

**07.01.09**

Minutes of **MEETING of RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 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, Mrs. Brunsdon, Mr. Gurney, Mr. Stapleton, Alistair Burt MP, Borough Cllrs. Harrison and Ellis, the Clerk Mrs. Barnicoat & 12 members of the public.

**1. APOLOGIES:-**

County Cllr. Wootton, Parish Cllr. Stewart, and Jon Shortland sent apologies.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSON AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST: -** Cllr. Andrews declared an interest in item 10. a) and Cllr. Slater declared an interest in item 11. i)

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

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November which had been circulated, were approved by those present and signed by the Chairman.

**4. MATTERS ARISING:-**

**a) Residents stopping vehicles** – Clerk received a request from Andy Thacker, Traffic Management Officer for Beds Police to circulate that ‘members of the public have no right in law to cause a vehicle to stop and interview the driver, likewise a driver is under no obligation to stop for such a person whether they are in reflective clothing or not. The Police would be concerned if this was going on due to the risk of lone female drivers being asked to stop, reacting badly and possibly being in an accident, potentially with the individual trying to cause her to stop.

**b) Confident Communities Fund** - Clerk received feedback survey, Highways Working Group to complete.

**c) Ravensden Road litter bin** – Clerk has placed raised an order for a new insert and it is due to be replaced imminently.

**d) Parking issues in Woodfield Lane** – Following Clerk reporting to Highways, they have inspected site and sent letter to resident about the overgrown shrubbery, notice received from Area Team Technician that work has been carried out.

**e) School Governors** – Clerk received notification that there is a vacancy for a Governor at the Lower School.

**f) Police Report** – no report received.

**g) BCC Farewell reception** – invite received to reception on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at County Hall.

**h) Register of Electors** – updated copies of 2009 Register received, Clerk placed relevant notice on main notice board.

**5. OPEN FORUM:-**

Resident requested that this item be moved to after agenda item 7. Parish Council resolved and agreed item could be moved.

**6. HIGHWAYS:-**

**a) Traffic Regulation Order update** – Cllr. Slater read a report to the Council, detailing all recent events (copy included at end of minutes). The Council discussed all aspects of potential outcomes, it was established that it would be difficult to know which solution would stop the high levels of through traffic in the village, and where displaced traffic would go. However, both in 2007, and the letters of support received regarding the TRO should a significant response from residents that action needed to be taken, and the

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Parish Council taking that into account voted unanimously, it was agreed and resolved to support the following recommendations:

1. That it supports the making of the prohibition of driving order at peak times on various roads in Ravensden and Renhold, but as relaxed by the Parish Council [see report attached at end of minute] and subject to the exemptions in the published draft.
2. That if the Ravensden element of the Order [Oldways Road] is not proceeded with then the remainder of the order should include restrictions in both directions and in both the AM and PM peaks along Church End – Green End.
3. That before and following implementation of the Order, traffic counts be carried out in Ravensden Road, Church End and Hookhams Lane, such that any unacceptable displacement of traffic within the village can be identified and addressed in further measures.
4. That the County Council / Unitary Council join with Parish Council in requesting that the Police undertake frequent speed checks on all through routes in Renhold.

Cllr. Slater was thanked for excellent report, along with help provided over recent weeks by the Clerk, other Councillors and members of the Focus Group relating to TRO correspondence.

**b) Area wide weight limit ban for HGV's** – request my Cllr. Gurney to read report from item 9.

a) as relevant to receive information before discussion. Cllrs. Gurney, Stapleton and Stewardson attended a meeting with County Cllr. Wootton and Jon Shortland from Highways to discuss the proposals of a blanket ban for HGV's from the Bypass through to the B660. The Police acknowledged that it is easier to police a larger area such as this, so are likely to support this. Existing companies with HGV's needing to access premises would be allowed to those premises as they would be included in the exempt section, as would any new companies wishing to start a haulage business subject to usual planning conditions. The Order is expected to be published mid January and would be discussed at the Development Control Committee meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March. The Council voted and it was unanimously agreed and resolved to support the published Order of a blanket HGV ban.

**c) Traffic light update** – confirmation had been received from Bedfordshire Highways that the installation of lights will commence on 23<sup>rd</sup> February at Church End, noted that the estimated cost of the lights would total £95,000 due to the moving of the electricity cable.

## 7. COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS:-

Cllr. Harrison reported that the Borough is quiet at the moment, receiving very few planning application and preparing for the forthcoming Unitary. Stated regarding the Traffic Regulation Order, welcomed the principle, however, concerns as to lateness of application with pending change of authority, and commented it being a shame that parishes are divided on the subject.

Cllr. Ellis welcomed and supported the proposal of an area wide weight limit ban, decrease in air pollution and safer roads. DEFRA have set up a scheme for asthma sufferers, whereby a daily air quality alert can be sent to an individual. Clerk to include in article for village magazine and to obtain more details.

