

MINUTES OF THE 23rd PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
MAPPLEBOROUGH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 6th AUGUST 2007
at 8.15pm at THE VILLAGE HALL

1. PUBLIC FORUM – 1 Member of the public was present, and The Chairman welcomed Rob Leahy, Gypsy & Travellers Liaison Officer for Warwickshire County Council who would speak later.

Mrs. Berry asked what was the current position regarding High House Farm. The Parish Clerk reported that this was discussed at the last Parish Council Meeting and no further information was available to date. English Partnership had advised that the Farm would be going on open market. The Chairman said he would look into the situation through contacts.

Mrs. Berry also asked about the date for the proposed de-trunking of the A435. Cllr. McCarthy had nothing new to report on this. The Parish Clerk had been in touch with AmeyMouchel on another subject and been advised the possible date was 1st October 2007. Cllr. McCarthy said Roger Poole at Warwickshire County Council deals with The Highways Agency and the Parish Clerk would contact him for more information.

2. CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING OPEN AT 8.25pm
3. APOLOGIES – Received from Cllrs. Ian Salmon and Joannah Fitchett, and District Councillor Les Topham
4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST – none
5. MINUTES OF THE 22nd PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of 4th June 2007 were accepted as a true record and signed.
6. MATTERS ARISING
The Chairman invited Rob Leahy to speak regarding the Gypsy problem (originally in Item 8 on the Agenda).

Mr. Leahy gave details on procedures and powers in moving Gypsies on. If on Council land he can act taking into consideration welfare. They can be moved on 2-5 days (max. stay 3 days). The problem is getting a Court Order as Stratford Court only sits once a week. Police have power to move Gypsies on immediately if more than six, if less they must move them to another site. Conditions apply if a female is pregnant or a member of the family in hospital. Mr. Leahy can act with order for a fee of £150 rather than the Bailiffs fee.

Regarding private land, he suggested it is cheaper for him to act on the landowners behalf – Nomads Law/Bailiffs. Once on the land you can not block their exit.

He reported that a £1.4m refurbishment had been carried out at the Pathlow Site which was now full. However, the problem is that because of publicity, Gypsies from other regions are coming to this area to seek places.

Because of Section 61 of the Public Order Act, there is now faster removal of Gypsies from Schools/ Recreation Grounds.

The question was raised, do static Gypsies on sites have to pay taxes etc. – Mr. Leahy confirmed they do.

He suggested if met with a situation of Gypsies on land, do not confront them but get in touch with him.

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The Chairman thanked Mr. Leahy on behalf of the Parish Council for a very informative address.

- AWARDS FOR ALL

The Parish Clerk had been in discussions with 'Awards For All' Assistant Grants Officer regarding the balance of the Grant. They have now agreed to extend the period of spend to 1st May 2008 and asked for a breakdown of proposed expenditure. She had drawn up an allocation and forwarded as requested by 3rd August. Copies were handed out, discussed and agreed by Parish Councillors present.

- ANKCORN HOUSE

The provision of a storage cupboard within Ankcorn House had been agreed at £104 per annum. An Agreement was being prepared and keys to be given to the Parish Clerk.

- DONATIONS

As agreed at the last Parish Council Meeting, a donation of £250 had been sent to Studley Cricket Club towards the Junior Kit, and an acknowledgement had been received.

A donation of £50 had been forwarded to Studley Parish Council towards the running cost of the 'Friday Shopper' coach service which several Mappleborough Green residents use.

- ABBEYFIELDS PLAY AREA

The Parish Clerk had contacted David Wright at Stratford District Council regarding updating of equipment but was still awaiting a reply. In the meantime she had returned a form asking for free Annual Inspection of the area and suggested they liaise with Mr. Wright.

- SPEEDAWARE SIGN

The Parish clerk had been in correspondence regarding the siting of this sign on the Henley Road. The sign is apparently only fixed for up to 3 weeks (in prioritised areas) otherwise half days. It is believed that drivers become 'used to the signs' and therefore have no deterrent. There are only four signs and are rotated around 100+ sites and prioritised. The Parish Clerk had asked the cost of these which is over £3000. She had also enquired with AmeyMouchel on a similar flashing sign and was given the figures of between £5-£20k. The Parish Council believed it worth pursuing to get a realistic quote to purchase a fixed sign because of concerns over the speed outside the School. Proposed: Cllr. Nor O'Neill Thomas, Seconded: Cllr. Jane Fitzhenry.

