

**29.07.09**

Minutes of **MEETING of RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009** at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of Renhold Village Hall.

**PRESENT:-** Parish Councillors Mr. Stewardson (Chairman), Mr. Slater (Vice Chairman), Mr. Gurney, Mr. Stapleton, Mrs. Dean Mr. Morgan, Mayor of Bedford, Borough Cllr. Carole Ellis, the Clerk Mrs. Barnicoat & 20 members of the public.

**1. WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN AND APOLOGIES:-** Mrs. Brunsdon, Mr. Andrews

**2. MAYOR OF BEDFORD:-** The Chairman welcomed Mr. Frank Branston to the meeting. The Mayor outlined principle areas that the Borough are currently focusing on and gave an update on the progression of the Council since the new unitary authority had commenced. Matters raised included potential change to a two tier education system, extra services provided by the Borough, parking charges and rural transport services. Members of the public raised topics including: ragwort, Lower School parking issues, highways concerns including A421 and HGV ban, rural grants, P3, Parish Path, Tree Warden services and maintaining equal focus on both urban and rural areas.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Branston, his assistant, and Cllr. Ian Clifton for their attendance and listening to the concerns of the Councillors and residents.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST: -** None received.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June which had been circulated, proposed by Cllr. Morgan, and seconded by Cllr. Stapleton to be approved, unanimously agreed, resolution passed and signed by the Chairman.

**5. MATTERS ARISING:-** None

**6. HIGHWAYS: -**

**a) Traffic Regulation Order and HGV ban implementation update** – information received that Cllr. Royden, Portfolio Holder for Highways, had placed a hold on the implementation of the recently approved HGV ban within the villages of North Bedfordshire, which included Renhold. Discussion centred on the legality of such a decision and how the process will now proceed, whilst review is carried out. Due to Cllr. Royden being on leave very few answers had been obtained to concerns initially raised. Cllr. Ellis and Clerk to pursue. It was also felt that clarification must be sought on any impact this review may have on the implementation of the TRO also agreed recently.

**b) Relocation of Vehicle Activated Sign in Church End update** – as Hookhams Lane preferred site, after discussion it was agreed that the Clerk to organise site meeting with Highways VAS Technician to discuss most suitable site. Following meeting, any potentially affected households to be consulted and any feedback received to be discussed at next meeting.

**7. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT: -** Cllr. Ellis reported that she was deeply concerned about the recent decision to put the HGV ban implementation on hold, and review to be carried out, assurance given this issue would be continually monitored. Other items raised included:

**29.07.09**

boundary review of electoral wards, Bedford Development Framework, School consultation and Ward Fund.

**8. REPORTS ON MEETINGS COUNCILLORS HAVE ATTENDED:-** Cllrs. Stewardson and Slater attended a recent Boundary Committee Electoral Review meeting which outlined that all new unitary authority's are being reviewed in relation to the current electoral ward boundaries, it was expressed this is not a review of parish boundaries. The consultation will begin shortly and the purpose is to establish the best grouping and equal representation of Councillors per electorates.

**9. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: -**

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS DECIDED:-**

09/00344/COU School House, 8 Top End change of use of old school building to single dwelling - planning permission granted

09/01026/FUL 17 Woodfield Lane single storey side and rear extensions and loft conversion – planning permission granted

09/01283/MAO renewal of outline planning permission 05/03325/OT for residential development, extension to adjacent cemetery and access to include new roundabout junctions on Norse Road – permit subject to planning obligation

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: - None**

**Local Development Framework sites additional information** – the consultation process has not commenced, however, a ninth site has been added within Renhold in Green End. All Councillors had been informed of the additional information added to some of the sites on the original list. Cllr. Slater noted that all the sites and associated information should be monitored in order to enable an informed response when the consultation period does commence.

**OTHER PLANNING MATTERS: - None**

**10. LOWER SCHOOL PARKING UPDATE: -** Clerk had forwarded letter to School and Village Hall Management Committee regarding meeting up to discuss progression. The School had expressed a wish to meet, and Clerk read response received from the Village Hall. (Cllrs. Stewardson and Stapleton declared an interest in the item, so took no part in the discussion of this agenda item) The Village Hall felt overall that such a meeting would not be productive. Discussion centred on other ways of resolving the issue, including usage of playing field in new development being better used as a new site for a school, the Council had included these comments in the last consultation. Also, following feedback from the Mayor, Andrew Prigmore to be consulted on what could be done to improve the surface of the highway outside of the school entrance.

**11. POLICY CONCERNING GUIDELINES FOR COUNCILLORS AND PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES IN RELATION TO THE CO-OPTION PROCESS: -** Cllr.

Stapleton stated that the content of the guidelines was a good outline of the process for all concerned, proposed by Cllr. Gurney that the two policies should be adopted by the Council and reviewed annually, seconded by Cllr. Morgan. All Councillors present unanimously agreed, so resolution passed.

Agreed

**12. COUNCILLOR VACANCY AND CO-OPTION UPDATE: -** Clerk noted that acknowledgement received from Borough that no formal election had been requested following the

**29.07.09**

advertisement of the vacancy. At present one resident had expressed an interest, and Clerk had circulated the candidate's letter of interest. Cllr. Stewardson proposed that as the three additional Councillor seats had been due to the enlargement of Norse Road that the Council should postpone co-option till next meeting when more candidates may come forward, seconded by Cllr. Morgan, all Councillors present agreed, Cllr. Stapleton abstained from the vote. Resolution passed.

**13. DOG FOULING BIN FOR CRANBOURNE GARDENS:** - following request from resident the Council felt after discussion agreed to support the installation of the bin in principle, however, the Finance committee should consider this item further and decide if the Council is in a financial position to purchase bin. Clerk to also look into other ways of securing funding for the bin through the Borough.

**14. OPEN FORUM:** - Topics raised included: co-option, dog fouling bin, Lower School parking, HGV ban announcement of review, notice boards and advertising within the village.

**15. CORRESPONDANCE AND INFORMATION RECEIVED:-**  
**Rights of Way Officer** – Zaria Bettles newly appointed Rights of Way Officer for Renhold, would like to attend next meeting and introduce herself and role.

- Bedford Development Framework – notice of publication of additional information
- Town and Parish Council Service Bulletin
- Current Roadwork's Bulletin
- Came and Co insurance documentation
- Standards Committee agenda for 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009
- Rural Affairs Committee minutes for 28<sup>th</sup> April 2009
- BRCC Newsletter
- Local Council Review magazine
- Fenland Leisure Projects brochure
- Bedford and MK Waterways magazine
- CPRE Living Countryside Awards email and campaign update
- Rural Housing Trust information
- Central Bedfordshire/Bedford Partnership Board information update
- The Big Lunch poster
- Articles on Energy Saving for newsletter
- Bedford Snap Dance poster
- NALC Leadership Academy flyer and awards for Local Councils
- Events around Bedfordshire email
- Faith and Ethnicity questionnaire
- Walking in Bedfordshire article

**16. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:-**  
Co-option update  
Village of the Year Competition

**17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** - Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009 at 7.30pm  
Meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed .....

Dated .....