

CRICK PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 19th.December 2011 at 7.30pm in the Old School, Church Street, Crick.

Present:- D. Tolfts (Chairman) P. Dunkley (Vice Chairman) J. Richards, Mrs M. Gibbins, Miss A. Ward, R. Atterbury, W. Simms, W. Fursman & J. Goodger.

6 members of the public were present.

196. Apologies.

R. Lowe (abroad) Mrs G. Nisbet (indisposed)

197. Declaration of Interests.

J. Goodger declared an interest in agenda item 19 – accounts for payment – cheque number 683 – Krishna Enterprises Ltd – the print of Crick People booklets. He was the author of the booklet and responsible in having the booklet printed.

198. Open meeting.

One resident had complained to Northampton Borough Council about the non-collection of cardboard waste and received an unsatisfactory response. Another complaint was received of non-collection of the black bins in the Paddock, Crick. It was agreed to write to Enterprise Ltd.

A resident from King Style Close had received a letter from DDC concerning Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) on two groups of trees on the proposed site for Gallagher Homes. The proposal was to protect the trees initially and then hold discussions with the developer, in order to consider the trees that will be protected. The TPO application was subject of an agenda item. Members agreed that the two groups of trees should be retained as a feature of the proposed development. It was agreed to write to DDC with a request to retain the TPO on a permanent basis.

The Payback team will be asked to clear overhanging ivy and the drainage gully in Chapel Lane.

The Highways Agency will be asked if the grass and undergrowth can be tidied at Junction 18 of the M1 motorway.

The last issue was of cars parking on the bend in King Style Close. The Chairman informed the public that the Parish Council is arranging the installation of wooden bollards to prevent cars parking on the grass and it is hoped that this may alleviate the problem. If the problem still exists he advised to contact the police.

The Chairman requested members to allow agenda item 12 – CSFA/Parish Council- 25 year lease agreement and cancellation of grazing rights – to be discussed. Two members of the CSFA were present. Members agreed to the change of the agenda item.

The lease between the CSFA (Crick Athletic Football Club) (tenant) and Crick Parish Council (landlord) had been completed by Brethertons Solicitors. The solicitors requested that two members should sign the lease if the Council were satisfied with the contents (an email copy of the lease was circulated prior to the meeting) R. Atterbury confirmed that the lease was satisfactory. The Chairman and Vice Chairman signed the lease document on behalf of the Parish Council, the Clerk agreed to witness the signatures.

The two members of the CSFA explained that although the lease was under the name of Crick Athletic Football Club, other sports clubs, such as tennis and cricket will be eligible to play. Members of the other clubs will be able to join the controlling committee.

The CSFA has sought financial advice from a company, Mazars LLP, an integrated international advisory and accountancy organisation. The company wish to support CSFA and the Parish Council with the project, especially given the potential VAT exposure. Specific detailed VAT advice will be provided on a stage by stage basis. The company suggested that one option would be that the Parish Council to take over full responsibility for managing the project. This is on the basis that although there is no entitlement to recover VAT incurred for the purpose of non-business supplies, there is a special refund scheme (which includes Parish Councils) to reclaim VAT charged on supplies of goods and services received.

This is provided the goods and services received are used for a non-business purpose and that the following conditions are met – the Council places the order, it receives the supply, it receives a VAT invoice addressed to the PC. The PC makes payment from its own funds. A copy of the report from Mazars LLP was sent to J. Goodger. He has consulted with NCALC and Danny Moody is looking into this option for the Parish Council. J. Goodger proposed that the Parish Council agree in principle to take this course of action, thus possibly saving £240,000. The proposal to be again discussed at the January/February meetings. The proposal was seconded by the P. Dunkley and agreed unanimously. The downside is that there will be a rise in the audit fee and more work for the Clerk.

On the instruction of the Chairman, the clerk had written to the current tenant, Mr. Lord, terminating the grazing contract. He has been given three months notice.

