



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Hollowell and Teeton Parish Council on November 18th 2015

Present: A Crisp (Chair), M Tomalin, E Curtis, B Wenden, H. Kinch, H Oswin, S McCubbin, F Keable (Clerk)

One member of the public.

132.2015 Apologies

No apologies were received.

133.2015 Written requests for dispensations for agenda items

None received.

134.2015 Declarations of interest for items on the agenda

None received.

135.2015 Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting on September 16th 2015

The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting; the Chairman asked if there were any amendments needed to the minutes? Cllr Wenden requested that a paragraph is added to Item 115.2015/2 Pocket Park, the Clerk explained that the minutes are not a record of everything that is said during a meeting, they are a summary of the decisions taken. It was agreed that the extra paragraph would be added. Cllr Kinch proposed that the minutes are accepted and signed; this was seconded by Cllr Wenden and approved by all.

136.2015 Neighbourhood Watch and police liaison – chairman to report

The Chairman reported that there had been a burglary in Creaton. A metal theft seminar was held on October 29th at Althorp. There are still issues at county level with Neighbourhood Watch and also more changes are expected within Daventry district policing.

137.2015 Archiving – clerk to report

The clerk reported that the shredding had not been done yet as there was not a large enough quantity to justify the expense.

138.2015 Pocket Park

138.2015/1 To receive the monthly report

Cllr Wenden reported that he has visited the pocket park and there was nothing to add to the monthly report that is not covered in the annual inspection report listed below.

138.2015/2 Annual inspection

The posts for the swing set will be replaced as soon as can be arranged. The play inspection indicated concerns with the bolt on the basketball net, Cllr Eaton explained that the bolt is actually an original item; it is designed to facilitate the tilting of the net so that the height can be changed. The only solution to the issue is to weld the net permanently in the highest position. Cllr Wenden proposed that the council remove the basketball post and weld the net on permanently. Cllr Wenden also proposed that the swing posts are replaced and that the cracking log on the climbing frame is also replaced. Cllr Eaton seconded the proposal and all agreed.

Cllr Wenden also reported that the rope on the gate has been replaced.

138.2015/3 Rough grass areas

Cllr Eaton reported that he had mown the rough grass area in the pocket park; it had taken approx. four hours. The council agreed to pay £60 for the mowing and thanked Cllr Eaton for his help.

138.2015/4 HPPAC

Cllr Oswin reported that the next fund raising event would be in January.

138.2015/5 Hedgerow maintenance

Cllr Curtis reported that she met four companies at the pocket park to review the maintenance of the hedgerow that borders the park and the road. Two of the contractors walked away stating that it was too complicated a job as the hedgerow is in very poor condition; it is interspersed with large shrubs/trees and also has a ditch running through it. The other two companies agreed to supply a quote to lay the hedge, Cllr Curtis reported that she has received one quote so far for over £2000. Cllr Curtis proposed that the council wait for the second quote, in the meantime quotes should be obtained for cutting the hedge right down so that the regrowth can be properly managed. Cllr Oswin seconded the proposal and all agreed. Cllr McCubbin agreed to speak to a contact of hers who may be able to quote for both the hedge laying and the cutting down.

139.2015 Planning

139.2015 /1 New applications – None

139.2015/2 Completions – None

140.2015 Finance

140.2015/1 Receipts

0.60p Interest.

140.2015/2 Payments

To approve payment of the following cheques signed between meetings

Details	Amount	Chq Number
Hugh Kinch Reimburse website	71.86	779
Eon electricity	222.84	780
Ncalc training	39.00	781
F Keable Salary Oct	155.16	782
HMRC Paye Oct	38.80	783
Came and Company Annual Insurance	1078.14	784

To approve payment of any cheques presented at the meeting including the following;

Details	Amount	Chq Number
F Keable Reimburse postage	6.48	785
Eon Light replacement	1170.00	786
F Keable Salary Nov	155.16	787
HMRC Paye Nov	38.80	788

Nick Freeman mowing 2015	508.00	789
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140.2015/3 Bank reconciliation as at 31st October 2015

Receipts inc starting balance £19894.82 less payments £4803.38= **£15091.44**

Cash in Current Account £1500 plus cash in Business Account £13749.72

Less Uncashed cheques £158.28= **£15091.44**

140.2015/4 Budget and Precept 2016-2017

The Clerk reported that the payments for this financial year have fallen well within the budget so far. The budget for 2016-2017 will be discussed in January. There is expected to be an increase in mowing costs next year as the council needs to source a new contractor but aside from that there is not expected to be any other major increases. Unless there are any unexpected changes prior to finalising the precept demand in January, the Chairman proposed that the council keep the precept at its current level of £10,100.00 Cllr Oswin seconded the proposal and all agreed.

