

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Church Hall, Morton on Tuesday 4th May 2010 commencing at 7.20pm

PRESENT: Councillors D. Creasey (Chairman) B. Hyde (Vice Chairman) W. Lawrance, G. Lack, S. Reynolds, C. Friend, A. Bates, R.J. Wells and P. Chubbuck.

Also in attendance. District Councillor F. Cartwright, County Councillor S. Woolley, and Mr. T. Barnatt (Clerk & R.F.O)

Members of the public present. Two

It was agreed that the Council meeting should begin and that if any parishioners arrived and wished to use the public forum for comment they should be allowed to do so.

Public Forum. Although joining the meeting when proceedings had already commenced Mr Jones, proprietor of Morton Post Office, was asked if he wished to make any comments. He wished to know how the Parish Council intended to find out the opinions of the villagers about the proposed Co-op development. The Chairman pointed out that the Council had received a letter from Lincoln Co-op expressing their willingness to visit the village, once their plans were finalised. A public meeting would then be arranged to allow the expression of all views on the matter. It was also pointed out that the Council could only deal with objections when an actual plan was submitted and even then only material considerations could be taken into account. Mr Jones said that he realised this and that his objections would be based on matter of road safety at the crossroads. He would be advising people to contact the District Council with their views. Councillor Creasey thanked everyone for their good wishes regarding his health recently and Councillor Hyde for taking the chair at the last meeting of the Council.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Hyde proposed Councillor Creasey as Chairman, this was seconded by Councillor Lawrance, and with all in favour Councillor Creasey was elected.

2. CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Creasey signed his declaration and it was countersigned by the clerk.

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Friend proposed Councillor Hyde as Vice Chairman, this was seconded by Councillor Chubbuck and, with all in favour, Councillor Hyde was elected.

4. APOLOGIES. Received and accepted from Councillors Richardson and Taylor.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. None

6. MINUTES. The clerk's notes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30th March 2010 were approved as Minutes and were signed by the Vice Chairman.

7. CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE.

Lincoln Co-op / Kings Head. The Clerk had written to the Lincoln Co-op as requested at the last meeting. A reply has been received indicating that when the Co-op plan had been worked out they would be happy to come to the village to talk to the Parish Council.

The clerk received an email from a parishioner requesting that the matter be discussed at the

Council meeting.

Councillors were aware that although a number of parishioners expressed opposition to the Co-op coming to the village it was also apparent that many others were happy with the idea of a proposed store. The Parish Council had to take into account all views and bare in mind that when any application is submitted objections can only be made on specified grounds.

It was agreed that as soon as any knowledge of an application became known the clerk should arrange a public meeting with the Co-op to allow the matter to be

School Safety Zone. The Clerk had written to The Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership asking why such a short period had been allowed to householders in Station Road to respond to proposals to impose a School Safety Zone. The LRS Partnership reply apologised and suggested there had been an administrative error on their part, regarding the time period given.

Station Road Parking Meeting. On 20th April Councillors met Kevin Brumfield, Lincolnshire Area Highways Manager and Duncan Lucas, South Kesteven District Council Project Officer in Station Road in an effort to make some headway in relation to parking problems outside the Council bungalows and on the opposite verge. After lengthy discussion it was agreed that Mr Lucas would look into the possibility of a District Council solution and inform the Parish Council of any project. (More comprehensive notes filed with these minutes)

Independent Internal Audit. Mr D. Thomas has completed a thorough audit of the Council's accounts and records and reported to councillors that all accounts and records are correctly kept.

Cemetery. Since the last meeting 2 memorial applications have been received and 1 burial has taken place. Total receipts £200.

The Clerk reported that an average of 7/8 grave spaces (not including ashes plots) are used each year (16 in 2009). About 45 spaces are now available.

It was agreed that consecration of the rest of the land at the cemetery should be discussed at the next meeting of the council.

