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Minutes of **MEETING of RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL** held on Thursday 8th January 2015 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room of Renhold Chapel.

PRESENT:- Parish Councillors, Mr. Slater, Mrs. Brunsdon, Mr. Stapleton, Mr. Gurney, Mrs. Dean, the Clerk Mrs. Barnicoat, and eleven members of the public.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE TO BE RECEIVED: - Cllr. Slater welcomed everyone to the meeting thanking everyone for attending. All present spent a moment remembering Borough Councillor Carole Ellis who sadly recently passed away. Parish Councillors Stuart Andrews and Jim Leydon, and Borough Councillor Moon had sent apologies which were accepted.

2. JOHN OLDFIELD, FROM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD, IN ATTENDANCE:- John Oldfield was in attendance to talk about the responsibility the IDB have regarding in particular Renhold Brook as well as other local watercourses. The work undertaken to the Brook was outlined, and the consultation that takes place such as with local planners to ensure that new developments do not cause future management issues with the local watercourse. An example, of this was given with The Aspire estate and the inclusion of two balancing ponds to allow the watercourse to be managed appropriately. There was a lot of information given on how the IDB have a duty to protect protected species, such as water voles, which it was noted are known to live along the Brook.

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS:- Cllr Dean declared an interest in a planning application relating to Hookhams Lane, there were no further declarations of interest received for the meeting.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for the next item.

4. OPEN FORUM: - Matters raised included, a question regarding the future management of the pitch and pavilion facility due to be built at the Orbit homes site as well as a concern over the Parish Council comments on such applications not being listened to by the local authority when they determine applications. The Chairman re-convened the meeting.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:- The minutes of the meeting held on 4th November had been circulated. The minutes were approved, unanimously agreed, resolution passed and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

6. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT
No report received.

7. MATTERS ARISING:-
A Police report had been received.

8. HIGHWAYS MATTERS WITHIN THE VILLAGE: -

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a) Average speed cameras in the village feedback from site meeting with Councillors –

There had been a site meeting with Parish Councillors, and Highways Officers in attendance to view a street light demonstration so that Councillors could see the type of light that would be installed at the average speed camera location point, The light it was noted is very direct on the part of the road that is needed to be illuminated so that the camera can read the vehicle number plate. There will be three cameras installed as part of the scheme in the village, one at the Wilden Road/Church End junction at the start of the TRO, one at the Top End side of the traffic lights by the church, and a further camera at the Green End entrance to the village. The scheme designs are being finalised and will be available for comment on in due course with implementation expected in the summer. It was noted that Bedford Borough Council are considering an average camera scheme on Ravensden Road for 2015/16, the Parish Council had previously agreed that a scheme should be implemented for this part of the village as well. The Parish Council then agreed that they would make a financial contribution to a scheme and this feedback to be made to the Borough Council.

b) Update on double yellow lines on Church End bend - There was an update given on the parking restriction lineage for Church End at the bend, there had been some objections received, which it had appeared were due to some miscommunication. The Council agreed to continue to support the introduction of yellow lines around this bend, Clerk to feedback to the Highways Officer.

c) Other highways matters in the village – There were further updates given regarding the recent Community Speed Watch activity in the village, there would need to be a follow up regarding the village gates installation following the average camera site location meeting as the extension to the speed limit may impact on the site of the gates. There was also some missing highways signage in the village noted that needs to be reported by the Clerk. Between meetings there had been a resident who had communicated their concern with the parking and highway issues outside the school, a response had been sent. There had also been a query raised regarding the Ravensden Road bus stop which had not been upgraded like the other stops in the village as part of the Borough Council's recent improvement programme, the Clerk had followed this up.

9. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: -

a) 14/02109/LBC replace felt flat roof with lead covering to rear of house at Top End Farm Cottage, 1A Top End - the Parish Council have reviewed the plans and have no objection to this application.

b) 14/02962/FUL single storey front extension and garage conversion to create larger dining area and store at 85 Thor Drive - the Parish Council have reviewed the plans and have no objection to this application.

c) 14/03012/COU change of use from paddock to residential at Hill Barn Farm, Water Lane - the Parish Council have reviewed the plans and have no objection to this application.

d) 13/0313/FUL single storey rear extension at Hill Barn Farm, Water Lane - the Parish Council have reviewed the plans and have no objection to this application.

e) 14/03024/REM reserved matters relating to Oddacres 39A Hookhams Lane - Cllr Dean declared an interest this item, the Parish Council have reviewed the plans and have no objection to this application.

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f) Bedford Borough Local Green Spaces public consultation – Councillors were reminded that this consultation is out at present and the Council will wish to respond with possible areas in the village that they feel should be considered to be a Local Green Space.

g) Other planning matters of interest such as notice of any decisions between meetings – It was noted that Councillors would be meeting with Borough Council Planning Policy Officers on 21st January to discuss the Local Plan 2032. There was concern raised that there are some signs on a local landowners land regarding Section 31A of the Highways Act, Cllr Harrison clarified for those present what this may be regarding. The Clerk was asked to seek clarification from the local authority regarding these notices and whether there will be a restriction of use by locals for example no longer able to access some of the local paths they have been suing for a number of years.

