

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 2ND February 2004.

Present: Peter Leese (Chair), Ray Lambert, Graham Thompson, Andrew Baxter, May Patterson, Mary Walker, Jane Austen and Julie French

Apologies: John Megginson

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Julie French, who has agreed to take over as Parish Clerk.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Land Adjacent to Church

Peter Leese gave an update on situation. At the last meeting it was agreed that the 'possessors' of the land in question take out a restrictive covenant on the land adjacent to the church that they were claiming an interest in. Advice was subsequently sought from ERNLICA which determined that as neither the Parish council 'or the 'possessors' own the land, neither party could therefore enter into a legal agreement at this stage apart from to make an agreement in principle that the view from the churchyard would not be obstructed.

PL has written to the 'possessors' outlining the situation. No written reply has been received at present but subsequent telephone conversations between PL and the 'possessors' suggest that an informal agreement not to obstruct the view from the churchyard can be reached.

Land with horse chestnut at the east end of the village green

Peter Leese confirmed that he was proceeding with the registration of the triangle of land near the Horse Chestnut tree. PL reported that it could prove difficult to register as common land, so therefore he was now investigating the possibility of registering it as part of village green. It was suggested that PL explore whether or not there any differences between village greens and common land in relation to implications for the PC regarding public liability. It was felt that ERNLICA might yet again prove a useful source of information as indeed they had been in the case of the land adjoining the church. However, as membership had lapsed (it was previously decided not to renew

on the basis of cost), Alan Barker at ERNLLCA has therefore suggested that we join. However it was still felt that the cost was prohibitive.

Therefore it was decided to make an initial pro-rata payment of £20.19 to cover the period January to March 2004 (agreed Graham Thompson, seconded by Mary Walker) to enable a fuller discussion to take place at a future meeting to explore whether or not to subscribe for full annual membership.

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

Mary Walker had received information about telephone scams, which she has displayed on the notice board. The 'Village message chain' was successfully set in motion after sheds at the White House were burgled.

Peter Leese attended a NHW meeting at Wetwang - several local parishes were also in attendance. The universal complaint was the lack of police presence in the villages. A follow up meeting with Chief Inspector Frost and Cllr Frazier was scheduled for the 23 February at Wetwang Village Hall. It was hoped that the meeting would provide a framework for police and villages to work together. MW agreed to attend, also provisionally Ray Lambert and Graham Thompson, with a view to reporting back at the next meeting.

Mary Walker and May Patterson continue to work on the Community Emergency Plan. It was decided that the Emergency sheet also be stored with the plan. JF to provide MW with the Emergency sheet for safe storage.

Village Maintenance

There was a good turnout from the village to help with bulb planting and general tidying of the church bank. AB volunteered to lay a hedge along Church Lane.

The Wright family has generously donated a bench to the village in memory of Ken and Sheila to be positioned under the old beech tree. MW will make arrangements to have the bench secured by metal straps. GT and RL have offered to dig holes and concrete. MW to contact the Ian, Phillip and Shirley Wright to ascertain their views on a fitting dedication ceremony.

Speeding

It was decided to await the outcome of the next NHW meeting on 23rd February before looking more closely at potential options for dealing with the problem of speeding motorists/motorcyclists. It was felt that a collective approach between the local parish was likely to be more successful than 'going it alone'! MW to report back at the next meeting.

Parking on Village Green

Options for creating a more stable area on which cars can be parked are more costly than anticipated and are being limited by available funds. ERYC has offered funding of only £500. The Village Hall Committee is to be approached to see if they have spare funds (the matter be brought up at their next meeting in March).

Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW)

The matter has been consulted on but as yet no feedback has been received from the village. Await next stage of process.

Vacancy of Parish Clerk

Peter Leese confirmed Julie French as Jayne Austen's successor and PL on behalf of the PC extended his sincere thanks to JA for her support of the PC spanning some 15 years in post.

Correspondence

Parish Council Allowances -PL confirmed that Parish Council Allowances are claimable provided that the relevant forms are completed.

Equine Minister and Ragwort -

Winter gritting -concern was expressed regarding the standard of winter gritting of the roads A questionnaire on (Best Value) winter services has been received from ERYC which GT has agreed to complete on behalf of the PC.

Precept - the level of precept has dropped slightly.

Payments

Any Other Business

Broadband Internet -the slowness of Internet connections continues to frustrate and there would appear to be a number of residents interested in pursuing Broadband Internet. PL agreed to telephone BT to make further enquiries to better understand the criteria that we would need to fulfil; and to explore the level of interest in surrounding villages that are on the same exchange as Fimber. PL to discuss with other interested residents the possibility getting a joint initiative underway.

Date of Next Meeting - 10th May 2004 at 7.15pm