

**22.07.15**

Minutes of **MEETING of RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015** at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of Renhold Village Hall.

**PRESENT:-** Parish Councillors, Mr. Gregory, Mrs. Quince, Mr. Slater, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Gurney, Mrs. Dean, Borough Councillors Anthony Forth, Stephen Moon and Sheryl Corp, the Clerk Mrs. Barnicoat and nine members of the public.

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE TO BE RECEIVED: -**

Cllr. Slater opened the meeting with a minute silence in memory of Ernie Stewardson who sadly had recently passed away.

Cllr. Slater welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending; Mrs. Brunsdon, Mr. Polhill and Mr. Leydon had sent apologies for absence, these were accepted.

**2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS:-**

There were no declarations of interest received.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for the next item.

**3. OPEN FORUM: -**

Items raised included concerns over the footbridge off Brickfield Road which is in need of attention and the handrail along Footpath 12 needs checking, the Clerk to report.

The Chairman re-convened the meeting.

**4. REVIEW OF COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES: -** Those present agreed that a Highways and Finance Committee be appointed, with the Highways Committee membership to be: AG, MD, SH, AG and AQ. The Finance Committee to be IS and AG, with the absent Councillors to be asked for their preference, this committee structure was agreed.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June had been circulated. The minutes were approved, unanimously agreed, resolution passed and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

**6. MATTERS ARISING:-**

The Clerk had sent a letter to former Councillors, Ian McDougall, Jim Stapleton and Stuart Andrews thanking them for their time and support as Councillors.

The Annual Report had been printed and to be circulated to the village.

Other items to be covered during the meeting.

**7. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT: -** Cllr. Forth reported that footpath improvement work will be going ahead shortly between the Spires estate and the Polhill Arms as well as up to Church End. There has also been a petition for free school transport to Alban from the Norse Road estates which has been sent to the Borough Council and will be looked to be taken forwards.

Cllrs. Corp and Moon reported that there is also going to be arranged a meeting of the local Parish Council's within the Great Barford Ward to come together to discuss common issues planned for September time. In regards to broadband upgrades, super fast will be coming to other parts of the village as part of Phase 2. It was also noted the recent announcements by the local authority to

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support schools to become two tier and the impact this would have on the village. Mr. Leydon is a school governor and the Council would be liaising with him to ensure there is consideration given to the wider community on any plans the school may have to expand. It was noted that Mr. Leydon no longer has voting rights on the governing body, however, the Parish Council still felt it is important to have community representation on this matter. There was a reminder that Ward Fund applications are welcome, and that the traveller site at Roxton had the appeal upheld.

### 8. HIGHWAYS MATTERS WITHIN THE VILLAGE: -

**a) Feedback from meeting with Highways Officer to discuss extension of double yellow lines along Church End** – the meeting with Councillors and the Borough Council Officer to discuss the extension of the double yellow lines along Church End was discussed. The Officer had been very supportive of an extension and will produce a draft design for this, which it is expected will extend the linage for a further 5 to 6 car lengths. It was also suggested during the site meeting that possibly the staff car park at the school could be reconfigured to allow more cars to park during the day off the road, this will be followed up. The Council also felt it would be helpful to invite Colin Foster, Bedford Borough Chief Education Officer, to a future meeting to discuss the possibility of the school expanding and potential impact on the village. The Clerk to make contact and invite Mr Foster to the September meeting.

**b) Other highways matters in the village** – the burst waterpipe on Pinchcut Hill has resulted in very deep pot holes. The dragons teeth markings on Ravensden Road had still not been painted, Cllr. Corp agreed to follow this up. It was also noted that the Clerk had chased for an update on the average speed cameras and village gates latest news, however, nothing to report back. There was a road closure noted for St Neots Road on 31<sup>st</sup> July.