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- BUDGET

The Parish Clerk handed out a sheet with the current Bank Balance/Projected Expenditure & Income/Forecast Balance at year end giving a figure of £3000+. She also circulated a sheet with expenditure of the current year and suggested expenditure 2007/08. The figures included the balance of the 'Awards For All' Grant and the 'General Reserve'.

She listed ideas for spending with this years Precept and reported two suggestions she had received. Cllr. Fitchett asked via email if the question of grass cutting/strimming around the Plant Trough on the Henley Road could be looked at as it is currently hidden. The Parish Clerk was trying to get this done. An email had been received from Mr. William Brown in the Village, asking if the ivy around the trunk of the Oak Tree near Hilliers Garden Centre on the A435 could be removed. This was thought a good idea. The Parish Clerk

would check with AmeyMouchel if it was in order for the Parish Council to arrange for a Contractor to do the work. The Chairman suggested we approach Ross's.

The possible purchase of a Speed Sign could take up a large proportion of finances available but could be included in next years Budget once quotations had been received. Proposed: Cllr. Nor O'Neill Thomas Seconded: Cllr. Jane Fitzhenry.

The Chairman reported that Cllr. Jo Fitchett and Sue Crampton were proposing to re-do the flower beds on the Dog Island. The Parish Council would pay for the plants/gravel and planting would be done voluntarily.

Concerns were expressed regarding the advertising signs fixed on the verge opposite 'Harrys Car Wash'. The Parish Clerk would write to them.

NEW MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Parish Councillors had considered the New Code including Clause 12.2. It was agreed to adopt the New Code including 12.2.

Proposed: Cllr. Shaun Regan Seconded: Cllr. Jane Fitzhenry

The Parish Clerk would issue new Declaration Forms to the Parish Councillors for signature.

DEPRECIATION

The amount of depreciation of Fixed Assets was agreed by all Parish Councillors present at 10% per annum on General Fixed Assets and 50% per annum on Computer/IT equipment.

7. PLANNING

The Parish Clerk circulated a list of Planning Applications and Notices of Applications Granted since the last Parish Council Meeting. A letter had been received from Stratford District Council with a list of Default Polling Stations giving information of a review. Mappleborough Green Village Hall remains in use.

Advice had been received from Stratford District Council regarding the publication of:

- a. Achievable Sustainable Low Carbon Buildings – Draft Supplementary Planning Document.
- b. Extending Your Home – Draft Planning Advice Note

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8. EMERGENCY PLAN

The Parish Clerk suggested that following the recent flood emergency, a system of communication be put in place. Rather than everyone trying to contact each other, a central contact be used to co-ordinate. It was thought the Parish Clerk as having information to hand alongside the Chairman in case one or other is unavailable. This was agreed by all Parish Councillors present.

9. DISTRICT and COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS

No report from Cllr. Les Topham.

Cllr. Helen McCarthy gave a verbal report on two subjects:-

a. Waste – Worcestershire County Council want £90,000 per annum for residents of Warwickshire to be able to use the Redditch site. Talks are still going on.

b. Fire Brigade Review – Discussions are taking place regarding the possible closure of the Studley Fire Station. This would be a great loss especially with the local knowledge of the Firemen there. The result is expected 29th August 2007.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Notice had been received from the Highways Agency regarding major roadworks due to take place on the A46 in two sections between 28th August and early November. Diversions would

be signposted on Motorways and main roads moving all traffic locally onto the A435. The Parish Clerk had written with concerns especially the increase of HGV's. A letter of assurance had been received detailing restrictions and extensive signing to be used to encourage HGV drivers to use the Motorway network instead of the A435 diversion designed for local traffic. Contact has been promised nearer the date.

11. FOR CIRCULATION

The Parish Clerk circulated updated details of 'Law Relating to Parish & Town Councils' detailing powers.

12. DELEGATES REPORTS – none

13. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The Parish Clerk asked if the Parish Councillors would like copies of the WALC Newsletters which she said are very useful and informative. The Chairman suggested this could be viewed on their website. Parish Clerk to check and advise details.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAID/FOR PAYMENT

The Parish Clerk circulated a list of payments made since the last Parish Council Meeting and those for approval and signing, together with a Balance Sheet to 26th June (latest).

15. CHAIRMANS BUSINESS – none

16. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting would be Monday, 1st October 2007 at 8.15pm at The Village Hall.

- Meeting closed at 9.50pm -
