

TITCHMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17th June 2004 in the Chapel

Councillors Present: Ian Curtis (Chairman) Sylvia Prestwich (Vice Chair)
Michael Alderman Julie Cheney
Gina Gaskin Janet Jones
John Pridmore David Walpole

In Attendance: Jane Teague (Clerk), Daniel Ward-Williams, Edward Clarke

04/06/1 Apologies For Absence:

Vince Smith. The Clerk reported that Vince has also tendered his resignation, as he is no longer a resident of Titchmarsh. The members accepted this, with regret. The Clerk was asked to write and thank Vince for his contribution to the Parish Council and Parish Plan.

A "notice of vacancy" will be placed on the noticeboard.

At this point the meeting was suspended to allow Daniel Ward-Williams to put his case for provision of skateboarding facilities on the Playing Field. This is detailed under point 11. Daniel and Edward then left and the meeting was resumed.

04/06/2 Declaration of Interests:

None declared

04/06/3 Minutes of Last Meeting:

04/06/3.1 The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th May 2004 were accepted as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

04/06/3.2 The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20th May 2004 were accepted as a correct record with one minor amendment: David Walpole confirmed that he would retain responsibility for housing issues. The minutes were duly amended and signed by the Chairman.

04/06/4 Matters Arising:

04/06/4.1 Additional Noticeboards

As there are always notices pinned to the telegraph pole outside the school, this was thought to be an ideal place for a noticeboard. (The village will lose marks in the Village of the Year competition for notices on telegraph poles.) MA proposed and DW seconded the provision of an open access noticeboard on the grass verge on School Lane (costing approx. £300). All in favour. A site visit will take place at 7.30 pm on 15th July to decide the exact location. JJ will discuss with School.

**JJ
ALL:
SITE VISIT**

04/06/4.2 Engine House Maintenance Quote

The additional cost of having the proposed new doors painted is £400 plus VAT. It was felt that this added too much to the original cost of £800 plus VAT to supply treated and stained doors, and that the doors, once fitted, could be painted at a later date if thought necessary. DW proposed and MA seconded that the doors be supplied treated and stained only and the matter be reviewed when the doors have been in situ for 12 months. All in favour. Clerk to advise J&S Pendred.

CLERK

04/06/4.3 Speed Watch

Ian Curtis suggested reasons for and against taking part in this scheme.

In favour of Speed Watch – it would:

- Raise the profile of the speeding problem in the village
- Demonstrate Parish Council commitment to the matter
- Represent a significant commitment from residents as at least 20% of the population have to pledge support to the scheme
- Contribute to a reduction in speed and change in attitude

Against Speed Watch – it might:

- Prove difficult to get 20% of the population to pledge support
- Prove difficult to find the required 8-10 volunteers
- Be a divisive policy that alienates people with villagers seen to be reporting on other villagers
- Be too restrictive – activity is limited to pre-advised place & time
- Be too heavy-handed for the scale of the problem, which is probably being caused by just a few people

Discussed by members who unanimously decided it was not the right course of action to pursue, but that action in some form does need to be taken: no-one wanted to be faced with a death or serious injury in the village as a result of inconsiderate driving by a minority.

MA proposed and JP seconded that the Parish Council awaits the results of the additional speed data checks that the police have been requested to undertake. From this, the measures already implemented can be evaluated. All in favour. Clerk to respond to ACRE.

CLERK

04/06/4.4 The posters currently displayed on street light posts in Thrapston asking drivers to slow down, check their speed, reminding them that they are in a 30 mph area etc. were thought to be a good idea. SP proposed and JC seconded that the Clerk look into obtaining similar posters.

CLERK

04/06/4.5 Clerk's Review

IC proposed and GG seconded that in future there is more involvement from all members, who will be invited to comment on the Clerk's performance to one of two appraisers: Chair or Vice-Chair plus one other member. All in favour.

