

CRICK PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 20th June 2011 at 7.30pm in the Old School, Church Street, Crick.

Present – D. Tolfts (Chairman) P. Dunkley (Vice Chairman) W. Simms, W. Fursman, Mrs G. Nisbet, Miss A. Ward, Mrs M. Gibbins, R. Lowe, R. Atterbury, J. Goodger and J. Richards.

5 members of the public were present.

59. Apologies.

No apologies were received.

60. Declaration of Interests.

J. Goodger declared an interest in agenda item 7 – correspondence for response – Crick Feast – request to consider the event under Parish Council auspices – he is the Chairman of Crick History Society, the Society is one of the event organisers.

R. Atterbury declared an interest, personal and prejudicial, to agenda item 8 – planning – supplementary environmental information for DA/2009/0731 – the Lilbourne Wind Farm proposals.

The Chairman, J. Richards, D. Tolfts, Mrs M. Gibbins, W. Simms and R. Lowe declared an interest in agenda item 18 – Crick PFA – request for the Parish Council to fund the playing field grass cutting – all are on the Playing Field Committee.

61. Open meeting.

The Chairman introduced PCSO Les Conopo who outlined recent crime and problems with 'boy racers' in the late evenings on the approach to and in the DIRFT estate. He was thanked for his input.

The Chairman then introduced Angela Murphy, the General Manager of BPC Ltd. She informed the meeting that the problem of noise from the temporarily relocated blower house and been resolved by an acoustic screen being erected. In respect of odours from the old site, the company has covered the offending balance tank. The old factory will cease to manufacture by the 30th.September 2011. The effluent plant will be decommissioned within four weeks of ceasing production. Odours may be experienced after that whilst the drains are cleaned and the ground at the old site cleaned. Angela can be contacted on 01788 823711 during the daytime. She was thanked for the information and update.

No other issues were raised by members of the public.

62. Minutes of the meeting held on 16th. May 2011.

The minutes had been circulated previously. J. Richards asked for one amendment to be made at item 41 – to read J. Richards is to have a meeting with Councillor Mrs Boardman, rather than he had a meeting. The item was amended. P. Dunkley proposed that the minutes were a true and correct record of the meeting and the proposal was seconded by J. Richards and agreed unanimously.

R. Lowe informed the meeting that when the Butchers-Gazeley UK Ltd. funding was discussed and funds distributed to the various groups and organisations then members involved with the various groups and committees should declare a personal and prejudicial interest. He was thanked for the information.

63. Circulations.

Circulated to members via the IT Centre were the following documents;
Yelvertoft PC – minutes of the meeting held on 9/5/11.
Countryside Voice magazine and members guide to CPRE country houses.
NCALC – Update newsletter.
Rural Services Network – newsletters.

64. Correspondence for information.

NCC has announced that 30,000 street lights will be switched off to save energy and money. NCC has identified areas where it is most appropriate that all lights are maintained, and where it is least important that lights are kept on. Streetlights that have been turned off will be identified by a purple sticker on the post. P. Dunkley proposed that this policy should not be adopted with Parish Council owned lights. R. Lowe suggested that if funding became available, perhaps from a wind farm development, then funding may be available for the purchase of time switches for some streetlights to be turned off at midnight.

The Community Safety Team is to hold a 'Have-Your-Say' event at Tesco- Daventry, 11am to 3pm on 14th/15th. July 2011.

NCC has adopted the Minerals and Waste Development Framework. Details can be found on the NCC website –
www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Environ/planning/policy/minerals/Pages/NewsUpdate.aspx

NBC has announced that the first antique market will be held in Market Square, Northampton on Saturday 11/6/11 and the market will return on the second Saturday of each month through to December.

Keith Liggins on behalf of Crick Millennium Wood and Crick History Society has sent a thank you letter for the funding from Butchers-Gazeley UK Ltd. Both sums will make a significant difference in 'floating the Crick Feast and in the various management projects anticipated at the Woodland.

Susie Howles, Chair of Crick Pre-School, has also sent a thank you letter for the award, from the same source to the Pre-School. The group has been offered a chance to move Pre-School to Crick Primary School from the Village Hall. The Group has asked if they can use the grant at the new location, if the move goes ahead. After discussion the Chairman proposed that the Parish Council does not object to the project going ahead but in a different location. Mrs G. Nisbet was the only objector and believed that the grant should be used at the Village Hall.

Groundwork East Midlands is managing a project to train volunteers from communities with no access to mains gas to be able to offer energy advice to residents. They are looking for two or three volunteers from each community. The contact is Pippa Reeve – 01327 303257.

