

Helpston Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th February 2011 *DRAFT MINUTES – AWAITING APPROVAL BY PARISH COUNCIL*

PRESENT - Councillors Smith (Chairman), Mrs Morton, Mrs Lakey, Mrs Stanton, Dobson, Topper and Driver. There were 8 members of the public and City Cllr. David Over in attendance

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR In view of the heavy wear and mud churning occurring on the grass verges, Council were asked to consider having the lay-by outside the shop extended to include the verge outside No. 3A West Street. Council agreed to write to Highways and request the lay-by extension.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Bradley and Hinchliff and the Clerk, Kathie Rowbotham. Minutes were taken by the Chairman.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – Agreed by the Council and signed by the Chair.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

- 3.1 Telephone Box now in working order.
- 3.2 Heath Rd sub-station was a “capping point” that is no longer needed, hence it’s removal.
- 3.3 Village Sign base. Chairman had advised Stamford Stone and Graham Turner of the acceptance of their quotations. Chairman to ask Stamford Stone for a “donation” (SS).
- 3.4 Pear Tree Lane bench has been repaired. Maxey Road bench has been removed. City will replace it in the new financial year. The Chairman will approach the Barnack Group re. an Oak Bench. (SS)
- 3.6 The 20mph speed limit in the vicinity of the School will become enforceable on 21st March 2011.
- 3.7 Cummins Generator Technologies had objected to the B1443 lorry ban. Clerk to advise Peter Tebb of their infrequent use of the B1443 at Helpston and that their objection is therefore very weak. (KR).
- 3.8 Bainton clerk to be chased re. Helpston Cllrs. Planned use and training with the speed cameras (SS).

4. PLANNING

a. Updates and City Council decisions.....None

b. New Applications

11/00041/LBC for 7 West Street – Painting at rear. No objections (KR).

11/00092/TRE for 3 Willow Mews – Tree crown work. No objections (KR).

5. FINANCE – **Cheques approved – J Garratt (grass cutting) £213.50 (3), Clerk pay £398.40 (1), Clerk expenses £50.67 (2), Cllr Dobson (expenses) £82.11 (2).

6. DONATION REQUESTS. None. Council unanimously agreed to consolidate the loan of £250 given to the Scout and Guide Movement (Helpston) late last year into a full donation (KR).

7. GLINTON ROAD LEVEL CROSSING It was agreed not to write to the City Council with suggestions for new signage at the crossing. Instead Council agreed to invite Richard Pedley to the Annual Parish meeting where he could present any proposals for improvements at the crossing. It was also agreed to ask him to first visit the site to acquaint himself with the road junctions and turn-offs in the area. In addition he was to be invited to comment on the traffic/rail movements in the vicinity of the Lolham crossing. Members of the public commented on the variance of the signalmen (Action...KR). City Cllr. David Over will involve the British Transport Police (DO).

8. PROPOSED MEETING DATES Future dates for meetings were to be.....

7th March, 4th April (Annual Parish Meeting), 9th May (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council), 6th June, 4th July, 1st August (if reqd.), 5th Sept, 3rd Oct, 7th Nov, 5th Dec. (KR).

9. ANNUAL TOPPLE TESTING OF MEMORIALS (CEMETERY & CHURCHYARD)

Cllrs. Topper and Dobson agreed to carry out these tests asap (CT and JD).

The Chairman advised that he had laid flat the memorial of Bessie Garfoot Gardner, which had a severe "loose lean". He also advised the Council of suspected vandalism to the memorial of H Calderbank. The Police had been advised by a relative of the deceased.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 The John Clare Society had requested the use of the Village Green on Saturday 9th July 2011. This was agreed subject to two Cllrs carrying out a risk assessment on the day before (CT and SS).

10.2 The Society had also requested permission to place an explanatory plaque or marker on John Clare's grave. This was agreed subject to it being either flat or not interfering with the mowing of the Churchyard in that area (SS).

10.3 The Chairman informed the Council about the Talkback Project.

10.4 Cllr David Over reported on the City's Planning Strategy progress and the imminent consultation (11th Feb) on the Local Development Framework DPD / Site Allocations. It was clear that objectors will need to be vigilant and mobilised "en masse" when the opportunity for comments is confirmed. The Chairman will involve Mike Dorgan-Davey (SS).

11. COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

11.1 Cllr. Dobson summarised the fund spending decisions of the Rural North Neighbourhood Council.

11.2 City Cllr. David Over highlighted the need to comment on the City's Transport Plan when the opportunity arises.

11.3 Cllr. Morton advised that there had been a recent meeting of the Community Association.

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

1. Topple Test Results, 2. Insurance Review, 3. Financial Regulation Review, 4. Risk Assessment Review, 5. Standing Order Review, 6. Groundsman's Contract.

13. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 7th March 2011 in the John Clare School Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting was then closed to the public at 8.45pm. and was reopened IN COMMITTEE.

14. IN COMMITTEE

The Chairman read out a letter from Kathie Rowbotham tendering her resignation as Clerk with effect from 3rd April 2011. She expressed her good wishes to the Council and commented on her enjoyment of the work over the last eight years. In accepting her resignation the Council wished her all the best and gave their thanks to her, which will be expressed in person at the March meeting.

The Chairman then informed the meeting of his plans for the coming year and the difficulties which could, as a result, occur following Kathie's resignation. Options for the future were then discussed and Councillors were invited to think these through before the next meeting.

Finance ** 1. -LGA 1972 Section 112 (2), 2. -LG (Financial Provisions) Act 1963 Section 5, 3. -LGA 1972 Section 214, Section 215 & LGA 1894 Section 6.