Play Equipment. The Clerk had carried out the quarterly safety inspection of the equipment. Some chains on one piece needed changing and the clerk will carry this repair out himself as soon as he can. Someone had vomited on part of the surface. This had also been reported to the clerk today, through the District Council/Police. Councillor Lawrance had since cleaned the surface as well as he could.

Planning Matters. South Kesteven District Council has given approval to the following applications -

Mr. A. Paine to erect a porch at 26 Station Road.

Mr. G. Lewis to convert & extend garaging to form a single dwelling at The Old School, 6 High Street.

Community Lincs. A Play Area Safety Training session will be held at Washingborough on 9th June. The clerk would like to have been able to attend this event but will not be able to do so.

Lincolnshire County Council, Integrated Local Working. To consider problems that fall between agencies events have been arranged –

13 May. Grantham Museum. 2-4pm. Stamford Library. 6-8pm

18 May. Bourne Corn Exchange. 6-8pm

Bourne Civic Service will be held on Sunday 16th May at 11am.

Publications. LALC News and LC Review are available from the Clerk.

8. PLANNING APPLICATION

Mr. T. Dickinson. Single storey front extension. 10 Waggoners Way. Householder development. The councillors saw no reason to object to this application.

9. REVIEWS

a) Cemetery Charges. ***It was resolved that these should remain as they are.***

- b) Cemetery Documentation. *It was resolved that the documentation should remain as it is.*
- c) Parish Land Rents *It was resolved that the rents remain unchanged (Mrs Soames £200pa Mrs Louth £58pa)*
- d) Minimum amount for tenders *It was resolved that the amount for tenders should remain unchanged, at £500.*
- e) Insurance Cover. *It was resolved, following a proposition by Councillor Hyde, seconded by Councillor Wells, that the Council should renew the policy with Allianz, at a cost of £658.34*
- f) Risk Management, Internal Audit procedures & terms of reference. *It was resolved that the present procedures are adequate for purpose and should remain in operation.*
- g) Independent Internal Auditor's Fee. The clerk said that Mr. Thomas was doing an extremely thorough and professional job of the audit and suggested that the Council may like to consider raising his fee.

Councillor Wells proposed, seconded by Councillor Lack, that the fee should be raised from £25 to £50 and that the extra £25 should be paid to Mr. Thomas for this year. All were in favour.

h) Clerk's Workload. The time of 10 hours per week was considered to be acceptable at present, although the workload extended beyond those hours at times.

i) Salaries. Clerk's Pay – *Following a proposal by Councillor Lack, seconded by Councillor Wells, it was resolved that the Clerk should receive the increased hourly rate due as as a CiLCA accredited clerk. The new monthly figure will be £410.16*

Mr. Wilkie – *Following a proposal by Councillor Hyde, seconded by Councillor Wells, it was resolved to pay Mr Wilkie £7.50 per hour.*

The Clerk was asked to let Mr. Wilkie know how appreciative the Council was of the excellent work he did on keeping the streets clear of litter.

10. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS & ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The date of the external audit has been fixed as 12th July by the appointed auditors, Clement Keys. This will be advertised on the noticeboard.

Following a proposal by Councillor Wells, seconded by Councillor Lack, the Council approved the Statement of Accounts and the Statement of Assurance and these were signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

11. ACCOUNTS

The following payments were approved –

Community Lincs	Best Kept Village Comp. Entry	15. 00
N. Wilkie	Litter Picking to 10.4.10.	56. 00
D. Thomas	Ind.Internal Audit	25. 00
Morton PCC	Church Hall Hire. 4.5.10	10. 00
T. Barnatt	April Salary	410. 16

12. NEXT MEETING will be held on Tuesday 22nd June 2010 and will be preceded by a Public Forum, commencing at 7.15pm

Remaining 2010 meetings – 3rd August, 14th September, 26th October, 7th December.

13. OUTSIDE REPORTS

County Councillor Woolley confirmed that the order removing the caravan occupant from the A15 layby also ordered him not to return to the layby.

OTHER MATTERS

Councillor Lawrance reported that the Pearce’s Lane nameplate had been removed. The Clerk was asked to contact the District Council about the matter.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....