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Minutes of A **MEETING of RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Monday 17th February 2014** at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of Renhold Village Hall.

PRESENT:- Parish Councillors, Mr. Slater (Chair), Mr. Andrews, Mr. Stapleton, Mr. Gurney, Mrs. Brunsdon, Mr. McDougall, Borough Councillors Moon the Clerk Mrs. Barnicoat and 11 members of the public.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE TO BE RECEIVED: - Cllr. Slater opened the meeting. Mr. Leydon, Mrs. Dean, and Borough Councillors Ellis 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 9.d) from Cllrs. Stapleton and McDougall in regards to the Sports Club, no further declarations of interest were received.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for the next item.

3. OPEN FORUM: -

There was a presentation from two planning consultants in regards to proposals at 63 Wilden Road, the Council were shown sketch plans and elevations of a single very high specification low rise dwelling retaining the maximum number of existing trees on site together with a wildflower meadow to the rear of properties on Wilden Road and Church End. It was also detailed that there perhaps with a lake to dispose of surface water that currently runs onto Church End. Initial comments were made from the Council that in order for consistency in the way the Council may respond if a formal application is made it is likely the comments would be inline with local planning policy which would object to backland development and a proposal in open countryside. It was highlighted that the proposal is of an innovative nature so when a formal application is received the Council would be mindful of this. It was confirmed that the existing bungalow dwelling at this site would remain.

A member of the public detailed that a resident who is a wood carver had agreed in principle to provide the labour for a village sign for free, the Parish Council detailed that they would need to see a full design including the costings before a formal decision could be made. The Council welcomed a proposal to be brought to a future meeting.

The Chairman re-convened the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:-

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 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.

It was noted that the police report had been circulated which had detailed that there had been 6 crimes reported in the last month.

Other items to be covered during the meeting.

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6. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY UPDATE: -

It was noted that there had been one expression of interest received to date from a resident which the Clerk is following up.

7. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT: - Cllr. Moor reported that in regards to the programme to upgrade broadband across the borough, the village has not deemed to qualify for this work, however, the actual experience in the village is that there is an issue with the limited service. Cllr. Slater will be attending the forthcoming Town and Parish Network meeting to hear the presentation on this subject. It was noted that the Black Cat roundabout works are now not likely to start in April so the scheme will realistically be delayed. The average speed cameras in Milton Ernest appear to be displacing the traffic so there are reports of more traffic in the local area now.

8. HIGHWAYS MATTERS WITHIN THE VILLAGE: -

a) Follow up from previous meeting in regards to resident concerns regarding the Traffic Regulation Order – initial feedback the Clerk had received from the Borough Council was that it would not be possible to have residents excluded from the Traffic Regulation Order restriction, nor would it possible for the TRO to be extended to be village wide. The Clerk was actioned with pursuing a full written explanation from the appropriate Highways Officer to clarify the initial response received. The Clerk had also been informed that comments that had been reported by a member of the public from Cllr Royden, were not accurate.

b) Average speed cameras in the village update – The Parish Council had received a letter from the Borough Council with notification that average speed cameras for the village along Church End through to Top End have been secured and will be programmed in for installation in the financial year 2014/15. The Parish Council agreed that it is important to continue to pursue that average speed cameras are installed at Ravensden Road as well.

c) Feedback from site meeting regarding village gates at Ravensden Road - Following the site meeting to discuss the location on Ravensden Road of proposed village gates, after the Parish Councillors met with the Highways Officer from the Borough Council it was felt it would be more beneficial for ‘dragons teeth’ to be painted on the road instead of village gates. Such markings give the illusion of the road narrowing and this was felt would have a greater impact in reducing speed, this option also to be looked at whether it is possible at the entrance to Hookhams Lane.

d) Other highways matters update - a new salt bin had been installed, and regular contact is being maintained with Grant Palmer in regards to the village bus service. The Parish Council had also received an invite from BRCC to discuss transport needs in the village.

9. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: -

a) Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 public consultation response to be agreed – Cllr. Slater had drafted a response to the public consultation, the Councillors thanked Cllr. Slater for his hard work and agreed that the response to be submitted by the Clerk.

b) 14/00170/FUL proposed new access and drive with dropped kurb at 63 Wilden Road - the Council note that there is already an adequate access for the current dwelling, there is currently no proposal on the adjacent land therefore they feel it is premature to create a separate access.

c) 14/00052/FUL single storey front extension and garage conversion, creation of additional parking space at 55 Asgard Drive - the Council has no objection in principle, however, wishes to comment that the plans are very unclear with lots of red markings over the drawings which are not explained. The proposal would remove a significant amount of planting between numbers 55, 53 and 51, the Council is concerned that the 0.2m gap at the narrowest point is insufficient. The

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Council are also concerned at the impact this alteration will have on 51 and 53 so it is important for the Borough Council to take into account any comments they have.

d) 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 outcome, however, the Parish Council were aware that the Inspector had visited the site. It was noted that the land registry have confirmed that the access to the Sports Club field is a right over the land at the side of the site.

e) Other planning matters of interest such as notice of any decisions – the Council noted that the application at 9 Top End for a replacement dwelling had been approved by the Borough Council, with the application for the detached garage at this site having been withdrawn..

There was an update given at this point of the meeting, the Parish Council had met with the planning consultants and developer of the Orbit site, off Norse Road with the Clerk in attendance to take minutes. The proposal is to construct 38 houses, some housing association, on the site of the playing field and to construct a new playing field beyond the bridleway. As the Parish Council previously had not seen the point of the playing field they had previously raised no objection to its loss to housing. The Council would though be against the relocation of the playing field beyond the bridleway. The consultants and developer explained the concept of the ASPIRE development is new, even unique, and has been discussed in the House of Lords. Essentially the whole development is tantamount to a gated development, without gates. Orbit will retain ownership of the whole estate and will be responsible for management of the roads and open spaces, private houses will pay an annual management fee to ORBIT, and ORBIT will be the housing association managing that element. There will be an on-site manager, whose office will be in the playing field pavilion. Following discussion with the Borough Council, the playing pitch is now a junior pitch, without floodlighting, and will be managed for the wider community, i.e. Goldington etc. The pavilion will be designed to be low rise, with a sloping green roof facing Church End.

The Council pointed out that they are still waiting to see the S106 benefits such as improvement to the footpath and bridleway, and ASPIRE advised that the funds were with the Borough for them to do the works, and that a new S106 had been signed in November. ASPIRE also informed us that a playing field such as they propose is acceptable development in open countryside under current planning legislation. The Parish Council will await to receive a formal application which is expected shortly.

10. VILLAGE MATTERS: -

It was noted that the preventative measures following the recent illegal encampment on Cranbourne Gardens had now been installed. It was also added that Persimmon the former developers of the site were still not responding to emails regarding the transfer of the site, and the Parish Council also noted the temporary closure of footpath 23 had been extended.

11. FINANCE MATTERS: -

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

Barnicoat Ltd clerking service January £495.24

Bedford Borough Council preventative measures at Cranbourne Gardens £500.00

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

The Council had also received confirmation of a VAT refund totalling £549.39.

The Clerk had submitted the parish precept for 2014/15 on time.

A local company had contacted the Council regarding the grass maintenance for the year ahead, it was felt given the current time of year so close to the start of the season that the Council would continue with the services of A R Worboys based on previous experience and knowledge of the village and the prices they had quoted for the year.

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12. CORRESPONDANCE AND INFORMATION RECEIVED: -

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
BBC Consultations update of the current documents being reviewed
Came and Company Parish Matters newsletter
Resident communication regarding 63 Wilden Road sale of the property
A R Worboys quotation for this year
Contact from a local contractor asking to quote for the grass cutting contract
Ordering of the salt bin on Water Lane
Crime stats data – to be noted at meeting
Email from resident requesting being added to the circulation list
Councillor vacancy expression of interest
BBC strategy on sports pitch maintenance welcoming information
BBC Scrutiny Committee work programme for the year
Copies of presentation from Planning Workshop at BBC
Resident email regarding the dog signs to be placed up
BBC Town and Parish Network Meeting 18th February
BBC notice of temporary closure of footpath 23
BATPC email regarding local government finance settlement
Communications regarding the Planning Inspector dealing with The Three Horseshoes and conduct during site visit
Neville Jephcote information on transport survey and wanting to meet up with some Cllrs
Notification that Great Denham becoming a neighbourhood area
Broadband in Renhold article for the village newsletter
Mr Burt MP email about broadband in NE Beds

13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: -

Matters that arose during meeting to be included.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - on 27th March 2013 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed

Dated