

MINUTES OF THE 29th PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
MAPPLEBOROUGH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 4th AUGUST 2008
at 8.15pm at THE VILLAGE HALL

1. THE CHAIRMAN OPENED THE MEETING AT 8.15pm
2. PRESENT - Cllrs. M. Green, S. Regan, N. O'Neill Thomas, G. Ward, H. McCarthy
3. APOLOGIES – Cllrs. J. Fitzhenry, J. Fitchett, L. Topham
4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None
5. PUBLIC FORUM – 11 members of public present
A question was raised on the condition of the road in Pratts Lane, especially when raining as prone to flooding. Both the Chairman and the Parish Clerk said that this was for discussion later in the Agenda. No further matters raised.
6. MINUTES OF THE 4th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and 28th PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 19th MAY were accepted as a true record and signed.
7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING
 - TRAFFIC CONCERNS
Cllr. Regan had attended a meeting of Studley Parish Council on 17th June. It was agreed that strength was in getting the Parishes together with Coughton to address the problem of increased traffic on the A435 and pollution brought with it. Cllr. Regan had received no communication since then and the Parish Clerk was asked to contact Studley.
 - SIGNAGE
The Parish Clerk had been chasing Carolyn Burrows, W.C.C. following the site meeting but was told that there was no fixed date for the improvements merely that it would be before the end of the Financial Year. In the meantime the Parish Clerk had contacted a Contractor to cut back the overgrown hedgerow from the bottom of Gorcott Hill which was impeding the visibility of the 40mph sign and also for traffic exiting the Church Hall Car Park. This had been requested as part of the improvements by Carolyn Burrows. Part of the work had been done on the lower area but after several requests the first part remained overgrown. Cllr. Green said he would chase this up.

The Parish Clerk also reported on copy correspondence from W.C.C. and a telephone call she had received from a man querying the position of the signs etc. Carolyn Burrows had replied to him with the proposed work.

Signed

- HENLEY ROAD

The Parish Clerk had chased Tim Hamson of W.C.C. regarding the 'new equipment' they propose to try. She was told the police were required to check the site and had been unable to do so because of the roadworks which had taken place over a number of weeks. The Parish Clerk advised him that this was now clear and he said he would now be requesting a site visit from the police as soon as possible and report to us.

- SPEED IN GENERAL

Cllr. O'Neill Thomas had raised concerns regarding speed in Hays Lane and the fact that it is used as a 'cut through'. She reported that recently a car transporter had driven through. It was agreed to keep an eye on the problem. Cllr. Green assured the Parish Council that lorry drivers visiting his and neighbouring property were always requested to be aware. Cllr. McCarthy suggested possible closure of one end of the Lane to avoid 'cut through' vehicles – the Parish Council were against this.

Warwickshire County Council had forwarded a copy of the Speed Limit Review Consultation showing proposed 50mph limit on the Henley Road from Mappleborough Green to Henley. The Parish Clerk had already emailed details to the Councillors. No objections to this.

- FLOODING

The Parish Clerk had chased Nick Wild, W.C.C., about the longstanding repairs required in Pratts Lane. She had been advised that contractors were due anytime. In the meantime she had applied for a Flood Prevention Grant as instructed by the Parish Council. This was for funds should it be necessary to obtain independent advice on the problem. The application had been acknowledged and that the Parish Council would be advised by early September. Parish Clerk to contact Nick Wild for update on timing for the contractors.

- A435 CONDITIONS

Nick Wild had been chased regarding the condition of the road from the Dog Island past Castle Nurseries – he advised he is keeping a careful check.

The Dog Island edge had again been churned over by lorries and the Parish Clerk had asked if a further 'chevron' sign could be sited there to avoid this problem. Nick Wild was not in agreement with this but promised to put down more top soil and re-seed.