04/06/5 Finance

The following bills were presented for payment:

John Greig, publication of Titchmarsh Times, Oct 03-Jul 04	£ 92.50
Maggy Chapman, reimbursement Parish Plan expenditure	£492.49
NCC, 2 x village nameplates for Islington & Polopit	£406.60
Jane Teague, Clerk's May salary paid by standing order	£144.00

It was resolved that all bills be paid. Proposed by MA, seconded by SP.

04/06/5.1 Parish Plan expenditure is covered by £520 earmarked in PC accounts (i.e. £250 from Village Fund and £270 from Parish Council funds). SP asked whether the Parish Plan would be submitting a budget or would the grant monies be received prior to any further expenditure. The Clerk will clarify this.

CLERK

04/06/5.2 Vince Smith was the PC representative on the PP Committee. IC will talk to the PP chairman about replacing Vince.

IC

04/06/5.3 Internal Audit: John Wilkins carried this out on 14th June 2004. The auditor was very supportive and encouraging, and all financial activities were generally applauded. The auditor made one minor recommendation: that invoices should be initialled by the two people signing the relevant cheque, to provide evidence of their check of the invoice against payment.

IC/SP/GG

04/06/5.4	<p><u>Statement of Assurance</u>: MA proposed and JP seconded that the Chairman sign Section 2 – Statement of Assurance of the Annual return to the Audit Commission. All in favour. Clerk to return required documentation.</p>	CLERK
04/06/6		
Correspondence		
04/06/6.1	<p><u>Response from NCC re Home-to-School Transport Overcrowding Issues</u> The Clerk read the response to members. From September 2004, the contractor will no longer carry fare-paying passengers in addition to school pupils. This should guarantee each child a seat.</p>	
04/06/6.2	<p><u>Independent Consultants review of work of Atkins/Northants Highways</u> Comments are invited from Parish Councils. The outcome of discussion resulted in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting of faults and the subsequent response is very good. Councillors commented on a pot hole being attended to within a few hours of it being reported. • Parish Councils need a mechanism that can provide an accurate quotation for Highways works that the Parish might choose to fund itself. This is necessary both for budgetary purposes and also so that Councillors are authorising commitment of expenditure to an accurate figure, not one that is liable to increase by the time the final invoice is received. • Councillors felt that village roads generally were in a poor state of repair: remedial work is now insufficient - resurfacing is required. • It was commented that the roundabouts at Lilford/Clopton, Thrapston/Oundle Road, and Thrapston/Business Park near Ikea had not been designed to accommodate articulated lorries: there were reported incidences of lorries being forced on to the wrong side of the road as they negotiated these roundabouts due to their design. (This might well be intentional if HGVs are to be encouraged to use the A14/A1.) • The Clerk, in particular, appreciated the support and advice given by Nick Gore, Liaison with Atkins was considered to be very good. 	
04/06/6.3	<p>Clerk to respond to NCC. <u>All remaining items of correspondence</u> not requiring action were listed and placed in the circulation file for Councillors.</p>	CLERK
04/06/7		
Planning		
04/06/7.1	<p><u>Outcome of previous application</u>: EN/03/01450/FUL Manor Farm Court – refused planning permission. The Planning and Licensing Committee heard this application on 9th June. District Councillor Sue North led discussion and spoke against the application. Following representation by Ian Curtis and Michael Alderman, the members voted unanimously to refuse permission. MA thanked the Clerk for her efforts in researching information to support the PC and residents’ objection to the application. It is likely that the applicant will appeal against the decision. Clerk to write to Councillor Sue North to acknowledge with thanks her contribution.</p>	CLERK
04/06/7.2	<p><u>Outcome of Previous Application</u>: EN/04/00106/OUT 87 High Street – applicant is commencing the appeal process. All in favour of confirming previous comments to ENC, i.e. that the PC is wholly supportive of this development. Clerk to reply by 14th July.</p>	CLERK

