

11.01.17

Minutes of **MEETING of RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Wednesday 11th January 2017** at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of Renhold Village Hall.

PRESENT:- Parish Councillors, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Gurney, Mrs. Brunsten, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Slater (Chair), Mrs. Gribble, Mrs. Dean, Mrs. Quince, the Clerk Mrs. Barnicoat and seven members of the public.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE TO BE RECEIVED: - Cllr. Slater welcomed everyone to the meeting, Parish Councillor Mr. Harrison, had sent apologies which were accepted. Borough Councillors Anthony Forth, Jade Uko, Sheryl Corp and Stephen Moon had also sent their apologies.

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: -

There was an inquiry made regarding the latest information for the former Three Horseshoes site, the Clerk was asked to follow this up with the Officer.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting for the next item.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:-

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November had been circulated. The minutes were discussed, the document was approved, unanimously agreed, resolution passed and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record. The Council also reviewed the November Finance Committee meeting minutes and resolved to approve them, which were signed as a true and accurate record.

5. MATTERS ARISING:-

There was an update given regarding the noticeboard refurbishment work which was due to start imminently.

The Clerk had archived a large volume of Parish Council meeting minutes with the Record Office and this would be discussed further during the meeting.

The Clerk had submitted the parliamentary boundary comments the Council had agreed at the previous meeting.

Cllr. Slater had been registered to speak at the Planning Committee meeting where the lower school expansion application was being considered.

Any other items would be covered during the meeting.

6. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT: -

There was a report sent by Cllr. Moon in his absence, it included updates on the health and social care review for the hospital, the budget consultation and news that there is £6 million more funding for schools locally, as well as the Rights Of Way Improvement Plan document which is out for public consultation.

7. HIGHWAYS MATTERS WITHIN THE VILLAGE: - The Clerk detailed that the Council had been informed that there had been that in the month of November 110 notices of intended

11.01.17

prosecution being issued by the Police from the average speed cameras. The Clerk would place this information in the next newsletter article. The Council have asked if the cameras can generate traffic volume data as a useful comparable data to see if they are deterring motorists from using the village. The Borough Council have informed the Parish Council that it is not possible to get volume data from the cameras as the camera system discards the data for vehicles not contravening the speed limits. It may, however, be possible for a reconfigure of the detectors at the traffic lights to monitor vehicle data though, so this will be looked into.

It was also asked that could the Clerk report that the traffic lights at Church End are not sensitive enough for ridden and driven horses, and if it is possible to have a sensor that does detect them, or a switch that allows equestrian users to change the lights.

There was also a report of overgrown vegetation at the approach to the traffic lights coming from Top End, the Clerk to report.

The hedge had been cut back at the village entrance to Hookhams Lane and it was asked that could this work please be continued to the corner by the first bungalow, the Clerk to feedback.

The Hookhams Lane preventative speeding measures had been reported to the Highways Helpdesk. There were reports of the parking enforcement vehicle having visited the village recently, which it was commented is pleasing to see that when dangerous parking is reported there is action taken. Cllr. Quince agreed to highlight this in a future newsletter article.

The Council had also continued to receive positive feedback from the Police regarding possible forthcoming enforcement checks for the Traffic Regulation Order, as well as a focused police event in the village called Operation Beneke. It was asked that it be fed back that it would be useful to have the event running during the TRO times for maximum impact. The Clerk was asked to feed this back to PC Crozier and request for an update on the possibility of police action in the village relating to TRO enforcement.

8. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: -

a) 16/03287/FUL erection of mobile home for temporary period of 3 years at Oaklands, 60 Ravensden Road – the Council had responded to the application in objection between meetings. The supporting reasons the Council gave for objecting were, there is no mention on the application of the purpose of the temporary location of this unit, nor is there any mention of what is proposed in respect of the existing bungalow. As such it must be considered to be an additional dwelling, and it therefore falls foul of Bedford Borough Council's policy to prevent additional dwellings in open countryside. In recent time all but one application for an additional dwelling in Renhold has been refused, even where the proposed dwelling was in a line of continuous built development. There's no reason to divert from this policy for this application, which should be refused. The application also raises a number of issues. The application form, Q3, states that the development has not started. It has and the building has already erected and substantial changes made to the garden area of the existing property by laying of hard surfacing. The application form, Q7, states that no provision has been made for the storage and collection of waste, this is unacceptable. The application form, Q9, fails to provide any information on the materials to be used in the building, and the plans submitted also fail to identify materials. The application form, Q11, fails to provide information on how foul sewage is to be dealt with, in fact it states it is unknown. This is unacceptable. The application form, Q14, identifies the existing use as a dwelling, but does not indicate when the use ceased. This is unacceptable, as the dwelling, and therefore the use, still exists. Drawing MT/HC/016/043/02 refers to the project being a new dwelling and mobile home. There is nothing in the application form nor on this drawing regarding the new dwelling. The height of the building is given as 4.335 metres above the existing ground level. This means that the building is 2.335 metres above the immediately adjoining fence, and that the majority of the