141.2015 Highways

141.2015/1 Footpath and drainage works in Hollowell – Chairman to report.

The Chairman reported that the pavement and drainage works in Hollowell have been completed. An article will be placed in Village Link magazine to thank local residents for their patience. Two traffic cones have been left outside the pocket park, Councillor Eaton undertook to ensure that they are removed.

Cllr McCubbin voiced concern about the condition of the pavements that run up the hill on the Creaton Rd, the hedgerows have been trimmed back but the footpath is still covered by the hedge. Cllr McCubbin agreed to speak to the landowner to see if he would cut the hedges back a bit more.

141.2015/2 Footpath maintenance

Cllr McCubbin reported that she had not made contact with Nick Wedgbrow (Rights of Way Officer at NCC Highways) nor with the residents who had originally reported concerns about the state of the footpath. She stated she had conducted a survey and considers the Jitty appears to be clear at the moment. In response to an enquiry to NCC Highways, from the Chairman, Nick Wedgbrow had reported by email in August 2015 that the NCC Highways Rights of Way Team would attend to clear it twice a year. However, any overhanging vegetation would be the responsibility of the landowner. This item can now be removed from the agenda unless there are further concerns.

142.2015 Street lighting, replacement and repairs

The Chairman reported that the final phase of the streetlight upgrade had now been completed. In total 32 lamps had been upgraded from 80w to 35w usage making them more efficient and easier to repair. Eon announced a large price rise this year but despite this it is thought that the council will still save money on the energy bills. Northants Calc have been researching the cost of maintaining parish streetlights, at the moment it is thought to be of minimal benefit for small parish councils to change their energy supplier. As the process is time consuming it is not something that Hollowell & Teeton PC wish to commence at the moment. Councillor Wended reported a fault with lamp No. 22 at Teeton and the Chairman undertook to report this to Eon for repair.

143.2015 H&T PC Website

The Clerk reported that there have been some issues using the parish laptop over the past two weeks. Cllr Kinch explained that Google Chrome does not work well with

some websites and was having compatibility issues with the parish website and email account. The Clerk has now started using Internet Explorer instead and it is working well. The Clerk then explained that the parish printer is becoming difficult to use, the printer ink is quite expensive and is running out in between meetings even though the printer is not being used. The Clerk suggested that a cost effective solution would be to use the clerks printer and reimburse for ink and paper. The parish printer is now 5 years old and it was suggested that its value would be minimal so it should be disposed of. Cllr Kinch proposed that the council accept this solution, Cllr Oswin seconded the proposal and all agreed.

144.2015 Mowing to include contract review.

Cllr Eaton explained that the council has received an email from a representative of Nick Freeman, the council's mowing contractor. The email stated that Nick will not be able to fulfil the council's mowing requirements next season, there was also an invoice included in the email for this year's costs.

The invoice total did not agree with the councils record of the mowing dates and work completed, Cllr Eaton proposed that the council pay for 2 complete cuts including the pocket park and 1 cut not including the park, there was also a partial cut when the mower broke down for which Cllr Eaton suggested 50% payment would be fair. The total amount to pay was £508.00. Cllr Tomalin seconded the proposal and all agreed.

The Chairman suggested that the council should consider using a larger company from 2016 onwards as the mowing spec for the council is now more complicated and involves larger amounts of roadside verge. At the moment the council have an agreement with NCC Highways, the agreement states that the council will take over all the mowing for the parish in return for an annual contribution from NCC. The chairman explained that there is an option to hand over the mowing back to NCC. If the parish council agreed to do this the verges in the parish would be mown a maximum of three times a year, which is less than they are mown at the moment. Cllr Wenden suggested that the council ask the parishioners what they would prefer; the mowing specifications would be placed on the noticeboards with a closing date for comments of December 31st. Any comments received could then be discussed at the January meeting, quotes from contractors would then be requested and final decisions made in March.