The Chairman proposed to deal with agenda item 20 – Fields in Trust. The Crick PFA and CSFA have agreed that it would be of both immediate and long term benefit to register the current playing field and the new sports field as 'Fields in Trust' under the Queen Elizabeth II Scheme. The applications have to come from the Parish Council, as owners of the land. The Committees are preparing the documents. P. Dunkley proposed to approve both applications. The proposal was seconded and agreed by all.

199. Minutes of the meetings held on 7th. & 21st.November 2011.

The two sets of minutes had been circulated previously. J. Richards proposed that the minutes were a true and correct record of the two meetings. The proposal was seconded by W. Simms and agreed by those present.

200. Outstanding items for 2011.

Yelvertoft Road fields – transfer of land by NCC – the small triangular piece of land has yet to be transferred to the Parish Council. The original transfer of the land took place in 2004. Duncan Bisatt (NCC) has written stating that the case officer, Deana Simpson, is not in the office at present and a copy of the Parish Council letter has been passed to the Estates Team. Members agreed that the County Councillor, Mrs Catherine Boardman, may be able to assist. She is to be invited to the meeting on 19/1 or 20/2/12.

Main Road fingerpost – MGWSP has completed the repair to the post.

S. 106 Agreement of the Gallagher Home development, adoption of the DWH Estate and designation of the Yelvertoft Road footpath – no developments have taken place.

Defective footpath – Yelvertoft Road – MGWSP has carried out the necessary repairs to the footpath. The £1,000.00 contribution from the Parish Council to NCC was agreed (please see cheque no. 678)

Broken drain cover at Marsh Close – J. Richards informed the meeting that Dave Coleman (MGWSP) had attended and agreed that the broken cover was a highways problem. The cover has been replaced.

POS update – Bury Dyke and Coleman Close – Lorna Bowry (Sharpe Pritchard – solicitors for DDC) has completed the registration of the transfer of POS from Margaret Thomas to Crick Parish Council and also completed at Land Registry. The following documents are to be retained by the Parish Council:-

- 1) Notification of Completion of registration.
- 2) Official office copy of the register of the new title number (NN307173)
- 3) Original transfer dated 4/10/11.
- 4) The Epitome of Title (pre-registration documents)

The charges register of Title No. NN307173 refers to transfers dated 1/7/97 and 21/6 2002 (in addition to the recently completed transfer of 4/10/11. Both the 1997 and 2002 transfers form part of the Epitome of Title.

Update on the meeting with Chris Heaton-Harris MP – P. Dunkley reported that the MP had been involved with two issues, the pedestrian access over the canal and traffic problems in High Street/Main Road. In regard to the canal bridge he had approached DHL to ascertain if the company could provide funding for a scheme. P. Dunkley and J. Richards have been in contact with Charlie Allen of DHL and he is prepared to see what the company can do.

The disappointing aspect is that there is not a scheme or plan to overcome the problem from the County Council. Charlie Allen has agreed to contact NCC and he will seek the assistance of the MP to try to bring the parties together.

In respect of the second issue, parking around the Coop Store, the response from the MP is disappointing. He has enclosed, with his letter, a response from the Assistant Director of NCC Highways. NCC does not consider that the Parish Council has a traffic problem outside the store. To install a lay-by would create a danger to highway safety. A response is being prepared to the MP with a request for a site meeting.

210. Circulations.

The following documents were circulated via the IT Centre:-

NCC – change of telephone number for general enquiries – 0300 126 1000.

NCALC – Update newsletter.

Northants Rural Housing Association – Annual Report 2010/11.

DDC restructure – elections and governance – contact is Rosemary Daniel (01327 302412)

NCC – adoption of Supplementary Planning Document for Minerals & Waste development.

John Winn – support letters from Chris Heaton-Harris MP regarding the listing of Manor Farmhouse, Yelvertoft Road, Crick.

Crick Pre-School – moving to Crick Primary School – 4/1/12.

MGWSP – carriageway surface dressing early spring/summer – Crick Road, Winwick and High Street, Crick.

Localism Act 2011 – presentation by Simon Bovey (DDC)

211. Correspondence for response.

The Woodland Trust is offering tree packs in 2012, the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This is an opportunity to plant trees to commemorate this, or any other, special occasion. After discussion, members agreed to order a free tree pack for planting in February.

Paul Knight (DDC) has developed an Environmental Crime Reporting booklet to assist their limited resources to tackle problems with litter and dog fouling. Members agreed that the presence of the Dog Warden will have a greater effect, even though her efforts are very limited.

Tree replacement on the Marsh – a resident from the Marsh has agreed to plant a cherry tree to replace the tree that had to be felled, due to its poor condition. Heartwood Tree Services has suggested that the planting be left until February when the hard part of the winter will be over. The resident has agreed to contact Heartwood in 2012.

212. Planning.

DA/2011/0952 – an application for a two storey side extension at 57 Watford Road, Crick. The plans were inspected and members did not raise any objection.

The Planning Inspectorate has informed DDC that Hemex LLP has appealed against the decision by DDC to refuse planning permission for six wind turbine generators and associated equipment at Lilbourne Fields Farm & Lilbourne Lodge Farm, Yelvertoft Road, Lilbourne. All comments that were received by DDC at the planning application stage will be sent to the Planning Inspectorate. Additional comments should arrive at Bristol no later than 6/1/12.

CPRE has published a guide for help on planning matters – details can be found on the website – www.planninghelp.org.uk

Planning permission has been granted to the following applications:-

DA/2011/0555 – creation of sports and leisure facilities on land off Yelvertoft Road, Crick.

DA/2011/0547 – outline application for industrial and warehouse unit(s), ancillary offices, service areas, car parking and landscaping on land at Eldon Way, Crick.

DA/2011/0657 – proposed first floor extension and alteration to the existing roof and additional car parking at Crick Medical Practice, 16 Watford Road, Crick.

DA/2011/0800 – the construction of a detached double garage at 20 Church Street, Crick.

213. Crick Parish Council – 2012/13 Budget.

J. Goodger reported that the Parish Council had held a meeting on 28/11/11 to discuss the budget for 2012/13. Each item of income and expenditure had been discussed and amended or agreed. Members were mindful that the precept had not been increased for two years. The working reserve fund had decreased to a level that had fallen below the amount as recommended by the Auditor. NCalc has advised that costs could increase in 2012/13 because of the implications of the Localism Act and funding to CSFA for the new sports field. This has led to the decision to increase the 2012/13 precept by £2900 to £60,650.00, a rise of 4.78%, an increase in line with inflation. J. Richards proposed that the Parish Council does precept Daventry District Council in the sum of £60,650.00 to be paid in two instalments in April and September 2012. The proposal was seconded by W. Simms and agreed by those present. The Chairman thanked J. Goodger for his hard work in producing the figures for the budget for the forthcoming years.

J. Goodger asked for another issue to be raised for the January meeting, the method of giving grant aid to village groups and organisations. It was agreed to discuss the issue in January 2012.

214. Crick IT Plan – update.

J. Goodger reported that the Council website was out of date, in that the message from the Chairman needed changing. The welcome and message will be changed. The website will also include an item on the state and repair of the village roads and footpaths.

Discussions have taken place with James Best, an IT Specialist, P. Dunkley, R. Lowe and J. Goodger. £750 was allocated at an earlier meeting to update the IT equipment. The Toshiba laptop has been updated by James Best, at a cost of £40.00 (cheque No. 680) the two computers will be replaced with a laptop and docking station. James has also found a second hand laptop for £200 and he will buy an Epsom wireless printer and necessary anti-virus equipment. It has been agreed to change the service provider when the contract expires in March 2012, possibly with BT. James will be asked if he would manage the website. A decision will be made to stay with our current website provider, Mike Henson Presentations or go with a local provider.

215. Work required to trees by the church tower.

Miss A. Ward reported that the two fir trees, between the church wall and the tower, are in need of cutting back. The trees have grown too large and the branches are leaning against the tower. Members agreed to request for two estimates and decide at the meeting in January.