11.01.17

windows also extend above the fence. The majority of windows look to the side of the building and therefore tend to overlook the rear of 62 Ravensden Road in particular with implications for the privacy of occupiers of that, and other, properties. Notwithstanding the policy issue, that alone means the application should be refused, the lack of information on the application form, the inconsistencies on the drawing in terms of what the proposal involves, and the loss of privacy of adjoining properties all point to a refusal.

There had also been communications from nearby residents who were submitting an objection to the application as well. It was felt that given the mobile home has been located on this plot that the application should have been not a full application but a retrospective one, the Clerk to raise this with the Planning Department as well as follow up with planning enforcement.

b) 16/03693/S37A retrospective application for alterations to approved roof design on planning permission 13/02122/FUL (single storey front and rear extension with balcony over first floor side extension at 11 Brookside – the Parish Council had received a resident communication regarding this application. The Council reviewed and agreed to submit an objection on the basis that this scheme has been applied for twice previously and refused, with only the lesser scheme having been given approval. The Council insist that action is taken and the scheme not implemented, with the applicant being asked to take down the structure.

c) 16/00958/S73WM variation of conditions 4 and 5 of planning permission 12/02213/FULWM to extend the timescales for completion of permitted inert fill operation and final site restoration at land at Dairy Farm, Willington Quarry – the Parish Council had no objection to this application.

d) 17/00016/TPO 3 x ash removal due to disease at 10 Becher Close – the Parish Council has no objection to the work, however, do ask that a condition be applied to ensure replacement trees are planted.

e) To receive an update on the Renhold Lower School application 16/02858/DC3 – Cllr. Slater did speak at the Committee meeting, where the elected members agreed to defer a decision until there could be clarity on whether a condition could be applied to the decision that a safe crossing be installed. The Clerk was asked to follow up and find out when the application goes back to Committee for a formal decision.

f) Other planning matters – there had been an application 16/03479/FUL single storey rear / side extension, 56 Thor Drive received between meetings which the Council had responded to. It was noted that the proposed extension replaces an existing conservatory and extends it into the garden and sideways to the boundary with 60 Thor Drive. As a single storey extension it does not lead to overlooking, although it does remove access from the front to the rear of the application site – a possible problem for the occupier but not a reason to refuse permission, so the Parish Council raised no objection.

9. VILLAGE MATTERS:-

The previously reported overgrown hedge at Ravensden Road had now been cut back it was noted. It was agreed that between meetings there would be a co-ordination of distribution regarding the overgrown hedge letters to be sent out by the Parish Council.

There was an update that the village sign for the village green work is ongoing.

The Clerk had circulated the information on potential village signs in the village at the three new developments, in the newsletter and circulation list, awaiting feedback.

It was noted that two further people have come forward expressing an interest in looking at a play provision for children in the older part of the village.

There was concern raised at the condition of the Church End bus shelter, the Clerk was asked to report to the Borough Council the hedge is in need of cutting back nearby and a new bin is to be installed. Cllrs. Gribble and Quince also agreed to look at the structure and give their feedback on its condition. The Council felt a bin with greater capacity is needed at this location so a request to

11.01.17

be made for one similar to the bin located at the Hookhams Lane junction. The bus stop timetable is also in need of replacing so the Clerk to report.

The Clerk is trying to arrange a meeting with the organisers ahead of the 80km charity bike ride in June through the parish.

It was agreed that the potential location of a bench to be donated in the churchyard, following a previous request for a memorial bench, may be more suitable to be placed by the War Memorial, so this to be followed up with Cllr.Polhill.

The Clerk had circulated the ROWIP questionnaire from the Borough Council to all. There was also an update provided on the Borough Council approach to dog control orders.

It was noted that the Polhill path had been cleared with thanks expressed to Mr. Polhill.

There continues to be positive news regarding super fast broadband in the parish, Water End issues are being pursued, but there is still the Ravensden Road and Hookhams Lane upgrade expected by June 2017.

