

ARLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on 6th February 2017

Present: K Withers (Chairman), J Burcher, D Merrett, N Rowntree, J Wilkinson, S Davies and Elena Dickinson
One member of the public

01-7/17 Parishioners' Forum

Mr Mike Pugsley Representing the PCC, drew the Cllrs attention to their proposed Resolution to the Parish Council on the subject of assisting the PCC with grass cutting costs relating to St Mary's Church. Since the proposal was not received in time to be included on the Agenda, a detailed discussion was not possible. The matter was referred for inclusion on the Agenda for the March meeting

02-8/17 Apologies

Apologies: J Shaw, A Blackburn, J Jones
Absent: M Smith-Lyons

03-9/17 Declaration of members' interest

Cllr Withers declared a personal interest in planning matters in the event of Lower Milton End being discussed.

04-10/17 Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on the 16th January 2017 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Council. There were no matters arising. 2 Cllrs who were noted as absent from the meeting, stated that they had not received notice of same.

05-11/17 Delegation of Verge Mowing Responsibilities from GCC The draft version of this had been reviewed by Cllr Wilkinson, who recommended acceptance. In principle the agreement, commencing in April will permit the Parish Council to engage a nominated independent contractor (on a rolling 1 year contract) to carry out 2 cuts per year of the highways verges, the cost of which will be met in the first instance by the Parish Council. GCC will then be invoiced by the Parish Council for re-imbusement.

The preferred contractor is likely to be Dave Davies, who will be required to provide evidence of having adequate insurances. A map of the Parish, including meterage needs to be added to the final version of the paperwork. The first (main) cut should be completed in May, with a less extensive 2nd cut later in the year. The agreement would remain in place until such times that notice be given on either side or that either party be in breach of the agreement.

In conclusion, Cllr Wilkinson proposed that the Parish Council delegate responsibility to himself and Cllr J Shaw to finalise and then enter into the agreement with GCC. This was unanimously passed.

06-12/17 Arlingham Roads Cllr Withers reported having attended a meeting on 23rd January with GCC, held under the auspices of the Severn Voice group of parishes. A number of issues were addressed including the impression that works are only undertaken in a reactive fashion.

Cllr Withers brought up concerns over frequency and efficiency of the vegetation cutting and also how much input Highways have into planning matters, as safe access does not always seem to be considered. There is little evidence to suggest that liaison takes place

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over installation or maintenance of utility infrastructure and that this often takes place without notice. It was pointed out that in the event of an emergency, the various concerns will have Standing Orders in place that allow them to carry out essential works. (recent Severn Trent activities in Fretherne, the presence of Envirocycle and the recent temporary traffic lights positioned just over Fretherne Bridge were all sited as recent examples of poor planning and implementation). Improved liaison with Highways is desirable, preferably via a direct contact. A mobile App is under development for reporting highways issues, which can also be done via the GCC website. Cllr Withers will continue to follow up highways matters via Severn Voice

Mark Hawthorne who was present at the above meeting is the national contact for matters relating to 'Fastershire'

07-13/17 Planning Matters

13.1 No Planning Applications had been brought to the attention of the meeting

13.2 There was a brief discussion of the refusal of the application (S16/2052/LBC) for replacement windows at The Old School, High Street. Cllr Burcher commented that SDC needs to be even-handed; in that if taking a stand against the latter application, they should also pursue contraventions of planning at Lower Milton End

08-14/17 Correspondence

None

09-15/17 Finance

None

10-16/17 Action Log

Cllr Rowntree advised that the new website is complete, except for photographs of Cllrs Withers & Burcher. Cllr Rowntree will forward a link to Cllrs to check their contact details and conform. Once all are agreed, the site can be launched and go live.

11-17/17 – Matters relating to the proposals for playground replacements and repairs have been referred to the Village Assets & Amenities Group.

12-18/17 – Cllr Withers reported seeing defibrillators in situ elsewhere of a type for which special training is not required. Cllr Rowntree confirmed that if an 'automated' model is installed, the machine itself gives out the instructions via an inbuilt programme.

13-19/17 – Some further progress has been made towards the provision of improved Broadband under the 'Fastershire' initiative. The level of coverage stands at around 70% of a target of 90%. Engaging Gigaclear over BT to complete the project is understood to be under consideration. Gigaclear offers an ultrafast pure fibre network (up to 1000Mbps – 33x faster than the UK average) direct into each household. Further discussion of Fastershire will be on the March Severn Voice agenda.

14-20/17 - Cllr Wilkinson advised that no copy of the Lease of the Playground has been located nor seems likely to be forthcoming, so this should be re-drawn as and when necessary. If the Playground is to be considered as part of the wider picture of village amenities, the existing Lease may no longer be relevant

15-21/17 County Councillor's Report - None

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16-22/17 District Councillor's Report – D.Cllr Davies explained that the Listed Buildings Officers are responsible for The Old School and the Planning Officers for Lower Milton End.

The District Council are in the process of setting their Budgets and are looking to apply for the maximum allowable increase in Council Tax. His Party are strongly objecting to what they consider unnecessary or 'vanity' schemes, which place a strain on resources. New household refuse schemes are achieving 40% general recycling and 20% in food waste recycling (100 tonnes per week!) The Garden Waste collection scheme, which re-starts in February is undersubscribed at 6,000 participants when 8,000 are needed for the scheme to be viable.

The Ecotricity scheme is expected to reach the planning application stage later in the year.

In respect of automating the canal bridges, CART are proposing to give the Fire & Rescue Service a link to the Central Bridge Control. They are now predicting an improvement in the time taken by appliances from Dursley or Gloucester to reach Severnside villages. Hopefully the Police and Ambulance Services will follow suit.

Cllr Burcher commented on potential additional traffic congestion (such as from the Ecotricity and West of Eastington developments) especially around Jct 13 of the M5. Static traffic affects air quality and aggravates conditions such as Asthma. D.Cllr Davies agreed to raise this concern as appropriate.

17-23/17 Councillors' Submissions

Cllr Merrett noted that the Clay Shoot at Lower Milton is now placing advertisements and appears to be a commercial venture, rather than a private recreational one. He queried whether a Licence for the shooting is in place and whether planning permission is required (there is now a fixed building at the site) A number of Cllrs were aware that significant numbers of heavy lorries are active at Lower Milton End on a daily basis. 'Underfunding' for Enforcement within SDC was not felt to be a sufficient defence for inaction.

Cllr Burcher reported that Dog Fouling in the parish is getting worse, with the Lagers all but impassable. CCTV is undoubtedly too expensive, but it was suggested that instead of appealing for voluntary co-operation via the magazine, a tougher stance needs to be taken – namely asking parishioners to notify the Parish Council of specific offenders who will then be issued with warnings and even referred to the SDC Dog Wardens. Cllr Merrett offered to research further details of the diseases transmitted in dog faeces. Some of these diseases can cause serious conditions in livestock.

Cllr Withers reported on the effects that changing the funding of education from local authorities to a national basis has had. One less than desirable outcome is that when it is deemed necessary to find additional funding for targeted areas, this is taken from a nationwide pool of other unrelated schools, which is of course detrimental to the latter. Schools can lose from their budgets in favour of others, unrelated geographically or by type. The F40 Group is lobbying the Government to produce a Fair Funding Formula to alleviate this situation.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm