

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH 2002

PRESENT: M Patterson, M Walker, R Lambert, G Thompson, A Baxter, J Megginson, J Moore. In the chair: R Lambert.

APOLOGIES: P Leese

The chairman convened the meeting and then asked for a minute's silence in memory of Mrs Betty Walker who died this afternoon.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: the minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

PARKING ON VILLAGE GREEN: so far ERYC has not been forthcoming with any funding for a parking scheme on the village green but have agreed to consider the situation should any finance become available. The parish council decided to persevere with ERYC for the time being as no other options are really available. Clerk to periodically bring up situation with ERYC until a solution is found.

CHURCH BANK: clerk to place a notice on the village notice board so that residents have the chance to comment. The work will most probably take place in the Autumn and will be as follows:

- Remove most of the saplings and undergrowth on the site.
- Most of the larger trees will be retained along with the bushes/trees forming the old allotment boundaries.
- The trees forming the hedge on Church Lane will be lopped and laid to reform a hedge.
- Grass and wild flowers/bulbs will be planted and encouraged on all other areas.

A Baxter and R Lambert to meet next weekend to sort out dead rowan tree and look at the horse chestnut which damaged a car during the winter.

GRAZING: a letter to Mr Potts was drafted and approved by the parish council, kindly asking him not to graze livestock on the village green anymore.

BENCHES: a bench has been donated to the village in memory of Reg Duke who died suddenly at the age of 55 and lived at Corner House Farm during his childhood. The bench has been purchased and will be sited as soon as it is decided where to put it. Three locations were discussed: a) outside the village hall, b) under the copper beech, c) overlooking the pond. It was finally decided to site it outside the village hall, making sure it is securely fixed into the ground.

A replacement for the old pew under the copper beech was discussed once more. It seems unlikely that we will be able to find a replacement pew but it was decided to delay a decision for a few more weeks until all options had been explored.

KERB OUTSIDE ELM TREE FARM: the work on the kerb and drain pipe has now been completed but was not quite what we were expecting. The concrete is a bit 'rough' but has, at least, done the job. Clerk to contact ERYC to ask them to remove the pile of topsoil that has been left behind.

GOLDEN JUBILEE: the committee making arrangements for Jubilee celebrations has yet to meet. The first meeting will probably be in March and the parish council agreed to buy a small token gift for children in the parish to mark the occasion.

PLANNING: approval was granted for the car port at Cowslip Cottage. An application for a barn conversion at Towthorpe was discussed and no objections raised. A planning application for a new straw barn at Towthorpe was also discussed and again no objections were raised. R Lambert suggested that it might be an idea to ask the local planning officer to attend a meeting to discuss planning matters in general. Clerk to arrange.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: M Walker attended a NHW meeting at which the new e-mail warning system was discussed, with the possibility of Fimber and Wetwang collaborating together to receive information. The new, replacement police helicopter is now fully operational. Wetwang are to get speed cameras now that they have a new 30mph limit. M Walker has also received Data Link Packages to help people on medication and a poster will be displayed on the notice board.

PICNIC SITE: no particular problems have been reported regarding the picnic site and it is once more being locked when not in use.

HIGHWAYS: it was noted that parts of Burdale Lane and Towthorpe Lane are in need of attention, along with the road from Fimber roundabout to Sledmere. Also, surface water is still a problem on Bridge Farm road. J Megginson is to ask Mr Beal if it would be possible to feed water from Bridge Farm road on to his section of the old railway line in an attempt to sort out the problem.

G Thompson wanted to know whose responsibility it is to cut the hedges on Bridge Farm road. At present Mr Thompson cuts them himself.

Clerk to contact ERYC with respect to the above matters.

CORRESPONDENCE

Grass cutting schedules for Fimber were received from ERYC, along with information and a map regarding parish boundaries. The latter was studied and, as far as could be ascertained, was thought to be correct.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Moore raised her concerns about the recent rises in council tax payments. The parish council sympathised with her and urged her to write to ERYC directly.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All parish council members, apart from P Leese who was away on holiday, duly completed their register of interest forms and signed up to the new Code of Conduct.

NEXT MEETING

Monday 29th April 2002 at 7.30pm. G Thompson to provide coffee.