

## MEARS ASHBY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs A Palmberg, 23 Old End, Piddington, Northants, NN7 2DF

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### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2016 AT 7:30PM, IN THE VILLAGE HALL, VICARAGE LANE, MEARS ASHBY.

Present: Cllrs K Payne (Chairman), N Wookey, V Smith, C Stockdale, T Graham, M O'Halloran and A Palmberg (Clerk) + 2 residents

#### 094/16 Opening Procedures

**a) Apologies:** Apologies were received and approved from Cllr D Payne and Borough Cllr J Bone.

**b) Declarations of Interest from members:** Cllr C Stockdale – Item 103/16 (WP/16/00702/FUL and Trees on Hill Farm, which were mentioned under planning. Cllr K Payne – Item 103/16 WP00689/FUL, Cllr T Graham – Item WP/16/00702/FUL.

**c) Approval of Minutes from the last Parish Council Meeting:** Members approved the minutes from the Ordinary meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

**d) To discuss and where possible resolve matters arising from the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November.**

None

#### 095/16 Public Time

**a) To receive comments from members of the public attending the meeting.**

Mrs J Callis requested that a notice on Lark Energy be included in the VL magazine. Cllr Smith proposed that a note would be enclosed with the Village Christmas card. The note aims to encourage parishioners to comment and make suggestions on how the £5,000 could be spent.

Members **RESOLVED:** It was agreed that Cllr Smith would draft the note along with Cllr Wookey and include in the card.

Mrs Callis also enquired about the telephone box. She mentioned that the previous one had been removed without prior consultation. She went on to ask about the Speedwatch Scheme and how this could be resurrected? The Chairman said that there are a number of volunteers required for the scheme to work.

Mrs P Hall expressed concern about a recent speeding incident on North Street and Glebe Road. She asked whether the police could be contacted for a regular speed check? The Chairman responded that this request has been put to the police in the past and the response has been that there isn't any appropriate place for the police van to park.

Members **RESOLVED:** It was agreed that The Clerk would contact Earls Barton PC to request details on their Speedwatch Scheme and that this would be included on the next agenda.

#### 096/16 Reports

Late Sunday evening (27-NOV) there was lots of police activity in the village, this was due to a traffic collision on Glebe road in which the occupants fled from the scene. One of our dog handlers was able to track from the vehicle and successfully locate a suspect hiding a short distance away. The suspect smelt strongly of alcohol and is suspected to have been the driver. He was arrested under suspicion of driving a motor vehicle whilst unfit through alcohol. During this incident, the National Police Air Support (NPAS) was utilised in order to search the occupants of the vehicle.

The Clerk also mentioned another incident which took place after a BMW X5 in black was damaged between 20:30 & 22:30hrs on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> of November on Vicarage Lane, Mears Ashby (parked outside number 10 Vicarage Lane).

"The damage consisted of 8 separate scratches to the vehicle, believed to have been caused by a key. It's clear this damage was malicious, and we are keen to apprehend the offender(s).

Please contact us immediately on the below, if you have any information in relation to this crime. Not only has it caused a great deal of distress to the victim, it has also resulted in the victim having to pay for the damage to be repaired.

You can provide information anonymously by contacting the independent crime-fighting charity Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** or through their Anonymous Online Form at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org). No personal details are taken, information cannot be traced or recorded and you will not go to court”.

Members **RESOLVED**: Following an article in the NCALC update regarding PCC Stephen Mold’s Friday village visits, it was agreed that the Clerk would request a visit from him in the New Year.

**097/16 To discuss the need for a replacement streetlight on North Street/Glebe Road junction and to receive an update on the insurance claim for the damaged streetlight.**

Members **RESOLVED**: Cllr Smith proposed the streetlight should be repaired and not removed. Cllr Graham seconded the proposal and all were in favor of the vote.

Members **RESOLVED**: It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Came & Co the insurers to ask about the claim.

**098/16 To receive an update on the North Street/Glebe Road signpost.**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has been in touch with Ernie Potter to receive an update since his communication with Highways.

Members **RESOLVED**: It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Highways for an update.

**099/16 To receive an update on the VDS (Village Design Statement)**

Cllr Smith read out a letter from BCW confirming that consultation is now taking place on the draft Mears Ashby VDS and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) until 30th December and that details can be found on their website. Cllr Hallam stressed that the effectiveness of Strategic Planning Documents (SPDs) in the future will depend upon how well BCW delivers on its own Strategic Plan.

**100/16 To receive an update on the “No Parking” bollards at Mears Ashby CEVA School.**

The Clerk read out a letter from Mr T James – Chair of School Governors. The letter states that at Present, there is no one to out in place and remove the bollards however the school is looking into recruiting a caretaker.

Members **RESOLVED**: It was agreed that this issue would be discussed at the meeting with Helen Howard on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

**101/16 To receive an update on the defibrillator – a strategy for better communication.**

Cllr Wookey advised the meeting that posting leaflet through parishioners doors may cause undue panic and instead suggested an update with instructions to be placed on the noticeboard and website. He also said that he would contact Mandy Lowe from EMAS and invite her to come and give a presentation at the Annual Meeting for example.

Members **RESOLVED**: It was agreed that Cllr Wookey would put together a note and pursue a request for an EMAS presentation.

