

MINUTES OF THE 44th PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
MAPPLEBOROUGH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 4th APRIL 2011
at 8.15pm at THE VILLAGE HALL

1. THE CHAIRMAN OPENED THE MEETING AT 8.50pm
2. PRESENT - Cllrs. A. Crichton, M. Green, N. O'Neill Thomas, C. Rickhards, J. Kerridge
Clerk B.Howes
3. APOLOGIES – G. Ward
4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none
5. PUBLIC FORUM -
No members of the public present.
6. THE MINUTES OF THE 43rd PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF February 7th 2011
Minutes were signed by Chairman Crichton as a true record.
7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION – Matters arising from the last Parish Council Meeting:-
 - COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH SCHEME
Sally Rolfe, Road Safety Officer, Warwickshire Police, gave a brief to the Council. The scheme requires a minimum of two volunteers at a time, 6 in total to be vetted, trained and the sites risk assessed before the scheme can be implemented. Volunteers monitor the speed of traffic and collect registration numbers, these are relayed back to the Police who write a warning letter and details are recorded on the database. If the culprit is caught again in Warwickshire they receive another, stronger letter. On the third occasion, no letters are sent but a Police Officer will visit. Sally confirmed that the scheme is successfully up and running in Sambourne, who are more than happy to join forces with Mappleborough Green. Sally explained that the Speedaware scheme is an alternative which is available at a cost to the Parish and is a good early warning system. Sally clarified the common misconception that money raised from speeding fines does not go back into the Police Force but to central Government, who set a figure for constabularies to fund such schemes, they are not revenue creating for the individual forces.
Only 25% of fixed posts are working at any one time, the hope is that they act as a deterrent. Sally confirmed that there is a camera situated on Henley Road which flashes permanently, acting as a warning to drivers.
The Parish can loan the Speedwatch equipment for 6 to 8 weeks, how often we use it is up to us and volunteer availability.
Clerk handed out the Speedaware letter re costing, to be discussed at the next meeting.
 - SPEED/SIGNAGE
Clerk confirmed Richard Elbourne will be attending the meeting on August 1st to discuss Parish speeding/signage issues. Clerk to confirm.

Signed

- A435 GULLIES/ROAD SURFACES

No update, item to be removed until further notice.

- ABBEYFIELDS FOOTPATH/FENCING/LIGHTS/SIGNAGE

Nothing to report, item to be removed until further notice.

- GRASS CUTTING

Clerk to contact Dave Bennett regarding his contract and future retirement.

- Newsletter

Clerk distributed copies of previous brochure. Clerk to retrieve contact list previously circulated. Councillor Green confirmed that Mrs Green would be happy to assist in printing the updated version and all Councillors would assist in distributing it.

- Grit Bins

Clerk gave three quotes obtained; the cheapest was for £183+VAT from Grit-Bins.co.uk. It was agreed three bins are required to be sited in Pratts Lane, top of Moathouse Court, Haye Lane and in the centre of Abbeyfields. Councillor Green suggested the bins are delivered to him prior to distribution. Clerk confirmed Highways; WCC would fill them once they are sited.

Clerk to order, proposed by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Crichton.

- Dog Bins

Clerk confirmed that the cost of a new dog bin from SDC is: purchase price £150+VAT, fitting £150+VAT and emptying cost per annum is £100 for a weekly collection. Clerk confirmed that the issue was raised as an agenda by Councillor Ward following complaints from residents in Pratts Lane. Councillor Kerridge confirmed that spot checks are done in an attempt to catch persistent offenders and members of the public can report problems to Sophie Peacock at SDC, details can be obtained from the Clerk. Clerk was requested to research previous attempts by Clerk Matthews to obtain quotes to purchase 'keep off, no fouling' posts.

- Community Transport

Clerk confirmed that details on SDC and our websites are up-to-date. However, Councillor Rickhards notified the Council that Johnson's Coaches are due to end their service in the near future.

- Parish Plan

Clerk handed out a copy of Coughton Parish Councils Parish Plan for perusal. Item to be discussed at next Council meeting.