J. Goodger asked that the trees on Main Road, opposite the Marsh, be pruned back; the branches are overhanging the pavement. W. Fursman agreed to report back at the January meeting.

216. Bury Dyke pond reservations on the new depth.

R. Atterbury had reservations on the depth of the pond; having been excavated by Brian Laney of the Greater Crested Newt Society. The plans for the pond are not known, the Clerk agreed to make contact with him.

217. A428 weighbridge lay-by – environmental health issues.

W. Fursman informed the meeting that the lay-by verge was subject of fly tipping, mainly by lorry drivers from Eastern Europe, looking at the rubbish left behind. There is also evidence that the verge is being used as a toilet, which is a health hazard; the stream running through the grounds of the Holiday Inn is a tributary of the River Avon. Members agreed to send their concerns to the County and District Councils.

218. Rights of Way – footpaths EM3 and EM12.

J. Richards reported that footpath EM12, the bridleway to Kilsby, is closed to pedestrians from late November until May 2012 to allow for a replacement water main. J. Goodger had notified NCC Rights of Way of the steep drop from the stile by the canal bridge on footpath EM3, several walkers having complained.

219. DDC – changes to Development Control and Statement of Community involvement.

DDC Development Control is making changes to the service in order to secure savings. Paper copies of planning applications are being phased out and applications can be viewed online. Notification to neighbours that may be affected by an application will cease and site notices will be used together with a Notice in the local newspaper. Applications can be inspected electronically at DDC Outreach Centres.

220. Accounts for payment and account balances.

The following invoices had been received for payment. J. Richards proposed that payment be authorised, the proposal was seconded by W. Simms and agreed by those present:-

Cheque number 676 – NCALC – a course for developing websites - J. Goodger - £29.00(LGA 1972 sch.12)

No. 677 – Crick Village Hall – grant for 2011 - £1,000.00(s133 LGA)

No. 678 – NCC – contribution towards footway works at Yelvertoft Road - £1,000.00(s30 LGA)

No. 679 – Heartwood Tree Services Ltd – tree works at various locations in Crick - £3,186.00(s96LGA)

No. 680 – James Best – update of IT Centre laptop - £40.00(s142LGA)

No. 681 – James Yates Youth Service – 2 invoices – total £380.00(s133LGA)

No. 682 – Northamptonshire ACRE – membership 2012 - £34.00(LGA1972 sch12)

No. 683 – Krishna Enterprises Ltd – print of ‘Crick People’ booklets - £868.00s137LGA)

No. 684 – E.on – streetlight maintenance – ending December 2011 - £596.84(s98LGA)

No. 685 – NCC Crick Primary School – 2 x Crick News print - £462.36(s142LGA)

No. 686 – D. Blenkinsop – supply/installation of wooden bollards in Chapel Lane, Crick - £631.32(s43LGA)

Income – hire of gazebo - £5.00, fees for burials - £60.00, NCC grass mowing grant 2011 - £1,140.15, booklet sales - £44.00, VAT refund on skate board equipment - £1,083.33 – deposit made into Community Fund, £1,753.20 – Crick Millennium Wood – repayment of cheque no. 673 – purchase of picnic benches.

Account balance – current account - £35,867 (30.11.11) – confirmed by statement no. 85. Deposit account - £41,403.

221. Agenda items for the meeting 19/1/12.

Review of burial fees – R. Atterbury.

Work to trees on Main Road – opposite the Marsh – W. Fursman.

Grant aid – review of grant system – J. Goodger.

222. Open meeting.

Missing fingerpost at Lauds Road/High Street – J. Richards reported that the post was being renovated.

A report was received of cars parking on the grass verge, prior to the canal, causing the verge to become muddy and cut up. J. Richards agreed to speak with NCC Highways.

A member of the public requested that the concrete memorial strips be lengthened in the burial ground. R. Atterbury agreed to obtain two quotations.

No other issues were forthcoming; the Chairman wished everyone a happy Christmas and New Year. The meeting was closed at 9.10pm.

Signed.

Chairman.

19.1.12.

