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Minutes of **MEETING of RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Wednesday 11th February 2009** at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of Renhold Village Hall.

PRESENT:- Parish Councillors Mr. Stewardson (Chairman), Mrs. Dean (Vice Chairman), Mr. Andrews, Mr. Slater, Mr. Gurney, Mr. Stapleton, County Cllr. Wootton, Borough Cllr. Harrison, the Clerk Mrs. Barnicoat & 8 members of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES:-** Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Brunsdon, Borough Cllr. Ellis

2. **NOTICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY:-** Mr. Locke had submitted his resignation to the Chairman, and will great sadness it was accepted after 25 years as a Parish Councillor. Notices of the vacancy have been displayed on the notice boards.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF PERSON AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST: -** None

4. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:-**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th January which had been circulated, were approved by those present and signed by the Chairman.

5. **MATTERS ARISING:-**

a) **Temporary Closures** – Bridleway No 26 from 9th February, Top End will be closed for two days between 16th and 20th February between 61 Brook Farm and 59 The Cottage. Church End 24hr closure commences on 23rd February for 5 weeks while the traffic lights are installed.

b) **Climate Change and Pollution Supplementary Planning Document** – as part of the Local Development Framework this was adopted in December 2008.

c) **Unitary proposed Capital spending** – The Norse Road Cemetery Improvements bid includes land drainage improvements, water supply improvements and provision of litter bins. The Extension of Norse Road Cemetery bid is to build infrastructure to extend the working life of the cemetery. The land on which the extension would take place already has planning permission for this purpose, it is not additional area that the public are not aware of. Notice received Rural Grants are going to continue.

d) **Parking along Church End** – Clerk liaised with School and next Governors meeting is 2nd March so recommendations will actively be pursued, noted to encourage parents input on the three ideas.

e) **Police Report** – In December there were two mobile speed checks completed on 18th December and one on 31st December, where three drivers were dealt with, crime figures showed one theft in December. In January, one theft from a motor vehicle, one burglary of a dwelling and two burglaries other were reported.

6. **OPEN FORUM:-**

Topic raised was school parking issue along Church End.

7. **HIGHWAYS:-**

a) **Traffic Regulation Order update** – Development Control Committee voted to accept the proposal of the Order for Renhold's part only, and to not pursue Ravensden's end. The Order has been granted authorisation by the Portfolio holder, and the calling back period is drawing to a close. Then the legal team at County Hall take 4 weeks to draft the final document which results in the Order becoming a traffic law. Highways were due to inspect and decide on where the signage is to be placed but this was postponed due to the adverse weather. Traffic counts and

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speeds along Hookhams Lane have been agreed by Highways and at no cost to the Parish Council, it has been finalised that these will take place the week after half term as if done any sooner the weather conditions would have caused inaccurate readings. The Clerk and Councillors had no received any feedback or questions from residents regarding the Order.

b) Area wide weight limit ban for HGV's update – Clerk circulated draft Council response to support the ban, due to the unsuitable rural lanes within the verge, the damage caused to verges, highways and properties from the vehicles. All agreed, and unanimously resolved to submit letter of support to restriction. Information to be circulated to residents also.

c) Reporting Highways issues within the village – Clerk had received a large number of issues to report, residents and Councillors encouraged to log concerns with the Helpdesk as and when things arise by phoning 228661 and to include in report for magazine.

d) Prohibition of parking on verges and footways – Clerk had looked into this as it was felt that in several areas verges and footpaths were being parked on and becoming potential hazards. Renhold is included in the area of prohibition; however, at present the funds are not available to enforce the law. The funds are due in May of this year then an individual will be employed to monitor parking specifically in rural areas. Clerk to enquire why signage is not visibly displayed at present.

8. COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS:-

Cllr. Harrison expressed delight that Rural Grants were continuing and urged the Council to submit applications. Only 30 working days till the new unitary so preparation for the handover is the priority at present.

Cllr. Ellis reported the Borough passed its inaugural Unitary Budget, as predicted, bills will rise by only 0.9% next year, well below the 3.5% average rise across England anticipated by the local Government Association.

It was also confirmed that there will be no cuts to former Borough or County services as the new authority presides over a massive cash injection of £25m to boost services in the Borough from 1st April and noted all Town Centre car parking prices will freeze for the first two hours of parking.

Councillors will shortly move into County Hall, however, it will not be possible for all areas of services to be housed under one roof at present and some of the providers will remain at the Town Hall but will be accessible to residents while others will be at County Hall. All Directors of key services have been appointed.

Cllr. Wootton stated County Hall will become know as Borough Hall, that budgets are being finalised and grass cutting grants will remain for the first year at least of the new unitary. Assurance given that recycling is being recycled and there had been a positive reaction to the increased items able to be recycled through the new orange bins.

