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Minutes of A MEETING of RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 6th January 2014 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of Renhold Village Hall.

PRESENT:- Parish Councillors, Mr. Slater (Chair), Mr. Andrews, Mr. Stapleton, Mr. Gurney, Mr. Leydon and Mrs. Brunsdon, Mr. McDougall, the Clerk Mrs. Barnicoat and 20 members of the public.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE TO BE RECEIVED: - Cllr. Slater opened the meeting. Mrs. Dean, Borough Councillors Ellis and Moon had sent apologies for absence, these were accepted.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS:-

There was a declaration of interest received for agenda item 8.c) from Cllr. Andrews, however, no further declarations of interest were received.

It was unanimously agreed to bring forward agenda item 7.a) to this point of the meeting due to the large amount of members of public present with an interest in this item.

7. HIGHWAYS MATTERS WITHIN THE VILLAGE: -

a) Feedback following leaflet distribution to residents concerning the Traffic Regulation Order enforcement – there had been four residents who had contacted the Parish Council expressing their concern over the TRO following the distribution of the leaflet. A member of the public presented the Parish Council with a petition of over 100 residents in objection to the TRO stopping them as residents driving through the village. The Council asked the residents for feedback and items raised by residents included: the TRO should be revoked, there should be an increase in traffic calming measures, the TRO should be extended to a 3pm start time, the TRO should be extended to the whole village and that it impedes on residents freedom. The Parish Council gave a summary with Cllr. Leydon giving the background of events from 2002 going back to the bypass planning through to the former County Council proposals. The Council agreed to feedback the resident concerns and that the Parish Council would liaise with the Borough and Police Officers to ask if local residents can be exempt from the TRO restrictions.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for the next item.

3. OPEN FORUM: -

No topics were raised.

The Chairman re-convened the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:-

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th 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:-

The Village Hall Management Committee representative was discussed, it was noted that the Council hoped to appoint a member in spring 2014.

Other items to be covered during the meeting.

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6. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT: - No report had been received, it was requested that the Clerk email the Parish Council meeting dates to Cllr Phil Merryman.

7. HIGHWAYS MATTERS WITHIN THE VILLAGE: -

a) Feedback following leaflet distribution to residents concerning the Traffic Regulation Order enforcement – this item had been covered at the start of the meeting.

b) Initial cost considerations for average speed cameras in the village update – it was noted that the Parish Council are still awaiting receipt of a letter from the Borough Council with notification that average speed cameras for the village have been secured and will be programmed in for installation in the financial year 2014/15.

c) Other highways matters update - the Parish Council had received some feedback about the location of village gates at some entrances to the village following Cllr Gurney contacting the Borough Council with the suggestion of some locations. The Water End location had been agreed by the Borough Officer, there were some potential restrictions to the proposed site on Ravendsen Road so it was agreed that a site meeting to take place to discuss the location on Ravendsen Road.

8. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: -

a) Communications received between meetings regarding possible planning applications at The Spires and 63 Wilden Road – there had been communications received between meetings from planning consultants regarding proposed planning applications in the village at 63 Wilden Road and an extension to the Aspire development. The consultants for 63 Wilden Road had indicated they wished to attend the February Parish Council meeting. The consultants working on the Aspire development have had initial pre-application discussions with Bedford Borough Council regarding increasing the number of houses on the site which has outline planning permission for sports pitches, and extending the site beyond the bridleway to locate the sports provision in this area. The planning consultants in regard to the Aspire site has asked for a meeting with the Parish Council, this was considered in detail and it was felt that the Councillors would be better informed if they had a meeting with developers, with the Clerk present to take meeting minutes. It was agreed that the Clerk to invite the consultants for Aspire to a pre-meeting with recorded minutes ahead of the full Council meeting on 17th February, with an invite to also attend the Parish Council meeting.

b) 13/01243/FUL change of use of existing public house to residential and erection of two detached houses with detached garages and parking at Three Horseshoes, 42 Top End – there is no update regarding the appeal.

c) 13/02203/FUL single storey front extension and one/two storey side extension at 10 Becher Close – the Council considered this application and had no objection.

d) 13/02402/FUL single storey side extension to log cabin to provide a separate bedroom at Plot B Water Lane – the Council had no objection in principle to this application on the grounds that the restricted occupancy of the unit applied.

e) Other planning matters of interest such as notice of any decisions – the Council had received notification that the application for conversion and extension of outbuilding to form dwelling at 33 Top End, following refusal by the Borough Council has been taken to appeal by the applicants.

