

CRICK PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Wednesday 11th.August 2010 at 7.30pm in the Old School, Church Street, Crick.

Present;	J. Richards (Chairman)	D. Tolfts (Vice Chairman)
	P. Dunkley	J. Goodger.
	Mrs G. Nisbet.	Miss A. Ward.
	W. Simms	W. Fursman.

2 members of the public were present.

98. Apologies.

R. Lowe & Mrs M. Gibbins (family commitments)

99. Declaration of Interests.

Members did not declare any interests at this stage of proceedings.

100. Open meeting.

The two members of the public queried the state of the application by the Cooperative Store for improvements to the existing lay-by and a new lay-by in Main Road (DA/2010/0352 refers). The Chairman informed the meeting that the application had been withdrawn by the applicant and a future meeting is to be held with DDC Planning Department, NCC Highways, the police and members of the Parish Council.

A member of the public, who was unable to attend the meeting wished to report a pothole in Lauds Road, the surface of Chapel Lane outside No. 2 was breaking up. She also commented on the poor advertising board for the car wash on the car park of the Wheatsheaf public house. The board is handmade and sited on the wall of the public house in Church Street, Crick. Advice will be sought from DDC. D. Tolfts reported that the wall in question is to be re-built by the brewery, the brickwork was now unsafe.

101. Circulations.

The following documents were circulated to members via the IT Centre;
Rural Services Community Newsletters.
NCALC 'Update newsletter'
Defra – 'Being a Good Employer' – a guide for Parish Councillors.
CPRE newsletter.
Minutes of the Junction 18 Forum meeting held on 14th.June 2010.
Minutes of Yelvertoft PC meeting held on 12th.July 2010.

102. Correspondence for response.

DDC Standards Committee is offering a training event for The Code of Conduct. Members agreed that a training event on the subject would be helpful and the reply slip requesting a general training session will be forwarded. A copy of the Code of Conduct Aide-Memoire Document will be circulated with the minutes.

Came and Company, the Parish Council insurer, has included the hedge trimmer, the brush cutter and the associated equipment to the Mowers and Machinery section of the Aviva Policy for a sum insured of £1,102.00. The new noticeboard and maypoles have also been included, which increased the sum insured by £494.00 to £126,187.90 within the Street Furniture section of the policy. This brings the Property Total Risk Sum Insured to £128,849.00. The fee of £25.00 was paid by the Clerk, because of time constraints and will be claimed in his expenses.

Rugby Radio Stations Ltd. has asked the Infrastructure Planning Commission for its opinion (scoping opinion) as to the information to be provided in an environmental statement relating to the DIRFT III project.

Friends of Cracks Hill have queried the future of their country park with DDC. Judy Gregory (DDC) has responded that the Council has no plans to sell off Cracks Hill. It is a major resource for the area and the objective is to secure a sustainable future for both the Country Park and Cracks Hill.

NCC has announced a temporary road closure for surface dressing works on the A428 Northampton Road, West Haddon and West Haddon Road, Long Buckby on 9th. August 2010.

103. **Planning.**

DA/2010/0376 – planning permission has been granted for the installation of an underground electrical cable run at Tesco Stores Ltd, Danes Way, Crick.

Bruce Allen (DDC) has sent an update on the planning issues at Papillion Fields and Springwater Farm, Crick. ‘The owner of Papillion Fields has not pursued any form of planning application for the building work at the property (the clock on any enforcement period does not commence until works are substantially completed) DDC will provide the owner with a further (and likely final) opportunity to either submit an application or remove the unauthorised works to-date, prior to considering whether or not DDC take enforcement action. Members agreed to obtain another update for the meeting in September.

The owner of Springwater Farm has not complied with the Court injunction and has attempted to appeal against it. DDC is waiting to hear from the Courts as to whether the owner has provided the relevant paperwork in time for the appeal. The deadline expired on 30th. July 2010.

DA/2010/0638 – an application for the conversion of outbuildings to a self contained flat at 23 Church Street, Crick. The application could not be discussed as the papers did not arrive before the agenda was prepared. The Chairman proposed that a decision on the application should be made, on behalf of the Parish Council, at a meeting of four Councillors on the 18th. August 2010. P. Dunkley seconded the proposal and the course of action was agreed.