**5. OPEN FORUM:** - Item moved to this part of agenda.

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Topic raised was regarding the proposed TRO

### **8. REPORTS OF MEETINGS COUNCILLORS HAVE ATTENDED:-**

**a) Meeting with Cllr Wootton and Jon Shortland regarding area wide weight limit ban** – see item 6. b)

**b) Church End parking meeting between Lower School and Village Hall** – Cllrs. Stewart and Andrews attended to facilitate the meeting where resolutions to the parking issues were discussed. The proposals of solution to the problem were: 1) compulsory purchase of land opposite school 2) workable footpath from Norse Road estates 3) pick up buses from Norse Road estates. Councillors praised the productivity of the meeting and Cllr. Andrews stated he would continue to attend any further meetings. Clerk to look into funding opportunities for 3) and liaise with the Lower School Head teacher. Cllr. Slater raised that land opposite School is included in the Bedford Development Framework list as a potential housing site, however, could include parking or play facilities. Section 106 agreements to ensure footpaths are suitable, may mean 2) is an option, Clerk to chase.

### **9. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: -**

#### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS DECIDED:-**

08/00641/FUL 75a Ravensden Road one and two storey rear extension – planning permission granted

08/02740/FUL 55 Asgard Drive one and two storey extensions to side and rear (additional parking space omitted by condition) – planning permission granted

#### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:-**

**a) 08/03353/FUL** Single storey front and rear extensions, two storey side extension to side at 10 Becher Close – (Cllr. Andrews had declared an interest so took no part in discussions) The Council felt that the application was in line with the area and properties nearby had already been granted similar permission. No objection.

The following planning applications were received since the last meeting:

**b) 08/03111/FUL** Erection of detached triple garage, garden machinery store, workshop and store, porch extension to house. New garden wall to front boundary and crossover widened at 58 Hookhams Lane. Although the Parish Council continues to be concerned at the scale of the proposals, and especially the widening of the already wide gateway, it recognises the implications of the Inspector's decision at appeal. The Parish Council notes the Inspector's comment regarding the development lying outside the SPA boundary and considers that this warrants consideration as a reason for refusal.

If the Borough Council is minded to grant planning permission, the Parish Council requests that consideration be given to three conditions.

1. That if the health of the tree at the gateway is affected within 5 years as a result of the development a suitable replacement shall be planted.

2. That the buildings approved under the permission shall be used only in connection with the residential use of the property and not for any form of commercial activity.

3. That the buildings approved under the permission shall not be used as residential accommodation without the prior approval of the local planning authority.

**c) 08/03261/FUL** alterations to existing dormers at 34 Hookhams Lane - there will be no impact on the street scene and the smaller dormer will enhance the view from the rear. The alterations will increase the usefulness of the rooms in the roof. No objection.

**d) 08/03207/LDE** use of premises as dwelling with no restriction on occupancy at Dairy Farm Cottage, St Neots Road - it is the Parish Council's understanding that this property, formerly part of a County Council smallholding, was an agricultural dwelling in a much smaller plot. The property is well outside the SPA for Renhold, but is an existing dwelling. The Parish Council would not

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wish to see an extended residential use of this land, but does not oppose the relaxation of the restriction, if it applies.

**OTHER PLANNING MATTERS:** - None

### 10. WORKING GROUP REPORTS:-

**a) Finance and Employment** – Cllr. Andrews reported on a of the FEWG, discussion included the Clerk's timesheet, layout of accounts folder, and documentation that would be sent to groups receiving grants that would include, a brief questionnaire, and explanatory letter requesting to meet in February. The brief of the Group for the forthcoming year was: opening up the opportunity for other groups to request grants from the Parish Council, potential avenues available for finance from elsewhere and the new unitary body for the Parish Council, and funding available for maintaining grass verges.

**b) Highways** – Cllr. Gurney reported that the annual highways satisfaction survey had been circulated with importance all being scored a 10 and the average of the level of satisfaction 5.4, the lowest scoring areas were drainage, resurfacing and kerb maintenance. Cllr. Gurney to complete and submit.

### 11. FINANCE:-

Current Account £1227.83      Deposit Account £19106.57      Transaction reports circulated.

**a) Final confirmation of Budget and Precept 2009/10** – Clerk had corrected previous errors and circulated corrected draft, after discussion it was concluded that the precept be reduced by £5,000 to £20,000 to continue to show the Council is looking at ways to keep expenditure down.

For information the provisional tax base (Band D equivalent properties) at November 2008 is £923.14

Proposed by Cllr. Andrews and seconded by Cllr. Gurney, all in favour, it was agreed and resolved that the precept be set at £20,000.

Agreed

**b) Previous Clerk's wages and expenses** – invoice received by previous Clerk for salary and expenses for October of £681.18 is due, proposed by Cllr. Brunsdon, seconded by Cllr. Dean that invoice of £681.18 be paid.