The Clerk had also circulated in the correspondence folder the latest planning permissions on Hookhams Lane and what planning has been granted.

The Council noted that there is a Borough Council Planning Workshop scheduled shortly if anyone would like to attend. A communication regarding the work on the new Local Plan for 2032 had been circulated, along with a letter regarding an economy and employment land study that the Borough Council are undertaking.

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9. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY UPDATE: -

It was noted that no election has been called, the Clerk to place an advert in the next newsletter article to inform residents that there is a vacancy.

10. VILLAGE MATTERS: -

a) Preventative measures following the recent illegal encampment on Cranbourne Gardens update – the Parish Council had agreed to contribute £500 towards this work which had been feedback to Borough Officers and acknowledged, the Borough Councillors Ward Fund would also be donating a further £500 towards this work.

b) New bus timetable and Route 27 feedback – Cllr McDougall had met with Grant Palmer with feedback circulated to Councillors, there are revisions to the timetable and the buses are now more regular it was reported. Teresa Moon, Village Agent has raised concerns with Salph End losing part of their service and is working on improvements to this part of the village service.

c) Salt bin provision in Water Lane – the Clerk had been informed that the cost for the salt bin to be purchased and located, full of salt is £250, the Council unanimously agreed to approve this to be ordered and placed in the previous location.

d) Superfast Broadband update regarding the Borough scheme – there had been some concerns expressed from a few residents regarding the lack of service in Renhold, a resident had come forward with information on an independent company who will provide a transmitter if sufficient sign up locally. The resident to forward an article to the Clerk for inclusion within the next village newsletter.

11. FINANCE MATTERS: -

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

Barnicoat Ltd clerking service November and December £412.70x2

A R Worboys grass cutting services £729.24

Colin Norman War Memorial maintenance £550.00

It was noted on the transaction report the bank have processed in error a payment of £500 which was immediately refunded by the bank.

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

The Council considered the parish precept for 2014/15, the estimated carried forward figure with the expected expenditure to occur during the remainder of the current financial year had been circulated and noted VAT refund of approximately £500 claimed for recently as well. The reserve levels held and allocated funding provisions were also considered in depth along with the known changes to the way in which council tax bases for the precept are to be calculated.

It was unanimously agreed that the precept contribution per household remain static with a precept of £17,352 for 2014/15.

12. CORRESPONDANCE AND INFORMATION RECEIVED: -

It was noted that the s137 limit is £7.20 per elector

BBC Current Roadwork Bulletin

NALC Events Bulletin emails

CPRE Campaign email updates and Countryside Voice magazine

Age Partnership email promoting services

BBC Rural Affairs meeting information

Lloyds bank statements

BBC Planning weekly list email

Major Roadwork's bulletin list

Village newsletter copy

Online playgrounds promotional information

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BBC Consultations update of the current documents being reviewed
Came and Company Parish Matters newsletter
Grant Palmer communication regarding bus service in the village
BBC Parish Precept information
BBC Letter regarding the handling of Standards matters – the Council agreed to respond that this to remain unchanged
63 Wilden Road planning proposal information circulated
Resident concern regarding the implementation of the Borough’s broadband scheme and that Renhold will not be benefiting
BBC email regarding new ways to reach residents
BATPC Council Tax Support Grant update
Clerks Champions meeting information
BATPC notification regarding the recoverability of VAT is under scrutiny
A R Worboys change of contact details email
Resident communication regarding missing salt bin from
Communications from developers at Norse Road regarding Spires Estate and potential changes to development area
BATPC Strategic Plan
BATPC membership fees for 2014/15
Hookhams Lane planning matters and current status of applications
BBC copy of committee meeting dates for the Council
BBC final published copy of the Allocations and Designation Local Plan
Crime stats data – to be noted at meeting
Communications fro residents following the TRO leaflet round the village
Email from resident requesting being added to the circulation list
Notification that 33 Top End application has gone to Planning Inspectorate for appeal
S137 expenditure limit for 2014/15
BBC Draft Statement of Licensing Policy consultation
Asgard Drive protection measure contribution agreed of £500 from Warf Fund
Local Council Review magazine
Cecil Higgins museum information booklet
BBC letter regarding Orbit homes appeal has been withdrawn regarding s106 application
Bedford Borough new poster
CPRE membership card received
CPRE magazine
BRCC network magazine
Beds and Luton Resilience Forum information
BBC letter Economy and Employment Land Strategy

13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: -

Matters that arose during meeting to be included.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - on 17th February 2013 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed

Dated