65. Correspondence for response.

Mr & Mrs Bradley wish to buy a memorial bench for their daughter, who died on 3/4/11 and is buried in the burial ground. The couple wish the bench to go on the Washbrook. Mrs G. Nisbet had spoken with her neighbour, who tends the area and he has no objection. Members agreed to their request and R. Lowe suggested a low maintenance bench would be suitable. Mrs G. Nisbet agreed to consult with the Bradley family.

Mrs Jackie Dunkley had tendered a letter of resignation from her position as Co-ordinator of the Crick Community First Responders. The East Midlands Ambulance Service has advised that due to her age she is no longer covered by their insurance whilst on responder duties. During the last 12 months she has applied for grants from the Crick Community Fund and the Cooperative Society Community fund. These grants total £2,350.00. She has returned the funding into the care of the Parish Council until the Group is reformed and a new Co-ordinator appointed. P. Dunkley informed the meeting that the Group had applied for £600 from the Community Fund and the overseeing panel had recommended £2,100 to purchase a second defibrillator and encourage the group to aim for a target of 12 responders, based on having the second machine. Members agreed that the group should be allowed 12 months to achieve this aim.

Crick History Society wish to re-introduce the Crick Feast event in October and there is one issue of public liability insurance. Keith Liggins from the Society has made a request that the Parish Council might consider it appropriate to acknowledge the event as a village (Parish Council) sponsored event and include the event with the Council's insurance. The Chairman welcomed the event back onto the Crick events calendar. R. Lowe proposed that the Council sponsor the Feast event. The proposal was seconded by Mrs G. Nisbet and agreed unanimously.

A resident from West Haddon, who travels to work in Rugby, every Sunday morning at 7.30am, is having problems with traffic, destined for Crick car boot sale. Drivers are blocking the roundabouts by the Holiday Inn and under the M1 motorway.

Members agreed that this was a problem for the police and also suggested the resident should use the Main Road, through the village, turning left at the Holiday Inn roundabout. The Clerk will email the details of our PCSO's to her.

A local fencing contractor has submitted a quotation for gate closures and a new steel gate and wooden gate posts on the Yelvertoft Road fields. The quotation is £428.50. R. Lowe proposed to accept the quotation; the proposal was seconded by W. Simms and agreed by all.

Leiston Town Council is seeking support to a proposal that local elected representatives and local people should be making decisions on whether a planning application should go ahead based on best evidence and this would ensure that evidence was available for applications. Members agreed that developers for proposals in Crick have always consulted the Parish Council and given residents the chance to air their views. The contents from the Local Works campaign were noted.

Guilsborough Parish Council has proposed to form a NW Northants group to improve communication and co-ordination regarding wind turbine applications. The next meeting of the group is on 28th June 2011, 7.15pm in Guilsborough Village Hall. The Chairman agreed to attend.

J. Goodger reported that at the May meeting mention had been made of a 'heritage trail pamphlet' via Northampton Enterprise Ltd. The scheme for printing 2000 free copies has now finished.

66. Planning.

DA/2009/0731 – the application for Lilbourne Wind Farm – ecology and noise reports and environmental statements to support the application had been received with photomontages showing the wind turbines in various locations in the vicinity. The documents had been on display at the IT Centre since 13/6/11. Members agreed to offer no comment on the additional information.

67. Provision of new grit bins.

J. Richards has been trying to progress extra grit bins for the Paddock, Fallowfields and Southfield Drive for over 12 months. He has written to County Councillor Mrs Boardman, the County Council and MGWSP. He had received one response from MGWSP – stating that the provision of grit bins was not in their remit. The item will remain on the agenda.

68. DDC Parish & Town Councils meeting – 16/6/11.

J. Richards had attended the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council. He informed the meeting that DDC had a policy and procedures for the Adoption of Assets; this may be relevant to Cracks Hill. Spratton PC was not happy with the standards of road repairs, the lack of road re-surfacing and the prolific road signs, all around their village. E.on Energy has reported on the future unavailability of certain lanterns.

Police representatives reported on the current crime patterns and analysis. DDC reported that no funding was available for conservation and safe guarding village heritage. The Electoral Register is now available on the website but hard copies will remain.

DDC had carried out a survey on the effectiveness of Dog Control Orders, the results of which were available on a pie chart.

DDC Chairman, Simon Bovey, thanked those Parish Councils who had responded to the proposals of the Local Government Boundary Commission.

69. Butchers-Gazeley UK Ltd Community Funding.

Three groups have reapplied for funding from the Community Fund – FOSM has applied for £5,000 for new lighting and heating in the Church. Crick PFA has applied for £6000 to purchase skateboard equipment on behalf of Crick Needs a new Skate park youth group. Crick Colts FC had recently applied for £3677 for new equipment for the football team. After discussion it was decided that the last application should be under the auspices of Crick SFA and Crick Athletic AFC. All three applications had been submitted to the overseeing panel, but it was not known if the panel had discussed the first two mentioned applications before receiving the third application.