04/06/8	Report from PFC	CLERK
04/06/8.1	IC told members about new proposal for management of PF, which would involve PC taking over responsibility but delegating fund raising to volunteer group (PFA) who would not be bound by the regulations of the PC. Confirmation/comment awaited from Internal Auditor regarding this proposal.	
04/06/8.2	The Clerk advised that our solicitors are likely to charge around £450 for dealing with PF lease.	
04/06/9	Footpath Warden – Job Applicants	CLERK
	Three residents have expressed interest in the role: Louise Stokes, Jim James and Terry Higgins. IC proposed and SP seconded that the role be shared by the three volunteers, one of whom will need to act as co-ordinator of activities. All in favour. Clerk to contact volunteers and thank them for their interest. Clerk is awaiting information from NCC Rights of Way team regarding induction and training.	
04/06/10	Design Strategy for East Northants	CLERK
	The consultation draft document was distributed to members at the May meeting. IC proposed and DW seconded that the strategy be endorsed. Of particular interest were the points relating to design in context and sustainability of rural communities. All agreed this could be a useful tool in future planning applications. Clerk to respond to ENC.	
04/06/11	BMX track and skateboarding facilities	CLERK
	Julie Cheney led discussion and advised that since speaking to some of the young people in the village it was apparent that there was no interest in BMX. Skateboarding ramps would be welcomed by a small group of young people. One of them, Daniel Ward-Williams came to put their case to members. He was accompanied by Edward Clarke. Daniel explained that although Oundle now has good skateboarding facilities in its recreation ground, it is difficult to get lifts to Oundle and back. Daniel suggested installing a skate park in one corner of the playing field and, when asked, offered to assist with fundraising. GG urged caution and reported on a recent case where litigation is underway after a youngster suffered broken bones in a skateboard park. JC reported that wooden skate ramps, while not as expensive as metal ramps, do not withstand vandalism and there have been many instances of them being destroyed in arson attacks. Daniel responded to this by volunteering to report any vandalism. Daniel suggested DIY kits, enlisting help with construction from local builders, as an alternative to the installation of expensive ready built equipment. Daniel has seen such kits on a website and will give the details to the Clerk. He offered to contribute some of his own savings towards this. IC thanked Daniel and Edward for attending, commenting that it was good to hear the views of the young people of the village. Members were impressed at how well Daniel had put his case. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to thank Daniel for speaking. Issues of cost, safety, vandalism and the possibility of this being a passing craze were discussed by members. It was agreed that the Volunteer Centre's Group Hire Scheme would be worth considering to take groups of young people to use the facilities at Oundle.	

JC proposed and GG seconded that the provision of skateboarding facilities be raised via the Playing Fields Committee, the Parish Plan, and Titchmarsh Times to ascertain interest. All in favour.

**GG/IC/
CLERK**

04/06/12 Reports from Local Organisations

- 04/06/12.1 Clubroom: JP was pleased to report that refurbishment was well underway and should be finished by mid-July.
- 04/06/12.2 School: JJ reported that Josie Milton, currently a part-time teacher at the school, has been appointed acting head, a role that she will carry out for two terms. The position of Head Teacher will be re-advertised in September.
- 04/06/12.3 The school was reportedly enthusiastic about tending an allotment.

04/06/13 Date of Next Meeting

- 04/06/13.1 Thursday, 15th July 2004 in the Chapel. **Members will firstly undertake a site visit to the junction of School Lane/Drydens Close to consider the position of proposed noticeboard.**
- 04/06/13.2 IC proposed and SP seconded that there is no meeting in August. In the event that urgent planning applications are received these will be circulated to members.

04/06/14 Councillors' Review

- A copy of a letting agreement was provided that might be suitable for the garage tenancy agreements.
- Suggestion to include 15 minutes of Public Open Time on future agendas, to encourage parishioners to attend meetings.
- It was suggested that the gate on the public footpath in Joan Wood's field is replaced with a stile, as the gate is often left open by walkers. IC will discuss with Joan Wood.
- The village fete on 12th June was a great success, thanks to all involved.
- Aldwinckle and Thorpe Parish Councils have advised that public access to the area around the fishing lakes, on the border of Titchmarsh Parish, is being denied by the current leasor of the fishing rights. Action is being taken to prove that pathways have been walked without restriction over the past 20 years so that they can be designated as rights of way.

**AGENDA
July Meeting**

The Chairman closed the at 10.05 pm.