Agreed

**c) Grass Cutting** – invoice received by A R Worboys for full end of season grass cutting in October together with one cut of 'extra' areas within the village, totaling £747.30, and invoice for 'extra' cut completed November for £105.75, proposed by Cllr. Gurney and seconded by Cllr. Dean that the invoices totaling £853.05 be paid

Agreed

**d) BATPC membership renewal** – notice received that membership will be due for renewal in April, fee of £343.00 is due, as membership is not due immediately, item to be placed on March's agenda.

**e) War Memorial maintenance** – invoice received by Colin Norman for seasonal maintenance to War Memorial for £525.00, proposed by Cllr. Stapleton and seconded by Cllr. Stewardson that invoice of £525.00 is paid.

Agreed

**f) Clerk's wages** – Clerk circulated time sheet, contracted hours presently 8 hours a week, however, due to extra work involved with the TRO, 105 hours have been worked over 10 weeks. Proposed by Cllr. Stewardson and seconded by Cllr. Stapleton that Clerk's wages of £994.14 be paid.

Agreed

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**g) Parish Council grant information packs** – Clerk presented draft copy of proposed information pack including introductory letter and application form for potential grant applications. Cllr. Gurney proposed, and Cllr. Stapleton seconded that the grant information packs should be adopted when organizations apply for a grant from the Council.

Agreed

**h) Local Council Administration book** – Clerk had enquired into purchasing a book, however, the cheapest stockist would not accept a cheque, proposed by Cllr. Stapleton, and seconded by Cllr. Slater that Clerk purchase the book, and be reimbursed at next meeting.

Agreed

**i) Traffic Regulation Order administration expenses** – cost of printing information leaflet and letter for every household came to £145.00 (Cllr. Slater had declared an interest in the item, so took no part in the discussion) proposed by Cllr. Dean and seconded by Cllr. Brunsdon that Cllr. Slater be reimbursed £145.00.

Agreed

**j) CPRE membership renewal** – notice received that membership of £29.00 is due for renewal immediately, proposed by Cllr. Stapleton and seconded by Cllr. Gurney, that membership fees of £29.00 be paid.

Agreed

**k) Bus Shelter repairs** – invoice received from R. F. Locke of £108.00 for repairs carried out to bus shelter, proposed by Cllr. Stapleton and seconded by Cllr. Brunsdon, that invoice of £108.00 be paid.

Agreed

**12. CLEAN UP EVENT:** - Clerk had been informed of various available dates in February, April, May and June. Discussion concluded that February was too soon to gain sufficient awareness for, Cllr. Stapleton stated that Ravensden Road often regularly organise an event for that area, decided that therefore event should address other parts of the village. Environment Working Group to action.

**13. CHURCHYARD PROVISION:-** Cllr. Stapleton had enquired on current provision and been informed that there is sufficient capacity that will go beyond 2010, and that the area of land adjacent is being probed with steel rods to determine the suitability of the site, if that is approved the site will have enough capacity to last another 5 years it is expected. After survey, Cllr. Stapleton will report back to next meeting.

**14. NEW UNITARY CAPITAL SPENDING PLANS:** - Article in local press listing proposed spending, Clerk had received notification that Rural Grant Committee had placed a bid to Unitary for funds of £250,000 for the coming financial year, however, had received no clarification of if it had been successful. Discussion held and Clerk to write letter of support that Rural Grants need to remain as they are a very value resource, and to enquire and gain clarification over the capital funding that is stated for Norse Road Cemetery developments.

#### **15. CORRESPONDANCE AND INFORMATION RECEIVED:-**

Beds Police letter 26<sup>th</sup> November re speeding in Renhold

Beds Police letter 1<sup>st</sup> December re opposition of TRO

BBC – letter regarding budgets for the new Authority

Confident Communities Fund feedback form

BCC Farewell Reception letter

BBC State of the Borough debate leaflet

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Town and Parish Council Service Bulletin  
Standards Committee agenda and minutes 1<sup>st</sup> December  
Rural Affairs Committee minutes 11<sup>th</sup> November  
Current Roadwork's Bulletin  
Beds, Herts, Bucks, Highways Newsletter  
Beds Police Homewatch newsletter  
Countryside Partnership Bulletin  
Recycling newsletter  
CPRE Fieldwork magazine, Branch review, campaign update  
Register of Electors 2009  
Beds Domestic Abuse Services information leaflets  
Youth Opportunities – next round notification  
NALC magazine

Cllr. Gurney requested to see the letters received from the Police regarding speeding within Renhold, and regarding the Police's opposition to the TRO.

**16. OPEN FORUM:-**

Topics raised included Rural Grants, TRO, BATPC membership, traffic lights.

**17. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:-**

Churchyard provision update  
Litter pick  
BATPC membership – March agenda

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:-** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at 7.30pm  
Meeting closed at 10.00pm

Signed .....

Dated .....