70. Work to trees – removal of dead trees & trees overhanging pavements.

W. Fursman raised concerns on three trees on the Marsh. The branches are overhanging the road and tall vehicles are removing some branches. Chapel Lane – all the hedges are overgrown into the lane. Members agreed that most of the hedges are privately owned and the owners of the land are responsible. It was suggested that letters be sent to the home owners. It was agreed that the Greens Committee should meet to compile a list of tree and hedge work to be carried out. R. Atterbury agreed to arrange a meeting.

71. Yelvertoft Road fields – transfer of land by NCC.

NCC Legal Services Department had yet to respond to the many requests to transfer the triangular piece of land on Yelvertoft Road fields. It was proposed that the Parish Council should register the land with Land Registry but this piece of land may form part of a Trust. The piece of land is quite small and it may be possible to buy the land from the Trust, if NCC is not the owner.

72. Parish Council insurance – renewal.

The Parish Council insurance company is Aviva Insurance Ltd. The company has agreed to provide public liability for the Scarecrow Weekend event and Crick Feast event. Although Zurich Insurance has submitted a quotation for a three year deal that is slightly lower than that of Aviva it was agreed to continue with the company on a three year deal. The current policy expires on 30/9/2012 and the Scarecrow event forms part of the policy. The cost to include the event was £24.99.

73. Parish Council – ‘wish list’ for DIRFT III.

ProLogis Developments Ltd. has been sent a Parish Council ‘wish list’ should the proposals for DIRFT III go ahead. These are, in no particular order of priority;

- Provision of a footbridge over the Grand Union Canal.
- Provision of a slip road from Yelvertoft Road onto the carriageway of Crick by-pass.
- Provision of a dual carriageway on the A5 from Clifton/Lilbourne cross roads to the A5/A428 link road.
- Funding (part) for the proposed new sports field.
- Proposal to purchase farm land off Bury Dyke.
- Proposal to purchase the allotment land from Severn Trent Ltd.

74. NCC/MGWSP – meeting to discuss Yelvertoft Road footpath.

The Chairman and J. Richards had met with Nick Gore and Ian Boyes (NCC) to discuss the work that the Parish Council had undertaken to the footpath after the Crick by-pass bridge. The work was carried out on health and safety reasons, the footpath consisted of a grass verge covered in overgrown bushes causing pedestrians to have to walk in the road. It was agreed that the footpath needed a tarmac surface with kerbstones. NCC requested a donation from the Parish Council and the Chairman offered the sum of £1,000.00 towards the repair costs. R. Lowe proposed that the Parish Council should ratify the Chairman’s decision. The proposal was seconded by J. Goodger and agreed by all.

J. Richards had written to the County Councillor highlighting a number of issues concerning highway matters that NCC had failed to respond to; these included the Bucknills Lane footpath that is in need of repair, a blocked culvert, a broken manhole cover, the proposal for extra grit bins and the provision of a footbridge over the canal.

75. The Eldon Way industrial estate – a tidy environment meeting.

J. Richards informed the meeting that he had attended an on-site meeting with PCSO Humfries, Michael Jephcott & Alan Lovell (DDC). A walk around the estate confirmed that the estate is in need of litter picking and empty properties need tidying up. Mr. Jephcott took several photo graphs of empty properties with a view to get the estate agents to take stewardship of the properties. There were ownership issues with the grassed areas off the A428. A site visit was also made to the Wheatsheaf P.H. The gas and electricity have been cut off. P. Dunkley reported that the public house is on sale via Christie & Co at Birmingham. The photographs show the area of land in front of the public house. This land is part of the highway and it was agreed to notify NCC that their land is being offered for sale.

76. Crick Playing Field Association – request to fund grass cutting costs.

The Chairman, J. Richards, R. Lowe, W. Simms & Mrs M. Gibbins are all on the Committee of the Association and they left the meeting for the duration of this item. The Chair was taken by P. Dunkley who informed those remaining that the PFA were having trouble meeting the cost of the upkeep of the playing field and the Committee has made a request to the Parish Council to assist with the cost of grass cutting. The cost of grass cutting is £38.50 per cut and the area is cut twice a month during the growing season. J. Goodger proposed to offer a grant of £300. This sum is to be considered again at the time of the budget. Members agreed to this proposal. It was further agreed that the PFA should make any submission for grass cutting for 2012 at the November meeting, when the budget is discussed.

77. Scarecrow weekend.

Mrs M. Gibbins reported that everything was set up for the Scarecrow weekend – the music festival was in place and the market, which will have a number of stallholders.

