

12.01.11

Minutes of **MEETING of RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Wednesday 12th January 2011** at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of Renhold Village Hall.

PRESENT:- Parish Councillors, Mr. Slater (Chairman), Mr Andrews, Mr. Gurney, Mrs. Dean, Mr. Stapleton, Mr. Leydon, Mr. McDougall, Mr. Bernard, the Clerk Mrs. Barnicoat & 6 members of the public.

1. WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN AND APOLOGIES TO BE RECEIVED: - Cllr. Slater welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were received and accepted from Borough Councillor Ellis and Mrs. Brunsden.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for the next item.

2. OPEN FORUM:- No public statements received.

The Chairman re-convened the meeting.

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

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:-

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th November had been circulated. The minutes were approved, unanimously agreed, resolution passed and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

5. MATTERS ARISING:-

a) Litter pick – it was noted that following the heavy snow the December litter pick had been cancelled.

b) Police report – Clerk had been informed by police that two crimes had been reported in the village in December and that anti social behaviour in the Spires Estate continues to be monitored and residents had been active in reporting suspicious incidents to help police gain intelligence.

6. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT: - Cllr. Ellis not present but report received detailing information regarding the Borough Council budget for 2011/12, the provision of a salt bin in Water Lane through the Borough Ward funding and the ongoing current police force consultation.

7. HIGHWAYS UPDATE: - The Clerk reported that continuing to pursue the gated entrance request and traffic data following recent survey with relevant Highways Officers. The Council had received request of information received from Bedfordshire Highways wishing to know the Council's concerns regarding speeding; Councillors discussed this in depth as the village has a number of needs and the various potential schemes that could be implemented by highways to help manage the problems. It was agreed to feedback the need for a 20 mile per hour zone in the village outside the school, reiterate the request for village gates, as well as request clearer signage within the village and extension of the current 30 mile per hour limit to up to the roundabout near the bypass. Councillors also discussed the potential use of a hand held speed gun that is available at an estimated cost of £1,150.00 and can be used by residents. It was unanimously agreed that the Council to pursue this and gather more information on the device and liaise with the police and neighbouring parishes.

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Councillors felt it was very important that the traffic problems experienced within the village continue to be reported and fed back to highways and the police, so officers are aware of the increasing number of issues.

8. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: - PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: -

a) Bedford Development Framework Climate Change consultation – information regarding this had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting, Cllr. Slater gave a brief background of the document and reported it is in regards to new builds. The Council agreed to respond selecting the option of ensuring a high standard of installation is required in new buildings.

b) Covanta application at Rookery South – updated information regarding the forthcoming Preliminary Hearing meeting was circulated and noted.

c) **10/03037/FUL** partial demolition, conversion and re-build of existing barns to form one new residential dwelling at Harrisons Hill Farm, Water Lane, Renhold – the Council discussed this application and received comments of support from neighbouring resident present at the meeting as presently the area is untidy and is susceptible to vermin. The Council were mindful that the application is not in the growth area, a Rural Key Service Centre, or a Settlement Policy Area, and therefore in principle should be refused as it creates a new residential property in the countryside. The Council may consider that an exception exists in this instance; however, it was felt that in order to ascertain this that the application be circulated around Councillors so greater consideration can be given. Initial comments included some concern that an element of the application is for.

OTHER PLANNING MATTERS: - None received.

9. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS COUNCILLORS HAVE ATTENDED:-

Cllr. Gurney attended the recent Police Joint Action Group meeting, it was reported that the three priorities had been targeted and reduced, items discussed included: the anti social behaviour on the Spires estate, parking on pavements van, crime mapping and ‘five a day’ visit, it was also noted that eight motorists had been fined for speeding on Ravensden Road recently.

10. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:-

The draft minutes of the recent meeting were circulated to all prior to the meeting; Cllr. Andrews reported on the discussions regarding budget consideration by the Committee, and supporting budgetary information had been circulated as well. It was highlighted that no notification had been received to date from the Borough regarding whether the parish would continue to receive a grass cutting contribution. The committee felt that as no assurance had been received the budget for grass cutting should not include a provision for a contribution being received. The committee also noted the Borough had estimated election costs for the parish if the election is contested to be in the region of £1,450 and £1,750, therefore the committee felt a provision of £1,750 be included within the budget. The committee also discussed the estimated carried forward figure with the expected expenditure to occur during the remainder of the current financial year. The reserve levels held and allocated funding provisions were considered in depth and Councillors were particularly aware of the budget cuts being carried out by the Borough Council as well so the greater responsibility that may be placed on the Parish Council in the coming year. The Finance Committee recommendation to full Council being the precept remain static at £18,000 for 2011/12, noting the parish is growing and that the estimated increased expenditure will be subsumed by the carry forward and the Council will not increase the level of reserves held.

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It was proposed by Cllr. Leydon that the Council set a precept of £18,000, seconded by Cllr. McDougall, unanimously agreed by all, resolution passed. Chairman and Clerk completed Bedford Borough precept request form.

The following outstanding invoices were presented (it was noted that all contained within budget for current year):

CPRE membership renewal due £29.00

AR Worboys final grass cutting season cut £605.13

It was unanimously agreed by all those present to pay the invoices presented, resolution passed.

11. BROADBAND SERVICES IN THE VILLAGE:-

Cllr. Slater reported that a resident had contacted him and alerted him to a BT campaign where residents could express interest in receiving a high speed service which could result in the upgrading of the local exchange. Information was detailed about the 'infinity' campaign and the Council thanked resident, Mr. Herkes, for bringing item to Council's attention and work in encouraging residents to sign up. It was discussed how a communication system could be set to alert interested residents efficiently, whilst being mindful of data protection legislation.

(At this point of the meeting Cllr. Leydon took leave)

12. CORRESPONDANCE AND INFORMATION RECEIVED:-

BBC Current Roadwork Bulletin

NALC Events Bulletin emails

CPRE Campaign email updates and awards presentation information

BBC Standards Committee meeting information

Institute of Groundsmanship email

Resident email regarding Water Lane salt bin request

Village magazine

Local Council Review magazine

Planning correspondence with Borough officers regarding recent applications in Renhold

BATPC membership renewal invoice and supporting items

Age Partnership email promoting services

BBC Local Transport Forum feedback from meeting held on 13th December

BBC Rural Affairs meeting information

Email regarding broadband services in the village

Joint Action Group minutes of last meeting

Play ground safety surface promotional email

Correspondence with BBC regarding Playbuilder funding for Cranbourne

Email regarding gritting and parish councils responsibilities

BBC email regarding member declaration of interests

Resident and police email regarding HGVs in the village

BATPC encouraging people to stand as Councillors in May elections

BBC creating a low carbon emission for the Bedfordshire area event email

Whats on at Bedford Museum promotional email

Renhold Charity Cottages correspondence, notices displayed and accounts received

2011 Census information email

Stevington PC request for assistance in responding to a planning application in relation to a traveller site in their village

BATPC information email regarding recent Localism Bill

Email from Highways regarding speed concerns in your parish

Email from insurers regarding snow and property damage for information

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Age Partnership promotional email
BBC letter regarding Bedford Development Framework climate change paper
IPC appointment of panel regarding Covanta application
CPRE membership renewal
Clerk's Champions meeting information
New electoral arrangement for the Borough complete documentation
Royal British Legion letter thanking Council for support
A R Worboys invoice for final grass cut of the season
BBC letter regarding charges and fees for naming of properties and streets
Komplan play brochure
CPRE Fieldwork magazine
British Legion party weekend information
Clerk's and Councils Direct magazine
BBC Litter pick dates
Resident correspondence regarding dog fouling concern in village

13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: -

Matters that arose during meeting to be included and Salph End telephone box.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - on Wednesday 23rd February 2011 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed

Dated