

MINUTES OF THE 31st PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
MAPPLEBOROUGH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 1st DECEMBER 2008
at 8.15pm at THE VILLAGE HALL

1. THE CHAIRMAN OPENED THE MEETING AT 8.15pm
2. PRESENT - Cllrs. M. Green, J. Fitzhenry, S. Regan, N. O'Neill Thomas, G. Ward, L. Topham, H. McCarthy
3. APOLOGIES – Cllr. J. Fitchett
4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr. Regan would have declared a Prejudicial Interest in the item due to be discussed regarding Studley Football Club but the matter was not now being discussed.
5. PUBLIC FORUM –
Roger Dior read out his concerns regarding the Planning Application for Hill Crest Farm, Pratts Lane. This is already developed and he was concerned about future development which could affect the quietness of the Lane. He mentioned the locked access gate (questioned Right of Way). Mr. Coley of Hill Crest responded – he had only just found out about the gate and this is now clear. All buildings had been given Planning Permission and his proposed work was for just Holiday Lets. He invited anyone to approach him to check.
6. PRESENTATION BY DR. BEBBINGTON, STANDARDS & ETHICS COMMITTEE
Dr. Bebbington gave an insight into the role of the Standards & Ethics Committee. It is made up of District and Parish Councillors and Independent Members. Their aims are to check the Code of Conduct – actioning and investigating. Details were listed in the current issue of Decorum which had been circulated to the Parish Councillors.

The Chairman thanked Dr. Bebbington for his time.

7. THE MINUTES OF THE 30th PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 6th OCTOBER 2008 were accepted as a true record and signed.
8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION – Matters arising from the last Parish Council Meeting
- SPEED/SIGNAGE
The Parish Clerk reported that responsibility for 'speed' controls and signs on the Henley Road had now passed back to Chris Fossey, W.C.C. She had queried with him his predecessors remarks about 'new equipment'. The reply was that he believed this to be Police Fiat Panda Cars which were giving more enforcement. The Parish Clerk to follow up.

The Parish Clerk had contacted Carolyn Burrows, W.C.C. regarding the possibility of having rumble strips included in the work due to take place early next year at the bottom of Gorcott Hill. She had been advised that these would not be permitted as they can not be used within 200m of any property.

Signed

- WASTE

Following a report at the last Parish Council Meeting that Studley had a waste facility, the Parish Clerk had looked into this and emailed the Parish Councillors. Studley Parish Council pay for this at around £385 plus vat depending on the type of collection/vehicle.

Because the initial reaction to waste collections and the temporary suspension of green waste collections had died down, the Parish Council agreed not to take any further action.

Bulky waste collections can still be made by contacting Stratford District Council or telephoning Verdant for garden rubbish. All these collections would be charged for.

- POST BOX

The Post Box outside the School on the Henley Road is now operational although the Collection Time Plate had been stolen. This had been reported to Royal Mail.

- FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT – Model Publication Scheme

The Parish Clerk had copied and circulated all details to the Parish Councillors for their consideration. All Parish Councillors present agreed to adopt this without modification and passed a Resolution to that effect. Proposed by: Cllr. Green, Seconded by: Cllr. Regan.

- COMMUNITY FORUMS

The 2nd meeting had taken place at Henley. Cllr. McCarthy reported that there were not many attendances from this area. The lay-out of the 'Committee' was more informal.

- SCHOOL CROSSING

The Parish Clerk had contacted Lynn Harding at W.C.C. following an initial contact from Cllr. McCarthy. The Traffic Control Team would investigate 'potential for installing pedestrian crossings on the A4189 and A435'. If this was not feasible consideration would be given to 'dual flash' warning signs. As of 1st December the Parish Clerk had been informed that a preliminary site visit had been made and pedestrian and vehicle counts commissioned which would probably take place after Christmas.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- STUDLEY FOOTBALL CLUB

An email/contact had been received from Mr. Mark Fogarty, Project Manager for the proposed new facilities at the Club. The email had been forwarded to the Parish Councillors for their information as Mr. Fogarty would be present at the Parish Council Meeting to answer any questions. However, he had sent his apologies that he was unable now to attend. A Planning Application has not yet been received regarding any development. Mr. Fogarty has already spoken to Studley Parish Council.

- PRECEPT

The current Precept is £11,000 and it was agreed to ask for the same amount for 2009/10. Proposed by: Cllr. Green, Seconded by: Cllr. Regan.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Clerk presented a list of Applications Received/Granted since the last Parish Council Meeting. Those currently for consideration are:-

08/02962/FUL - Mr. S. Coley, Hill Crest Farm, Pratts Lane

Cllr. Green abstained but was asked by Cllr. Regan to Chair the discussion but take no part.