78. Hanging basket and tubs competition.

Members agreed to hold a competition for 2011, with a £30 prize for the first place, two twenty pound prizes for 2nd and 3rd and £20 prize for commercial premises. After a brief discussion, R. Atterbury proposed that the owner of Tebbs Nursery in Rugby, Richard Overton be invited to judge the competition. The proposal was agreed (Pmn – invitation has been accepted)

79. Gallagher Homes exhibition for housing proposals.

Gallagher Homes held an exhibition for housing proposals on the old MMP site between Main Road and Crick by-pass in the Old School on 18/6/11. The Chairman reported that the exhibition was well attended with many pertinent questions being asked. Members queried if there will be a Section 106 agreement, any access off the Crick by-pass and if a green wedge should be retained between the village and the motorway. P. Dunkley proposed that the Council write to Gallagher Homes, after the company has assessed public response with a view to a future meeting to discuss the response of residents. R. Lowe suggested that the Council's comments should wait until the outline planning application is received. The proposal and suggestion were agreed.

80. Annual Return 2010/11 – report from NCALC Internal Auditor.

Mr. D. Linnell had carried out the audit of the accounts 2010/11. The accounts reveal one serious issue – 'Publication of Heritage Books – the Council allocated up to £1000 for a book to be published and sold, with any profits being allocated to an outside body. The Council does not have the power under legislation to do this and any financial outlay must be recouped without delay'

Review of Internal Controls and Effectiveness of Internal Audit – legislation has removed the requirement to review internal controls but the External Auditor had advised that he/she still expects this to be carried out.

Review of Risk Assessment, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations – the annual review of Risk Assessments and Insurance arrangements, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations should be carried out early in the Financial Year and minuted.

He voiced concerns over the loan to Crick Allotment Association of £1000 – the Council is not a licensed credit broker and not allowed to make loans, the loan should have been a grant and it is then up to the goodwill of the Association if they wish to return any grant funding. Members agreed that the loan had been made into a grant at the meeting in May, item 46, except for the sum of £250. R. Lowe proposed that the grant should be for the full amount of £1,000.00. The proposal was seconded and agreed unanimously.

Members and the Clerk accepted that an error had been made regarding the sale of the Heritage Books. J. Goodger agreed to contact the Internal Auditor to seek a solution to the issue. The Chairman made a request that the issue be discussed at the meeting in July.

81. Accounts for payment/ income/ account balances.

The following invoices had been received for payment; P. Dunkley proposed that payment be authorised, the proposal was seconded by Mrs G. Nisbet and agreed by all;

Cheque No. 622 – Weldon Stone Ltd – replacement of a new stone for the war memorial – free pointing carried out - £476.40.

No. 623 – m-hp – update of the website - £18.00.

No. 624 – James Yates – services for the youth club - £197.00.

No. 625 – Robin Quinney – refurbishment of 3 graves - £60.00.

No. 626 – R. Candelent – expenses incurred on Council expenditure – additional insurance premium for the scarecrow weekend - £24.99 & £60 – cost of domain hosting for 12 months via Breathe Internet Ltd. (IT Centre) – total - £84.99.

No. 627 – D. Fisher – purchase of speaker/cable for music festival - £25.24.

No. 628 – S. Hartwell – scheduled grass cuts – May/June – £2,224.80.

Income – burial fees - £90.00 – donations to scarecrow weekend and stall hire - £1,050 – hire of gazebo - £20.00.

Account balances – current account - £22,023 (27.5.11) – confirmed by Chairman with statement No. 79. Investment account - £41,092.

Community Fund account - £13,500.00 – includes £2350 – for the return of donation to Crick First Responders - £2,100 + £350 received from the Cooperative Community Fund – please see item 65 – resignation letter from Mrs Dunkley.

82. Agenda items for the meeting on 18/6/11.

Parish Plan review – J. Goodger

Youth Club – R. Lowe.

Kimbolton Fireworks – cheque for firework operatives course - £110.

Highway matters – J. Richards.

The Marsh – provision of wooden bollards – Miss A. Ward.

Changes to DACT bus service – Mrs G. Nisbet.

Report of the Internal Auditor.

Meeting of the Greens Committee on 30/6/11 – R. Atterbury.

83. Open meeting.

A member of the public reported a number of overhanging trees in Chapel Lane; these will be dealt with at the Greens Committee meeting.

Another member of the public reported that there were strong feelings against the proposals of Gallagher Homes; this will create a new urban sprawl in the village. The Chairman confirmed that all views will be taken into account once the outline planning application is submitted and it is hoped for a further meeting with Gallagher Homes and the Council will take place. R. Lowe proposed that the meeting to discuss any application should be held in the Village Hall. The proposal was agreed.

R. Atterbury reported that the verges surrounding the DIRFT site remain uncut. This task was undertaken by The Prologis contractors in 2010. An enquiry will be made.

No other issues were raised; the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.00pm.

Signed.

Chairman.

18/7/11.