Cllr. Ward had previously reported a problem with overnight parking of lorries in the old bus pull-in opposite the Village Hall. This was causing a nuisance to properties adjacent to the fence. The Parish Clerk had reported this to Nick Wild who said he would arrange for a No Overnight Parking sign to be installed but pointed out that this would not be enforceable. Cllr. McCarthy suggested contacting the police/S.D.C. regarding noise and health nuisance also for safety reasons as the lay-by is used as a pull-in for the School Bus. Parish Clerk to action.

Regarding the safety issue, Cllr. McCarthy said Carolyn Burrows of W.C.C. should also be informed of four recent accidents one of which resulted in a death and one in serious injury. Parish Clerk to contact.

Signed

Cllr. Ward had replanted the plant trough on the Henley Road and asked if there was a budget limit for this sort of work – the Chairman said spending should be within reason. Cllr. Ward said he would be prepared to keep the area around the trough/sign clear. This was acknowledged by the Parish Council.

The Parish Clerk reported that Dave Bennett had strimmed around the Notice Board at Abbeyfields again and she asked if the Parish Council wished this to continue – he charges an extra £5.00 for this. The Parish Councillors present all agreed this was worthwhile. Mr. Bennett had also charged £50.00 for extra clearance work on the Dog Island which was required.

The Parish Clerk suggested clearance of the area to the right of Abbeyfields Drive entrance as it was untidy. Cllr. Green would visit the site and speak to contractors. This was agreed by the Parish Councillors present.

- NEW WASTE/RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

This was now in operation and concern was raised regarding the suspension of green waste collection between November 2008 and April 2009. The Parish Clerk had contacted Beth Nicholson at S.D.C. and received a reply that this was due to the facility not being ready to take this until 2009. The Parish Clerk reminded the meeting that representatives from S.D.C. would be at Studley Village Hall one more time - 11th August between 10am-12noon to discuss any queries. Details of this are on the Notice Boards and Website. Cllr. O'Neill Thomas queried what would happen regarding batteries etc.

- AUDIT COMMISSION SURVEY

The Parish Clerk had completed the survey on behalf of the Parish Council and results advised. She would email the attachment to the Parish Councillors.

- PUBLIC REALM GRANT – Warwickshire County Council

This had been completed by the Church for repairs to the drive. The Grant of £1000 was to be met by the Church if awarded. Endorsement of the application had to be made by the Parish Council. W.C.C. were in agreement to accept the application to be followed by agreement at the Parish Council Meeting. This endorsement was agreed – proposed by Cllr. Regan, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill Thomas. Parish Clerk to contact W.C.C.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- COMMUNICATIONS GRANT

The Parish Clerk had completed an application for the £500 Grant. This would help towards the running costs of the Website and computer.

- LIGHTING MAINTENANCE

The Parish Clerk had confirmed with W.C.C. the contract for the current year. An invoice for the previous year had not been issued but W.C.C. had decided to forgo this. The costs for the current year have increased to £19.27 per light (3 lights) at Abbeyfields footway. The invoice would be issued at the year end.

Signed

- POST BOX

Mr. Joe Cox of the Royal Mail and Nick Wild, W.C.C. had both contacted the Parish Clerk to advise that the box had been ordered and permission granted. They were awaiting the contractors installation date. The Parish Clerk suggested that after installation, usage needs to be encouraged to justify it.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Clerk distributed a list of Applications received/granted since the last meeting and read the list out.

APPLICATION RECEIVED 7th July 2008 (dated 3rd July) 08/01577/FUL

Mr. S. Coley, Hill Crest Farm,
Pratts Lane, Mappleborough Green -
Change of use of redundant farm buildings to 5 holiday lets
(2 x 1-bed, 2 x 2-bed and 1 x 4-bed) and office use.
Minor alterations and associated car parking.

Returned 22nd July:

APPLICATION RECEIVED 12th July, 2008 (dated 10th July) 08/00615/FUL

Arden Leisure Ltd., Studley Football and Social Club,
Abbeyfields Drive, Studley
Extension and alterations to existing club house with associated
terrace area, restaurant, childrens day nursery, new vehicle access,
revised car park layout, new sports hall, new full size synthetic pitch,
and 4 no. 5 a side and 1 no. mini pitch and replacement/additional
floodlighting

Returned 25th July:

APPLICATION RECEIVED 28th July, 2008 (dated 22nd July) 08/01788/FUL

Mr. and Mrs. D. Gold, The Lodge, Gorcott Hill, Beoley.
Erection of garage/storage building and aviary following demolition of
existing aviaries.