There was a suggestion of the Parish Council exploring engaging with social media as a useful way to communicate to residents, it was agreed that this should be looked in and better understood so the Clerk to speak to some Council's who already have this in place.

The Council agreed that an electronic copy of the electoral register should be held, so the Clerk to follow up.

10. UPDATE ON QUALITY STATUS RE-ACCREDITATION AND PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES:-

This Quality Status item is ongoing and it was agreed that following the archiving of the Parish Council meeting minutes it was noted that some minutes were not passed onto the Clerk. This information had been placed on the parish website and Cllr. Gribble agreed to follow up with a former Clerk.

11. FINANCE MATTERS: -

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

Barnicoat Ltd clerking service November and December £557.36x2

Mr Tarbox bus shelter cleaning £110.00

Bedford Borough Council election recharges £88.10

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

The Councillors then discussed the supporting information relating to the churchyard maintenance grant which had previously been considered by the Finance Committee. More detailed information had been submitted and the Council agreed to approve a donation of £750.00.

Councillors had received the latest transaction report as well as the latest financial analysis of actual against budgeted expenditure which shows all areas are within the planned budget.

The Councillors had also received further supporting information relating to the external audit feedback and the letters and information Wilshamstead Parish Council had had with HMRC and BDO. The Clerk had circulated the letter from HMRC which stated their views on the use of a clerking service by a Parish Council. The full Council agreed this was useful evidence and the Clerk to arrange for a letter to be sent to HMRC seeking the same clarity for Renhold.

There was ongoing work on the grass cutting specification discussed which is expected to be ready shortly.

It was felt that the Council should pursue applying for a transparency grant application, the Clerk to follow up.

There were changes noted regarding the external auditor appointed for 2017/18.

The Council had received the grass cutting contribution from the Borough Council between meetings.

11.01.17

12. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2017/18

The Council considered the parish precept for 2017/18, 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, with it being agreed that the Council in the coming year would want to see more value being evidenced for parishioners so they see items being improved. This could be the bus shelters, village furniture or village signs but this was felt to be important going forwards. It was unanimously agreed that the precept contribution per household remain static with a precept of £20,771 for 2017/18. The Clerk to submit the precept request form and the Council agreed to make some minor changes to the budget for 2017/18, which the Clerk would update.

13. CORRESPONDANCE AND INFORMATION RECEIVED: -

NALC Events Bulletin emails

Age Partnership email promoting services

BBC Planning weekly list email

Village newsletter copy

Online playgrounds promotional information

BBC letter acknowledging receipt of planning comments

Average camera implementation update and to note how to obtain the subsequent monthly reporting data

Village circulation list interested residents wishing to join

Speedwatch data and update

ERTA Voluntary Transport email

Communications regarding parliamentary consistency boundary review

November crime statistics

Confirmation of PC planning response submitted and request for the response to be sent in PDF format going forwards

BATPC Transparency Fund Drop In information

BBC the place to grow email

Confirmation of boundary commission consultation response submitted

Barton and Royle Homes Turvey information on the almshouses

BBC Electoral Register copies available to the PC

BATPC email regarding external auditor changes and the new appointments

BBC email regarding orange sack distribution

BBC letter regarding local school expansions

BBC email regarding changes to Parish Responses for planning

BBC grass cutting contribution payment

BBC response to Keith's email regarding variable messaging sign

Police clarification on the TRO and enforcement of it by then

Expression of interest in looking at developing a play area for the older part of the village

Two further residents expressing concern regarding planning application at 60 Ravensden Road

Churchyard grant further information provided

Confirmation Ian was registered to speak at the Planning Committee regarding the school application

Receipt of Parish Council minute books being deposited with the County Records Archive Office

Communication and advice regarding the Freedom of Information request received

Maintenance update on the Polhill path

BBC Temporary Road Closures in Great Barford for January 2017

Village broadband queries from the last PC meeting followed up

11.01.17

Invoice for by election in the parish
December crime statistics
BATPC Bugle
PCC newsletter
BBC Budget consultation
BBC ROWIP questionnaire
BBC Precept calculations
BBC Discretionary Rate Relief public consultation
Police rural conference presentation
Stuart's apologies
Communication regarding the average speed camera data
Discussions with Andy Prigmore, BBC Highways Officer, regarding the various Renhold highways items
Resident asking to join the parish correspondence list
Resident reporting a missing cat
Cycle event in the parish in June
BATPC final figure for 17/18 budget

14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: -

Matters that arose during meeting to be included.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - on Wednesday 1st March 2017 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 10.20pm

Signed

Dated