145.2015 BT Service- Council to discuss and consider a response.

The Chairman reported he had finally received a response from Paul Bloxham at BT regarding service issues in Hollowell and Teeton. The response was 'Openreach are working to improve the networks in this area'. The Chairman undertook to advise the individual residents, who had supplied information about problems with BT Service, of the outcome.

146.2015 DDC Dog Control Orders (PSPO)

The Chairman reported that recent changes to this legislation means that dog walkers can be fined £100 for failing to pick up their dog's waste on footpaths in open fields not just on pavements.

Cllr Curtis agreed to publicise this change on the parish facebook page.

147.2015 DDC Town and parish Council meeting 17th December 2015

The Chairman agreed to attend the above meeting, the council agreed that there were no specific questions that they would like adding to the agenda.

148.2015 CPRE Meeting 12th November at Great Houghton Village Hall –

Cllr Wenden and Cllr Tomalin were not able to attend the above meeting.

149.2015 Correspondence received

Police and Crime Commissioner – letter to all parish councils, passed to the chairman who read the letter to the council – No action needed.

Northants calc update – passed to Cllr McCubbin.

The Chairman reported receiving two items by email and stated:

Michael Venton, DCC Landscape Planning Officer had written to advise the Parish Council in regard to Storm Damage to TPO Cedar DA338 re Holly Cottage, Church Hill, Hollowell.

I am sending this quick email following a meeting on site today with Mr Mount of Holly Cottage, Church Hill, Hollowell following damage caused by one of the two Cedars located in the garden of the adjacent property of Beech House which are subject to TPO designation.

A significant portion of the upper section of one of the two Cedar trees snapped out damaging Holly Cottage and cars parked in the drive. The damaged tree needs to be initially made safe, then due to the level of damage felled after discussions with the owners of Beech House.

The other tree subject to a TPO not currently damaged but now very much more exposed as it was protected from the wind by the damaged tree. My recommendation would be under emergency works to reduce this cedar to appropriate secondary growth points to prevent storm damage to this newly exposed tree. Obviously permission would need to be sought and agreed with the owners of Beech House. The tree should certainly be able to be rendered far safer while still leaving the tree well shaped but smaller.

The final tree in question is a further individually TPO protected Cedar on the front lawn of Holly Cottage. Though the tree has not been damaged by the storm thus far with the loss of the top of one of the adjacent trees and the necessary reduction works to its neighbour this tree will be further exposed, with far greater and realistic chance of partial or complete failure onto the road or nearby buildings, I recommend its removal and replacement with another tree (broadleaf) which would be subject to the same TPO designation. There are I feel no other realistic options as the tree is relatively young and given its more exposed position, proximity to buildings and the road and its significant opportunity for growth some form of failure is realistically only a matter of time.

I believe you have a meeting this evening, if this matter could be reported, and rest assured no tree removals are taken lightly on my part but health and safety issues are of paramount importance so these emergency works are I believe necessary given what has happened and the potential for further failure. Where trees are removed replacements will be requested type and position to be discussed.

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

The information was noted by Councillor Wenden (Parish Council Tree Warden for Hollowell)

The Chairman further stated:

Adam Cooper, The Poplars, Creaton Road, Hollowell had written to report

Following a brief conversation yesterday with Sue McCubbin outside our house, I felt it may be useful to write to you directly ahead of the next Parish Council meeting. Sue advised me that she intended to raise at the meeting the matter of the gravel track into our paddock.

The gravel track has been immensely useful during the building project we have undertaken at our home, and will have helped prevent mud from being carried out onto

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the road outside our property. I am pleased to advise that the building project is virtually completed.

We plan to revert the track to grass / pasture, but will need to wait until the growing season next Spring to achieve this to ensure the soil dressing and grass seed have a chance to be successful. We would like to leave a narrow pair of tyre tracks into the field to enable the odd occasion when we need to use the paddock gate i.e. move the horses etc.

I trust this is useful as an update and meets the approval of the Parish Council.

Councillor McCubbin requested this matter appears as an agenda item at next meeting.

150.2015 Date of next meeting

Jan 13th 2016, March 16th 2016