104. **Department of Communities and Local Government – consultation on local referendums to veto excessive council tax increases.**

NCALC has published the Government’s proposals to hold local referendums to veto excessive council tax increases. After discussion, the following response was issued by the members to NCALC;

‘PC’s should not be able to increase the precept without being answerable to the electorate but the Government’s proposals appear to be a clumsy way of doing this, especially so as the minimis situation is not defined. The problem is that the budget cuts in the Government’s spending are more likely to put even more pressure on PCs to pay for work that is not their direct responsibility. Relatively small projects can lead to a high percentage increase in the precept.

The cost of a referendum would fall on the PC therefore significantly increasing the PC's costs when the PC is trying to keep within a tight budget. It would be better if the electorate had the right to ask for a referendum, as with PC elections rather than negotiating to have a referendum.

The proposals are a sledgehammer to crack a nut. If a PC has a project that the majority of the electorate wish them to undertake then if one or two object they can call for a referendum at the expense of the PC. The project would then be deferred or even stopped whilst the referendum takes place.

The PC is closer to the community than either the District or County Councils and the PC should not be included in these proposals. The PC is content with the double lock mechanism if they knew what the figures were. It is highly unlikely that a PC would increase the precept by 40 to 50%. There are sufficient safeguards currently in place for a PC to regulate them. The PC needs the freedom to operate without these proposals being in place. The proposals should separate between the County and District Councils and leave the PC to operate in the present manner'

105. Repair to the Westcotec speed device.

P. Dunkley reported that the mobile speed device was not registering the speed of approaching vehicles. He had gone through a diagnostic test with Westcotec Ltd and the test revealed a radar device defunct. The cost of repair would be £340.00. The Chairman proposed that the device be repaired. The proposal was seconded by J. Goodger and agreed. Westcotec Ltd. is visiting Northamptonshire and the company has agreed to collect and repair the device.

106. Provision of salt bins on the DWH estate, the Paddock and Southfield Drive.

P. Dunkley expressed his disappointment to the response of NCC Highways in not providing two additional salt bins for the Paddock and Southfield Drive because of the numerous requests for additional bins throughout the County. The Chairman proposed to purchase two grit bins for these locations and discuss the options at the meeting in September, grit bins being advertised for sale in the catalogue used by Crick School. In regard to the offer of DWH to provide two grit bins for the DWH estate, MGWSP appear reluctant to store the bins on behalf of the Parish Council but the Chairman will speak with David Grindley (NCC) to see if he can forward the issue.

107. Accounts for payment.

The following invoices, as listed on the agenda, had been received. The Chairman proposed that payment be authorised. The proposal was seconded and agreed unanimously;
Cheque No. 531 – Crick Village Hall – donation towards the roof replacement - £3,000.00. The cheque was signed out of a Parish Council meeting; R. Lowe required an emergency payment for the roof contractor.

No. 532 – W.J. Scott – refurbishment to the village maypole - £59.20.

No. 533 – E.on – removal of columns and re-instatement of the footpath at Watford Road - £429.26.

No. 534 – R. Candelent – payment of invoice for Breathe Internet Ltd for IT Centre – payment made to prevent internet service being terminated - £68.98.

No. 535 – BT – telephone account for IT Centre - £56.65.

The Cooperative Bank statement No. 69 had been received showing an account balance of £17,088, once the cheques listed above had been cleared, the balance on the account will be around £13,473. This figure is similar to the balance for 2009/10. The second half precept is due in mid- September.

108. **Open meeting.**

D. Tolfts requested that the wall at the Wheatsheaf public house be included on the agenda for September, including the car wash business advertising.

P. Dunkley reported that the litter bin on the old A428 is inadequate. Boaters are leaving their waste by the side of the bin, once the bin is full. He proposed that BW be requested to provide a further bin for the boaters on the tow path by the BW notice board.

No other issues were raised; the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.27pm.

Signed.

Chairman.

20.9.10.