of carpet. The carpet was duly removed a couple of days after APC's last meeting.

APC noted again that the plastic sheeting had to be laid down over former plots 1, 2, 3 towards the end of the year.

APC noted that the Abbey Close site has been included on a google map of UK allotments. The clerk had passed on the email she had received from the compiler of the information to Mr David Rowe for the Mill Lane allotment site to be included if so desired.

### **17.090 Finances**

For payment:

Clerk's salary (take home pay) basic + training hours	£329.18
Pension Contribution (employee's £19.16 + employer's £51.21)	£70.37
Clerk's Working from Home Allowance	£83.50
Reimburse M Barker (bulbs + domain renewal)	£54.10
D Clifford & Sons – verge cutting	£283.10
Room Hire	Postponed
Invoice from RBC – litter bin + installation	£353.00

Proposer Cllr Marshall, Seconder Cllr Auckland

Statements of accounts - June and July 2017 – were approved.  
Proposer Cllr Sharpe, seconder Cllr Brown

The clerk informed the council that the external audit had been completed. She will upload the notice of completion + signed off section 3 of the annual return to the website.

The clerk was instructed by APC to scan all bank statements and email the pdfs to councillors ahead of a meeting; the chairman will print out one copy of each bank statement to be attached to the monthly financial statement which is signed off and archived in each financial year's audit file. The clerk checks the monthly bank statements against the ledger and files them for the internal auditor to see at the end of the financial year but parish councillors felt they should see evidence of what is happening themselves (only two councillors currently have access to APC's online banking and don't often log in).

NALC had recently raised with clerks the subject of the best way of dealing with the authorisation of bank transfers now most councils are operating online banking.

APC agreed that the clerk could find out how much it would cost to have an appropriately designed stamp made which could be used with invoices to save having a separate 'authorisation to make a bank transfer' sheet attached to them. Councillors would then just sign the once instead of twice per payment; there would be less printing required and less paperwork to store; and NALC feels it to be a more secure option as there is

no chance of any attached authorisation being mislaid.

### **17.091 Chairman's Business**

Reminded councillors that the local MP was holding a surgery in Aslockton on 15<sup>th</sup> August (the event had been publicised via notice-board; parish council website + flyers to households).

Regarding the footpath mentioned by Mrs Barker earlier in the meeting – it was agreed that the clerk will bring the matter to the attention of the footpath officer.

Cllr Barker has become aware that a resident has been filling up the street bins with recyclable waste. The bins are then overflowing until the next date when they are due to be emptied. Cllr Barker had drafted a letter which APC agreed the clerk would send on the council's behalf. The letter includes a sentence encouraging the resident to approach RBC who can provide additional household bins.

### **17.092 Councillors Reports**

Cllr Marshall reported that he continued to witness cars speeding along Abbey Lane.

Cllr Stockwood was asked at this point if she had anything to add as she was not in the meeting during the public session:

- Cllr Purdue-Horan was trying to speed up the resurfacing of the pavement along Cliffhill Lane (Cllr Auckland had mentioned at the last meeting that this has still not been done).
- Cllr Stockwood had recently agreed to give a grant to the local over 60s group and she asked APC to let her know of Aslockton based groups or project teams who may want to apply for money from her borough councillor fund.

### **17.093 Correspondence**

- Items of correspondence were received and noted.
- Information was either passed to councillors or will go on the notice-board/website.

### **17.094 Items for the September agenda**

Playing Field

Severn Trent

Travellers in Aslockton during July 2017

Review of the Conservation Area

Village sign on Mill Lane

Purchase of a laptop/other office equipment

### **17.095 Details of next meeting**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017, 7pm, at the TCC.