

FIMBER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2003

PRESENT: R Lambert, J Megginson, G Thompson, A Baxter, M Walker, P Leese, M Patterson. In the chair: P Leese. Also present Mrs J Moore.

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

MATTERS ARISING

The chairman first welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was then agreed to delay discussing the first item on the agenda – land adjacent to the church – until the arrival of M Patterson who was delayed by a hospital appointment.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND POLICE MATTERS: M Walker reported that there had been a good response to the note sent around the village regarding the proposed 'early warning' system for the dissemination of information from the police. Local police officer, PC Jackson, is still away on a course and his area is being covered by PC Prince who is based in Huggate. The next police liaison meeting is on November 17 and M Walker hopes to attend. Wetwang Parish Council has arranged a meeting at 7.30pm Monday 11 November to discuss speeding and crime problems amongst neighbouring parishes. It was also noted that 30mph signs on the west approach to the village were becoming a little obscured by the hedge and G Thompson kindly agreed to cut it back in the near future. P Leese is now regularly receiving e-mails from the new police liaison service about crime in the locality. Fortunately, however, most of the information concerns the Driffild area but it is felt that this system will be a useful tool in combating local crime.

VILLAGE MAINTENANCE: the Wright family has now purchased a bench in memory of Ken and Sheila Wright and would like it to be placed under the copper beech tree. They are currently arranging a plaque and would like suggestions on how to secure the bench to the ground. It was agreed that the Parish Council would sort out securing it when it arrives and it was decided to ask the Wright family if they would like some sort of dedication ceremony for the bench. A bulb planting day was arranged for Saturday November 15th at 1pm to plant bulbs on church bank. P Leese agreed to purchase a 20 kilo bag of daffodils and put a notice on the notice board asking for volunteers.

SPEEDING: A reply was received from ERYC regarding our letter about speeding problems but it contained little positive news. It was agreed that there had been some police presence in the village over the last few months but no one had observed any speed checks taking place. M Walker to raise the matter at the next police liaison meeting. Clerk to check with ERYC to see if the speed check they promised to carry out has actually taken place and to also get a bit more information regarding the speed reactive equipment that is available to loan from ERYC.

LAND ADJACENT TO THE CHURCH: P Leese outlined the issue to date stressing that it was of a sensitive nature and that the parish councillors must try to look at the issue objectively and act in the best interests of the parish as a whole. The land in question is a small area sandwiched between, the church, Friar's Garth, 6 Station Road and the village green. There is no evidence of any registered owner and it appears that Mr & Mrs Moore have taken adverse possession of the land by fencing it off. This is not an illegal move but the parish council are within their rights to question the action and contest it if they think that this is in the best interests of the parish. M Walker declared an interest in the proceedings at this point and agreed to leave the meeting although she wished it to make it clear that she and her husband had no particular interest in the land.

P Leese then went on to outline the possible options available to the parish council. Firstly, there is the issue of whether to pursue the matter or not. If it was decided to pursue the matter then it would have to be because the parish council felt that the land was part of the village green and it would be in the best interests of the village to do so.

At this point J Moore asked if it would be possible to speak and the chairman welcomed her input. She was at pains to point out that they had not just taken the land but had approached solicitors, asked for advice and tried to trace an owner. She agreed that they were going through the process of adverse possession with the intention of registering title to the land when the necessary 12 years has elapsed and had no intention of taking the fence down. She also asked for it to be minuted that the initial enquiry into a right of way was inaccurate as there is no right of way over the land. J Moore also outlined their reasons for taking possession of the land which included security aspects.

R Lambert suggested that a possible solution might be for the Moores to have use of the land during their residency in the village but, on the sale of the house, the land would revert back to the village. However, J Moore was not interested in this option and stressed that it was their intention to proceed with gaining full ownership. Concerns were also expressed about the possible planting of a hedge up against the church wall obscuring views from the churchyard out across the village. J Moore said that they had no intention of planting a hedge and would not object to access to the wall for maintenance purposes.

P Leese then decided to put the issue to the vote along the lines of whether the parish council thought they should pursue the matter in the best interest of the village or not pursue it, either because they thought the Moores had the most right to the land or because pursuing it would be not be a viable option. P Leese expressed concern over an open vote in the presence of J Moore who then agreed to leave the meeting for ten minutes while the vote took place.

Once J Moore had left P Leese reiterated the vote. A vote was then taken on whether to pursue the issue or not and it was a unanimous no vote. However, concerns were expressed about the possibility of a hedge appearing in the future and it was felt it would be appropriate to ask for the Moores to agree to some sort of restrictive

covenant to protect the open aspect of the churchyard and views from it, and access to the church wall.

Mrs Moore then came back into the meeting and was informed of the vote not to pursue the matter as long as an agreement regarding the access to the church wall and the open aspect of the church could be reached. J Moore agreed to the above and asked the parish council to write to her solicitors regarding their concerns.

PARKING ON THE VILLAGE GREEN: little progress has been made with this difficult issue. £500 has been promised by ERYC housing department but still need another £1500 approx. (M Walker rejoined the meeting at this point). P Leese put forward the possibility of using money from other sources eg village hall funds. Also, grants might be available but only in the context of a more comprehensive scheme for the whole village green. It was decided to put the issue on the agenda of the next village hall meeting. The possibility of holding a fund-raising event was also briefly discussed.

VACANCY OF CLERK: an approach has been made to J French at The Gables but she is not in a position to consider the post at the moment due to work commitments. Clerk agreed to continue for time being.

CORRESPONDENCE

Countryside and Rights of Way Act: map received with details of the act. After a brief discussion it was decided to place the map on the village notice board. However, the parish council could see no real problems with the proposed legislation.

Parish Precept: it was proposed by R Lambert and seconded by J Megginson that the precept should remain at £750.

ERYC: agricultural prior approval was received for the erection of a straw storage shed at Towthorpe Manor.

ERYC Flexibus: generally felt that flexibus should have a positive contribution to village life. Timetable displayed on village notice board.

ERYC: a letter received regarding representation on school governing bodies.

ERYC: a letter received regarding members' allowances.

ERYC: booklet received about the Revised Draft Housing Strategy and HRA Business Plan.

ERYC: Revised Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance on the Managed Release of Residential Development Sites.

ERYC: Town/Parish Council Salt Bin Scheme.

ERYC: Open Space Policy.

PAYMENTS

It was proposed by A Baxter and seconded by M Walker that £227.86 be paid to EYRC for street lighting maintenance contract.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bonfire arrangements are all in hand as usual. However, an extra £35 is payable on the parish council insurance policy to cover the event. It was proposed by M Patterson and seconded by M Walker that this be paid. A note of the event has been sent round the village.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday February 2nd, 2003, 7.30pm. R Lamber to supply coffee.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.