- Meeting Venue/Change of Time

Clerk confirmed that Ankcorn House costs £10 per hour but is not available on Monday evenings. The Cricket/Football Club offered the Parish Council a free room on the understanding a beverage was purchased from the bar. The room is unavailable the first Monday in every month. It was agreed that future meetings would continue to be held in the Village Hall and the start time would change from 8.15pm to 8.30pm to accommodate for the fitness class taking place prior to the meetings. Proposed by Councillor Crichton, seconded by Councillor Green.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- Appoint an Internal Auditor

It was agreed that Vince Ellicott would continue his role as Internal Auditor.
Proposed by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor O'Neill Thomas.

- Internal Audit Risk Assessment

Councillors Crichton and Green reviewed the financial procedures statement, approved and signed.

Councillor Crichton, Green and O'Neill Thomas read and signed the Statement of Assurance.

Clerk confirmed no change.

- Balance Sheet

Clerk handed out the end of year balance sheet for information. To be signed at the next meeting.

- General Reserve

The General Reserve is to remain at £12k, proposed by Councillor Crichton, seconded by Councillor O'Neill Thomas. It was agreed that a review will be considered in August, October and February, Clerk to agenda.

- Core Strategy Consultation 24/3/11

In Councillor Fitzhenry's absence this item will be on the next agenda.

- Dog Attacks

Item to be raised in Correspondence.

- Lighting Maintenance

Clerk distributed letter from WCC re Street Lighting Maintenance Contract 2011/12. It was agreed that the Parish will continue to use the maintenance contract to maintain our lights. Proposed by Councillor Crichton, seconded by Councillor Green. Clerk to reply.

- Clerks Annual Leave

Clerk's annual leave booked between April 28th and May 11th, to use 20 hours annual leave entitlement.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk handed out a list of Applications and Notices received since the last Meeting.

Parish Councillors had no objections to the Application:-

11/00472/ELEC Central Networks West

To reconductor and upgrade 4 spans of existing single phase 11kv overhead line to 3 phase 11kv overhead line by adding a 3rd overhead conductor to the four spans of line

10/02361/FUL Mr Coley, Hill Crest Farm

Proposed erection of agricultural storage building

Refusal from SDC

9. DISTRICT and COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

District Councillor Kerridge had nothing to report

County Councillor Rickhards gave the following report:

Councillor Rickhards informed the Council that the structure of WCC is changing; there will be no directorates only heads of services:

People – social care and education.

Resources – legal services and human resources.

Communities – transport etc..

These changes are in response to recent and future cuts.

There are no planned cuts in public transport for Studley, which reflects the usage of services available.

There is a public consultation on April 19th at 7.30pm re Studley Library; representatives from the County Council will be present. The Library is earmarked for closure; however the meeting aims to identify ways to save it.

There is a possibility the Youth Service maybe saved by making it into a Centre of Excellence, Councillor Rickhards will update at future meeting.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- The Greig Centre, Alcester, Clerk distributed copy of letter regarding lifting restrictive covenants on part of the site of the centre. Councillors made no comment. Councillors not present to receive a copy of letter from Clerk.
- WCC Facing the Challenge questionnaire, Clerk handed out details of the online questionnaire for completion. Councillors not present to receive a copy from Clerk.
- Highway Verge Cutting, Clerk distributed notification of verge cutting timetable from SDC and copied to Councillors not present for information. Clerk to contact Dave Bennett re clearance of grass cuttings.
- Dog Attacks, letter from SDC Animal Welfare Officer was circulated by Clerk. The Clerk confirmed that the details are available on the Parish website and noticeboards.

11. FOR CIRCULATION

– WCC Waste Consultation questionnaire, Chairman Crichton will complete the questionnaire accordingly and return to WCC within the time frame.

12. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAID/FOR PAYMENTS/FINANCE

Clerk distributed up-to-date Bank details and list of payments made since the last Meeting. Balance £17,258.29

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday May23rd 2011 at 8.30pm at The Village Hall.

- The Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 10.10p.m. –