**102/16 To receive an update on the website.**

The Clerk advised the PC that the PC are required to pay Mr Rhod Davies for the last 6 months of email provision. Chris Burton, the website designer will liaise with Mr Davies in order to terminate the contract and set up a new email address for the Clerk.

Members **RESOLVED**: It was agreed that The Clerk would ensure the transition takes place early in the New Year.

**103/16 To receive, discuss and decide on new Planning Applications:**

**WP/16/00702/FUL** – flat roof ground floor extension, 21-23 Church Street, Mears Ashby, Northampton NN6 0DW.

*The Parish Council have no objections to the planning proposal.*

**WP/16/00689/FUL** – Proposed single storey extension at rear of property, 12a North Street, Mears Ashby, Northampton NN6 0DW

*The Parish Council have no objections to the planning proposal.*

**Existing Applications:****WP/16/00679/TCA - Pending****WP/16/00689/FUL - Pending**

\* The proposal to remove trees on Hill Farm was also mentioned but as this was not an agenda item, no decision was taken. The Parish Council however, feel that the trees should remain given that they are indigenous and do not pose a safety risk. The Chairman has since been in touch with the tree preservation officer who feels that the trees should be removed.

**104/16 To receive, discuss and agree on a planning training offer from WBC.**

The Chairman encouraged the Parish Council to take part in a planning training session as she feels it is imperative that the Joint Core Strategy is explained fully and it would make the Parish Council better informed.

Members **RESOLVED:** It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Carol Haybyrne at WBC to request this.

**105/16 To report on the Clerk's annual appraisal and approve a request for increased working hours.**

The Chairman advised the Parish Council on the Clerk's appraisal, which took place in November.

Members **RESOLVED:** The Chairman proposed that the Clerk's working hours would be increased from 6-8 per week. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Stockdale and the vote was in favour of the proposal.

**106/16 To receive an update on the broadband/mobile signal sub committee.**

Cllr Wookey advised the Parish Council that although he had considered the possibility of using some of the Lark energy monies to be speed up the superfast broadband process, he has now received notification that faster broadband should be rolled out as early as the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2017. Cllr O'Halloran suggested that the Parish Council may wish to consider a broadband booster and/or a mobile telephone mast. A mast could perhaps be erected near Beckworth Emporium or somewhere near the caravan park. He went on to say that as there appears to be a limited capacity of a mobile signal provision to the entire village, it may be worthwhile contacting Vodafone with a complaint for example.

Members **RESOLVED:** It was agreed that Cllr O'Halloran would explore the possibility of having a mobile phone mast erected.

**107/16 To discuss and agree the proposed removal of public telephone boxes.**

Cllr Wookey advised the Parish Council that there may be an additional cost implication to maintain and insure the telephone box.

Members **RESOLVED:** Cllr Wookey proposed that the Parish Council vote to adopt the telephone box for £1 subject to ascertaining ongoing maintenance costs. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Graham and the vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal.

**108/16 Financial Matters:****a) To discuss Budget Items 2017-2018 and expenditure of Lark Energy funds.**

Cllr Smith proposed a service to clear drains and clear up leaves on a regular basis. Cllr O'Halloran proposed considering setting some funds aside for an annual village event. Cllr Stockdale suggested that some funds could be used to help finance playground equipment.

Members **RESOLVED:** It was agreed that the Clerk would contact NORSE of Wellingborough to request a more regular service.

Members **RESOLVED:** It was agreed that the Clerk would get an idea of costings from playground equipment providers.

Members **RESOLVED:** It was agreed that Cllrs Smith and Wookey would devise a flyer to be delivered to every house in the village within the next week or so inviting any ideas on how the Lark Energy funds could be spent.

b) To receive the receipts and payments account to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

c) Balance at Bank before payments have been deducted: £12,061.61

Payments December 2016					VAT
07.11.2016	E.ON	000631	Electricity	£432.59	£20.60
05.12.2016	E.ON	000632	Streetlight Maintenance	£47.93	£7.99
05.12.2016	Royal British Legion	000633	Poppy Wreath	£22.00	
05.12.2106	S & L Garrett-Harvey	000634	Grounds Maintenance	£240.00	£40.00
05.12.2016	Anna Palmberg	000635	Clerk's Salary (November)	£279.46	
05.12.2016	Anna Palmberg	000636	Clerk's Expenses (Office Jan-Dec'16)	£398.80	
				<b>£1,420.78</b>	£68.59

\* Denotes retrospective payments

d) To discuss Precept Options

e) To discuss and agree the transparency fund application to assist in the Clerk's general administration.

Members **RESOLVED**: It was agreed that the Clerk would contact NCALC to claim back for website set up and request funding for a new laptop. The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council approve the request for a new laptop. The proposal was seconded by Cllr O'Halloran and the vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal.

**Date of next Parish Council Meeting:** - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in the Village Hall, Vicarage Lane, Mears Ashby.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 21:22pm.

.....Signature

Chairman

.....Date

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

*Please note, this is a public meeting and you may be filmed, recorded and published.*

*Copies of all council papers are available at: [www.mearsashbyparishcouncil.com](http://www.mearsashbyparishcouncil.com)*

***Please note that these minutes are in draft format until formally approved and signed by the Chairman.***