The Parish Clerk had received two emails from residents objecting and a Petition signed by over 50 others was presented at the Meeting.

Cllr. O'Neill Thomas was still concerned about the narrowness of the Lane and the increased traffic that would be generated. Cllr. Ward was against over development. Cllr. Regan believed the concerns over the previous Application which had been withdrawn, still applied. Cllr. Fitzhenry was unsure how to proceed. The Parish Council believed they needed more guidance on this delicate matter. It was felt the previous comments/concerns still apply.

08/02644/FUL – Mrs. Dawn Wofford, Outhill Farm

The Parish Councillors had no comments/objections.

08/03057/FUL – Les Topham, Les Topham Garden Centre

The Parish Clerk presented the Plans. The Parish Councillors needed more time to consider. Cllr. Topham was present and said that because of his position the Application would have to go to Committee anyway.

The Parish Councillors asked the Parish Clerk to obtain more guidance on commenting on Planning Applications.

10. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr. Topham reported on the effect the Economic situation is having. S.D.C. have one of the lowest Council Tax rates. However, there is a £600,000 short fall because of the drop in the interest rate, car parking revenue was down and Planning fees. S.D.C. are looking at internal savings. The maximum they could raise the Council Tax is 5%.

Cllr. McCarthy gave a written Report which stated cuts to be made, less money in the budget. W.C.C. did not have any money in Icelandic Banks.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

'Communities in Control' Consultation Document had been received , from 'Communities & Local Government' and a Legal Briefing L21-08 from NALC Responses are required by 24th December. Parish Clerk to email/copy for Parish Councillors consideration.

NALC Legal Briefing L23-08 regarding the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 update had been received – copy to Parish Councillors.

Stratford-on-Avon District Local Development Framework – Draft Core Strategy document – The Parish Clerk had a hard copy. A Briefing Note had already been emailed to the Parish Councillors. The Consultation period was until 9th January 2009. A letter since received gave details of an ‘Open Day’ at Elizabeth House, Stratford on 16th December between 11.00am – 7.00pm to answer any queries. Cllr. Fitzhenry would visit if possible. Cllr. Regan pointed out the ‘Green Belt’ is to be extended to the Boundary (north end of the Village). However, Wynyates triangle is still earmarked for development as commercial use.

Two notices from WALC regarding forthcoming Briefing Days:-

1. Audit Returns
2. Visionary Leadership & Community Engagement

The Parish Clerk suggested she attend the first – agreed. No one wished to attend the second.

Church of the Holy Ascension had sent an email thanking the Parish Council for their help in obtaining the Public Realm Grant – work had now been carried out.

Sand Bags – the Parish Clerk had been advised of further supplies available of these from W.C.C. – she had collected 100. This meant there were supplies now in Ankcorn House, Cllr. Green’s and Cllr. Regan’s. All unfilled – supply of sand at Cllr. Green’s.

12. FOR CIRCULATION – none

13. DELEGATES REPORTS – none

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNS PAID/FOR PAYMENT & FINANCE MATTERS

The Parish Clerk handed to the Parish Councillors a list of payments made since the last Parish Council Meeting and those due for payment. She reported that the £500 Communications Grant had been received from Warwickshire County Council. This would take over the running costs/development of the Website when funds remaining from the Awards For All Grant expire.

She presented a Bank Statement Sheet to date showing £15,220.25 – less payments due and plus the Grant.

She had written to Mr. D. Bennett asking him to no longer strim around the Notice Board at Abbeyfields Drive as this has now been done by the owners of Studley Football Club.

At the last Parish Council Meeting it was suggested looking at other Banks for better rates of interest. Both Cllr. Fitzhenry and the Parish Clerk had checked and all seem very much the same. In view of the current economic situation it was felt to leave the account as it is for the time being.

Following from the last Meeting, the Parish Clerk had circulated to the Parish Councillors details of the Wage Structure. It was agreed by all Parish Councillors present to increase the Parish Clerk’s wages by one spinal column to SCP19 with immediate effect.

The Domain name of the Website had been renewed for a further two years until 30th November 2010 at a cost of £19.50.

The Parish Clerk reported that Cllr. Fitchett was probably going to resign if a replacement could be found.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting is Monday, 2nd February 2009 at 8.15pm at The Village Hall.

The remaining dates for the current Financial Year are:-

- 6th April - Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council Meeting
- 18th May - Annual General Meeting and Parish Council Meeting

- The Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 9.40p.m. –

Signed

2nd February 2009