

GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting in the Memorial,
Woollards Lane, Great Shelford on Wednesday 20th January 2010

Present: Councillors Mr Knowles (chairman) Mrs Bennee (vice-chairman) Mr Coggins, Mrs Harwood Mr Hinsby, Mrs Hodge, Mr Johnson, Mr Nightingale, Mr Prescott, Mr Smith, Mr Wilkinson and Mrs Wilson.

Also in attendance: County Councillor Mr Orgee and District Councillors Mr Berent, Jamie Dipple and Mr Nightingale.

Apologies: were received from Councillors Mrs Amis and Mr Seekings

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th November were **confirmed** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING

a) *Level Crossing Signs* (minute 2) No response to date concerning signs asking motorists to switch off their engine at the level crossings.

b) *Sports Club Payments* (minute 4b) Cllr: Smith questioned the proposed increase to contributions made by sports clubs, towards the upkeep of the recreation ground which were higher than inflation. The increase was necessary because the parish council charges are still quite low compared to elsewhere.

3. NOMINATIVE & ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

County Council

Cllr: Orgee said the County Council is in the process of setting its budget for 2010/11. With less money available this is proving to be a very difficult task.

He confirmed that as the County Council had started the gritting season with sufficient stocks of salt. Nationally other areas have been worse hit than us, and replacement stocks of salt were distributed to those areas first, with salt that should have come to us going elsewhere.

The official opening of the new library will take place at the end of January, with a Community Event to run throughout the day.

The Area Joint committee recently considered the views of residents from Station Road and Shelford Park Avenue regarding the yellow lines. Residents from Shelford Park Avenue are still in favour of the council's original request for parking restriction in Shelford Park Avenue; whereas residents from Station Road are against having double yellow lines outside their properties.

At a recent Cabinet meeting the allocation of funding, for the medium sized transport scheme, was considered; with the crossing at Sawston coming second/third on the list; however the order of priority does not reflect the number of accidents. Before the next meeting in February the cabinet will look again at the figures, and it is hoped Sawton will be nearer the top.

Cllr: Bennee asked why there is no commitment to the gritting of footways. Cllr: Dipple said salt bins can be purchased at a reduced price from the County Council.

In response to a question concerning industrial size blue wheelie bins Cllr: Dipple said that as the new bins are not scheduled to come into use until October nothing has been finalized, but would try to find out.

District Council

Cllr: Nightingale said the District Council hopes to introduce a Best Kept Garden competition, to develop the Best Kept Village and to select a Community Hero award; with a grand reception at Scotsdales in October.

The Christmas carol service raised just over £700 for his charity.

Parochial Charities

The meeting approved the appointment of Dr Oliver as a Nominative Trustee of the Parochial Charities, for a further 4 years.

4. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Recreation Ground

Cllr: Johnson said the weather has played havoc with the football pitches, with matches being cancelled for the last 4 weeks. He has kept an eye on the pavilion and managed to avoid frozen pipes. Following problems at the weekend a letter will be sent to the Rugby Club concerning training on the football pitches.

Highways

Cllr: Mrs Bennee said the main problem at the moment is pot holes, both in the road and on the footways.

A recyclable material is being used to fill the pot holes; it would appear not very successfully. Following an on site meeting with a member of the Highways Department every effort will be made to deal with the puddle outside Lloyds Bank and the damaged footway outside the Co-op.

Cllr: Smith said the Post Master had asked if it would be possible to have restricted waiting outside the post office. Several years ago a similar request was turned down by the County Council.

Planning Cllr: Mrs Hodge went through her report highlighting the two events that will take place at Sawston Village College; a Consultation on a review of the Green Infrastructure Strategy and a review on Local Transport Plan for Cambridgeshire.

Talking about the Mandarin Orient Hotel, Cllr: Nightingale said the developers are dragging their feet, until the application is signed off the section 106 allocation will not be activated.

5. LAND END OF GRANHAMS CLOSE

The chairman said the three estimates obtained to clear the land varied greatly. Cllr: Smith said he found the area contained a lot of rubbish and possible some asbestos. Following some discussion it was agreed that the parish council could not consider taking this land over unless it had been cleared.

6. CAR PARK WOOLLARDS LANE

The Chairman read a letter from Cheffins confirming that his client is willing to enter into a new lease, conditional upon the car park remaining surfaced, and the District Council retaining responsibility for reinstating the site to meadow land in the event that the car park use should cease at some future date.

The question of who would be responsible for repairs and resurfacing the car park, should the occasion arise was raised. This is will need to be clarified with the District Council.

Cllr: Coggins said the car park is crucial to the village and it is essential that it is retained.

7. WATER CHARGE VILLAGE HALL

After the Water Company had repaired the leak in the car park, the Community Association received a rather large bill. Although a substantial reduction was negotiated the outstanding balance is still in excess of the usual quarterly account. As the car park is the responsibility of the parish council, and on this occasion no charge was made to repair the leak the Chairman suggested financial assistance should be offered.

Cllr: Mrs Hodge proposed, seconded by Cllr: Johnson that £200 should be granted towards the outstanding balance – **agreed**.

8. SEAT CHURCH STREET

The Chairman said he had looked at the damaged seat on Church Street and suggested that it could probably be repaired. Professional advice will be sought.

9. BT COMPETITION

The Chairman congratulated Shelford School on winning the first prize of £5,000 for the best use of a redundant telephone kiosk in the country. As owner of the kiosk the cheque was allocated to the Parish Council. It was unanimously agreed that the full amount should be passed on to the school.

Cllr: Mrs Harwood declared an interest.

10. NEW PAVILION

The Chairman said efforts are still in hand to obtain a realistic costing for the new pavilion. The Football Foundation has asked for comparable figures on the present design against a conventional brick and tile construction.

Sawston Parish Council has also applied for funding for a new pavilion which is slightly cheaper. As a result the Football Association is now questioning our price and an investigation into the main difference is underway.

The investigation should only take a few days however, should it take longer a small fee will be charged. The Chairman proposed that up to £400 should be approved to cover this contingency. This was seconded by Cllr: Nightingale and **agreed** by the full council.

11. FLY POSTING

A complaint has been received concerning the removal of posters. In the past the policy has been to remove posters from bus shelters and other areas not conducive to fly posting. Following some discussion it was proposed that poster advertising *local events* would be permitted, on the understanding that they are removed immediately following the event.

12. FARMERS MARKET

Stall holders at the farmers market still park on the recreation ground and the area beyond the barrier is extremely muddy. To remove this concession and force them to park on the street would be counterproductive, leaving fewer parking spaces for people wishing to shop, not only at the farmers market but the other shops in the village.

It was agreed that the situation would continue to be monitored and efforts would be made to deal with the mud.

FINANCE

The proposal submitted by the F & GP committee that the precept for 2010/2011 should be £80,000, an increase of approximately 1.9% on the previous year, was **approved** by the full council.

It was **resolved** that 15 accounts totalling £9,809.10, as presented by the Clerk, be approved for payment.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr: Hinsby asked if something could be done about a missing man hole cover and an iron bar sticking out of the ground at the river end of the coppice beside the recreation ground which he feels is a safety hazard. Cllr: Nightingale will investigate.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Chairman.....