### 9. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: -

a) 15/01407/FUL two storey front/side extension and single storey rear extension at West Grove, Wilden Road – the Council reviewed the plans and had no objection to the application.

b) 15/01485/FUL erection of an eco dwelling, external PV array, services, reed bed and all ancillary works at land adjacent to Water Lane - The application proposes a sustainable dwelling utilising innovative technologies and making good use of the topography of the site to create a dwelling that will be virtually invisible from outside the site. A proposal earlier this year on Wilden Road utilising similar technologies was supported by the Parish Council because of its innovation, and this was approved by Borough Councillors against the recommendation of Planning Officers. There are significant differences between the proposals however, and in respect of the present application the Parish Council cannot support it. The site is outside a SPA and therefore falls to be considered as if it were in open countryside. The site is outside the main village limits by a considerable distance. The site has not been put forward for development in the Local Plan Call for Sites. The site is not previously developed land, as it is used as pasture for horses. There are stables to the northern end of the site and a ménage, but these are considered by the Parish Council to be appropriate uses in open countryside. Approval of the proposal would establish a precedent for development of the site, which might be used to pursue more intensive development if the proposed dwelling did not proceed. For these reasons Renhold Parish Council objects to application no.

c) Other planning matters of interest such as notice of any decisions between meetings – It was noted that the Borough Council Planning Training will be taking place in September and some Councillors will be attending. The Clerk had contacted Gill Cowie, Planning Officer regarding the next stage of the Local Plan 2032 and it had been felt by the Officer that there was no new further information to share with the Council. It was agreed to respond to the further public consultation

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on Local Green Spaces that the Council support retaining the local character of Renhold as previously submitted.

It was noted that the improvement works to the footpath to link Norse Road is good news, especially with reassurance that the whole scheme will be done, although there are still some concerns that the Aspire estate will not have direct link to the village. SH will continue to laise with Phill Fox at the Borough Council regarding this to improve the provision.

### **10. VILLAGE MATTERS:**

The Council agreed on the design of the Village Sign with number 3) as the preference and the funding was confirmed as being in place so work on this could start, noting it would take approximately 12 months for it to be constructed. The Council thanked the Good Neighbours Scheme for putting forwards a contribution to the sign and the Council agreed to support the difference estimated to be £50, the Clerk to notify the designer as well that the presence of location is The Green.

The Parish Council agreed to fund the hire of the hall for one evening to allow a meeting to take place with the relevant individuals regarding a village website facility.

It was noted that there had been some anti social behaviours again in the Spires estate and an overgrown hedge in Home Close followed up again.

There had also been reports of notice being removed from the Green End notice board, a note to be placed up asking the individual to stop removing items.

The Council noted the Transparency Code, and the implications to put items on the website.

### **11. LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME:-**

The Council discussed that the Foundation Award going forwards, and the Clerk had commenced preparing a number of items, there was a discussion on the possible rationale of undertaking the award accreditation. The Clerk to continue to prepare documents for the Council to review.

### **12. FINANCE MATTERS: -**

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

Barnicoat Ltd clerking service June £557.36

A R Worboys Ltd grass cutting £461.45

JCB Printing Annual Report printing £264.00

BATPC Cllr training £40

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

It was noted there will need to be anew bank mandate for signatories.

### **13. CORRESPONDANCE AND INFORMATION RECEIVED: -**

BBC Current Roadwork Bulletin

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 x2

Online playgrounds promotional information

Crime stats data

Borough Council News in Brief poster

Several communications from BBC regarding election expenses and subsequent paperwork

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Spires NHW Group reporting anti social behaviour in the play area, camping and dumping of a car  
Resident communication regarding planning application at 11 Brookside  
A R Worboys invoice  
Communication with Officer regarding Village Gates  
Local Council Direct magazine  
CPRE magazine  
BBC Empty Homes Poster  
Resident query regarding Green End noticeboard which appears to have had all its notices removed from it  
Resident complaint regarding 8 Home Close hedge  
BBC Clerks Champions meeting in September information  
Renhold Charity Cottages Annual Report  
Resident contact regarding double yellow lines  
BATPC email regarding transparency code for smaller authorities  
Annual Report communications  
Jim's apologies for the July meeting  
Transport to Alban Academy from the Norse Road estate email circulated to all  
Renhold Village Sign communications and final price information  
New Cllr training session booked for Amanda on 23<sup>rd</sup> September  
BATPC Bugle and training programme  
Gill Cowie feedback for meeting request regarding next stage of Local Plan consultation –  
SH circulated broadband tester information

**14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: -**

Matters that arose during meeting to be included.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 7.30pm**

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed .....

Dated .....