9. REPORTS OF MEETINGS COUNCILLORS HAVE ATTENDED:-

a) Police Joint Action Group meeting – Cllrs. Stewardson, Dean and Gurney attended informative meeting. Items discussed included: 50% increase in speed checks being carried out, key individuals network feeding back from community to Police, '5 a day'. Renhold requested more speed checks along Ravensden Road and information given regarding a speed camera costing £3,000 that needs two individuals manning it that shows happy or sad faces informing motorists of their speed. PCSO Jones would like to hold an open afternoon securing number plates through the CAP's scheme and marking valuables if sufficient interest.

10. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: - PLANNING APPLICATIONS DECIDED:-

08/03261/FUL 34 Hookhams Lane alterations to existing dormers on rear roof slope – planning permission granted

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08/03111/FUL 58 Hookhams Lane erection of detached triple garage, garden machinery store, workshop and store. Porch extension to house. New garden wall to front boundary and crossover widened – planning permission granted

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:-

a) **09/0004/FUL** single storey extension to rear of property, extension to front of garage and new roof over at 27 Asgard Drive, application discussed and objection received from neighbour was circulated. Council felt that no objection to the principle of the application, however, would comment in agreement that matching building materials should be used.

OTHER PLANNING MATTERS: - None

11. WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE: - Circulated to all Councillors, following recommendations from BATPC to include within the Standing Orders, proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Stapleton that terms of reference be adopted with immediate effect, all agreed, resolution made.

12. FINANCE:-

Current Account £921.46 Deposit Account £16106.57 Transaction reports circulated.

a) **Rural Grant application for notice board** – the Grant was not awarded due to the Committee feeling that a notice board is the responsibility of Parish Council's and should be included within the precept.

b) **Available provision of expenditure up to new financial year, and expected balance bought forward to the start of the financial year commencing 1st April 2009** – Clerk circulated information with estimated balance bought forward would be approximately £14,000 which includes reserves, contingencies, church yard provision, along with savings bought forward from highways and the Clerk's salary. The figure allows for additional items if expenditure to be considered for the remainder of the current financial year.

c) **Litter Bins** – Ravensden Road bin is due to be completely be replaced shortly. It has been reported that the bin by the bus shelter is missing an insert, and suggestion that a bin is needed by the notice board in Cranborne Gardens. Due to available funds as shown in previous item, Environment Working Group to pursue and report back to Council recommendations.

d) **Local Council Administration book invoice** – Clerk had purchased on behalf of the Council the book, invoice totaled £55.86 proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Andrews that Clerk be reimbursed.

Agreed

e) **Grass cutting invoice** – invoice received for 'extra' areas with flat deck on 3rd December for £103.50, proposed by Cllr. Gurney and seconded by Chair that the invoice of £103.50 be paid.

Agreed

f) **Clerk's wages and expenses** – Clerk circulated time sheet, contracted hours presently 8 hours a week, however, due to extra work involved with the TRO it was proposed by Chair and seconded by Cllr. Stapleton that Clerk's wages of £575.18 be paid along with expenses for November, December and January of £93.03. All agreed, resolution made.

Agreed

13. CLEAN UP EVENT: - Clerk had been informed that Cllr. Brunsdon had booked an event for 11th April, it was agreed that this date should be publicised throughout the village.

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14. CHURCHYARD PROVISION:- Cllr. Stapleton unable to give an update as the rodding survey has not yet been carried out.

15. RIGHTS OF WAY FOOTPATH QUERY:- Chairman had received query over the state of bridleway No 9, awaiting a copy of a map detailing rights of way in the village. Clerk to contact Rights of Way Officer to log the bridleway needs clearing.

16. OPEN FORUM:- Topics raised included clarification of Police response to TRO, prohibition of parking on footpaths and verges, support for HGV ban, notice received of lorry damage to property.

17. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:-

Sports Club Grant

Once TRO implemented letter of thanks to be sent to Jon Shortland

18. CORRESPONDANCE AND INFORMATION RECEIVED:-

BCC – Proposed 7.5 tonne weight restriction on various roads including Renhold

BCC – Temporary Road Closure, Top End, Renhold

BCC – Temporary Closure of Bridleway No 26

BBC – Climate Change and Pollution Supplementary Planning Document

BBC – Rural Affairs Committee agenda 20th January

BCC – Consultation on School Admission arrangements for September 2010

BCC Recycle Now newsletter and launch of improved recycling programme

BBC – Pride in Bedford Awards 2009 nominations

BRCC Network magazine

Town and Parish Council Service Bulletin

Current Roadwork's Bulletin

Common tree magazine winter 2009 Road Victims Trust letter

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - Tuesday 17th March 2009 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed

Dated