APPLICATION RECEIVED 28th July, 2008 (dated 23rd July) 08/01786/LBC

Dr. Ann Bicknell, Moat House Farm, Pratts Lane, Mappleborough Green.
Remove non load bearing modern brick façade from gable end wall of
lounge. Expose builders opening – not tied in on one face elevation.
Demolish flue on gable end of lounge on external aspect – only tied in at roof
apex and on one buildings opening elevation. Rebuild flue - using reclaimed
brick and lime mortar.

APPLICATION DECISIONS 7th July 2008 (dated 24th June) 07/03345/FUL

Mr. & Mrs. J. Richards, Haye Pasture,
Haye Lane, Mappleborough Green –
Conversion of existing outbuilding to holiday lets (4 no)

Decision: Granted

The Parish Council had no comments to make on the two Applications due for return –
Dr. Ann Bicknell, Mr. & Mrs. D. Gold.

Signed

9. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS
No report was received from the District Councillor.

Cllr. McCarthy distributed a report pointing out her reference to LinKs. The Parish Council were already informed of this. Cllr. McCarthy suggested the Parish Council could join just for reference purposes if required. This was proposed by Cllr. O'Neill Thomas, seconded by Cllr. Ward. Parish Clerk to action.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter and details received from W.C.C. regarding new Way Marking Signs.

Details from W.C.C. with details of Warwickshire Tree Scheme. As there are no public open areas it was agreed to hold on file.

Mencap had written requesting a donation. Cllr. Regan suggested holding this until the end of the Financial Year along with others which can be considered. This was agreed by all Parish Councillors present. Parish Clerk to notify Mencap.

A letter had been received regarding the Childrens Centre for Stratford Area. The Parish Clerk had contacted them requesting literature for posting on the Notice Boards/Website. As yet nothing had been received.

The Parish Clerk had advised the Parish Council of various items of correspondence regarding Post Office closures requesting comments. She had been contacted again by WALC. The Parish Council asked her to advise them no comments.

The Parish Clerk reminded the Parish Councillors of an email she had sent regarding Liam Nevin's letter on the subject of the Code of Conduct – meetings to attend or offer of someone to speak to the Parish Council. She had only received four responses. It was agreed that we request someone to attend a Parish Council Meeting. Parish Clerk to arrange.

- NALC BRIEFING NOTES

Because of the lengthy notes on various subjects, the Parish Clerk had been unable to report on these and would contact the Parish Councillors by email.

- OTHER

An email had been received from Studley Parish Council thanking Mappleborough Green Parish Council for the donation towards the Friday Shopper service.

The Parish Clerk distributed a letter from 'Green Issues' for information.

11. DELEGATES REPORTS
Cllrs. O'Neill Thomas and Ward had attended an Induction Day on 5th July and found it very useful and informative.

12. APPROVAL OF ACOUNTS PAID/FOR PAYMENT

The Parish Clerk distributed:-

- List of payments made and for approval – Appendix 1
- Current Balance Sheet to 25th July 2008 showing balance of £11,895.60
- Spreadsheet

The Chairman addressed the public present and reminded them that the Parish Council welcome ideas for projects/expenditure for the benefit of the Village.

Cllr. Ward asked it were possible to site a water butt or some facility on the Dog Island to assist with watering because of the danger in moving containers across the road. It was agreed to consider this for future.

The Parish Clerk also distributed a newly typed 'Financial Risk Assessment' form.

A letter had been received from the Branch Manager of HSBC suggesting opening an Instant Access Account to earn interest. The Parish Councillors present agreed to go ahead. Parish Clerk to arrange.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting is Monday, 6th October at 8.15pm at The Village Hall.

- Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 9.25pm. –

Signed