It was noted that there was a planning application received between meetings regarding Ladyfield Cottage, there had been no objection to the application as it is not visible from the road.

There had also been circulated a copy of the local authority briefing on affordable houses local planning policy which was noted.

There was contact from the applicant of a planning application at 63 Wilden Road, asking for the Council to send a representative to the Planning Committee meeting. Councillors discussed this matter, the parish Council had been supportive of the application and it was felt that if the Officer recommends refusal for the application then a Councillor could make representation at the Committee meeting. The Clerk to ask the Officer for a copy of their report ahead of the committee meeting so all Councillors could view the document and a statement be agreed for a Councillor to read out.

10. VILLAGE MATTERS

Under village matters it was discussed that there had been a site meeting and an update was given regarding the progress of the footpath due to be installed between the Spires estate and Church End as well as need for greater signage in general along the footpath by Cranbourne Gardens. Cllrs Gurney and Harrison had met with the Rights Of Way Officer, Phill Fox, to discuss the progressing of the path, noting that there are still some uncertainties over the length and the materials for the path to be made from, however, part of it will be an all weather surface.

It was noted that the roads in the Cranbourne Gardens development have now been adopted by the Borough Council.

There had been a public notice in the paper regarding a change to the licensing conditions for the Polhil Arms, the Clerk to seek clarification on.

There had also been an idea put forward for there to be a village website and those present felt this would be good idea and suggested the interested individual attend a future meeting.

The Council had received notice that the diversion of Footpath 23 remains in place.

11. FINANCE MATTERS: -

The following outstanding invoices were presented (it was noted that all contained within budget):
Barnicoat Ltd clerking service November and December £876.19

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

The Council considered the parish precept for 2015/16, the estimated carried forward figure with the expected expenditure to occur during the remainder of the current financial year had been circulated. The reserve levels held and allocated funding provisions were also considered in depth along, it was unanimously agreed that the precept contribution per household remain static with a precept of £18,479 for 2015/16.

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The Council then discussed the Village Magazine grant, having received an application form for funding and copy of the accounts ahead of the meeting, it was unanimously agreed that a donation of £2,076 be made to the Village Magazine, resolution passed.

It was also discussed that the Council had received a notice of change to Barnicoat Ltd charges for the clerking service, the Council reviewed this and noted the figures had been included within the drafted budget and it was unanimously agreed to continue with the service for a further two years at the new fixed price.

The Council then considered an appropriate level of financial contribution to make towards the Ravensden Road average speed cameras project, it was agreed that a level of £2,500 be allocated to such a project and the Clerk to notify the Highways Officer.

It was also noted that between meetings the Council had been issued with a water bill from Anglian Water regarding the War Memorial water supply, and that there had also been a credit note issued for the exact amount as the bill, so no action to take.

12. QUALITY STATUS CHANGES TO THE SCHEME:-

NALC had issued a letter to all Quality Council's, it was noted that the Council did have the option of renewing its status under the new scheme free of charge up till January 2016 at the Foundation level, it was agreed that the Clerk to respond expressing that the Council wishes to continue till January 2016 on the Foundation level.

13. CORRESPONDANCE AND INFORMATION RECEIVED: -

BBC Current Roadwork Bulletin (Renhold not included)

NALC Events Bulletin emails

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

Crime stats data

Thank you letter for British Legion donation

Letter notifying withdrawal of application at Hill Farm Barn, in Water Lane for change of use from paddock to residential and erection of swimming pool

Cllr Brunsdon email regarding Cranbourne Gardens bridleway path signage to be an agenda item

Email inviting Councillors to site meeting to look at the average speed camera options to all and meeting arranged

Email communication from Officer regarding Rights of Way path improvements from Spires Estate

BBC Email about requesting copies of full electoral register

Parking restrictions at Church End communications from residents and Officer

BBC Local Green Spaces public consultation notification

BBC email regarding seasonal vegetation clearance in the parish

Churchyard maintenance donation clarification

BBC Clerk Champions October meeting notes

BATPC Final salary agreement

Email regarding having a village website

Spires NHW group thank you email for getting their article into the magazine

Communication with applicant regarding 9 Top End

Church End proposed parking restrictions letter of objection

A421 Southern bypass resurfacing works

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Magazine grant application

Resident email regarding parking problems at the school

Gypsy and Traveller consultation

Email to confirm Notice of Adoption of Estate Roads, Norse Road Phase 1, Bedford (Persimmon Homes)

Bus stop feedback from resident

Anglian Water bill

14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: -

Matters that arose during meeting.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - on 5th March 2014 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 10.30pm

Signed

Dated