

SCALDWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th September 2010 in Scaldwell Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Mrs M Vinton (Vice-Chairman)
Mr M Alcock
Mrs A Coward
Mrs J Randell
Mr A Tait
Mr F Wiig

In attendance: Mr J Harris (Clerk)
Fourteen villagers

10/106 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Mrs P Long (Chairman); also from Mr N Bunting & Mrs E Wiig (District Councillors) and Mr C Millar (County Councillor).

10/107 Declaration of Interest

Mr F Wiig : District Councillor and Chairman of Daventry DC Planning Committee; did not participate in the decisions relating to planning applications.

10/108 Comments or questions from parishioners

- i) Stile into field at end of East End – this was discussed with the landowner; some villagers expressed the need for suitable access to the field for elderly people and dogs.
- ii) Bridleway at end of Holcot Lane – concern was raised again about the horse being kept on the bridleway. Mrs D Kimbell (Footpath Warden) will raise these concerns again with the Rights of Way officer. A query was raised over the ownership of the land.

10/109 To approve and sign the Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of the Parish Council held on 7th July 2010

The minutes were approved and signed.

10/110 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)

These were covered in the various agenda items.

10/111 Planning Applications

For consideration:

a) DA/2010/0671 Replacement of front balcony. Truffell House, High Street, Scaldwell

The following response was sent to DDC:

Scaldwell Parish Council supports this application. The council considers the replacement balcony to be an improvement to the character of the front of the building; the plans thereby accord with local planning policy EN2.

b) DA/2010/0700 Agricultural building for general storage. High Hedge Farm, Old Road, Scaldwell

The following response was sent to DDC:

Scaldwell Parish Council supports this application. The location and design of the barn will not have an adverse affect on the landscape; therefore the application complies with local planning policies EN38 and HS28.

c) DA/2010/0721 Single storey extension and alterations to existing conservatory.

Construction of detached garage. Stanmore House, School Lane, Scaldwell

The following response was sent to DDC:

Scaldwell Parish Council has the following comment on this application: as the application involves a tree being removed we would appreciate a suitable tree being planted elsewhere in the garden as a replacement.

For information:

d) DA/2010/0660 Construction of agricultural building and track. Land off Holcot Lane, Scaldwell (Prior notification)

This is expected to be resubmitted as a planning application.

e) DA/2010/ 0481 Security Alarm System. St Peter & St Paul's Church, Scaldwell

DDC approved 28/7/10; sensor one has been removed as required.

10/112 Playing Field

a) Weekly inspection reports

Weekly reports were received from Mrs M Vinton; Mr M Alcock will continue the inspections up to the next meeting.

b) Update from Scaldwell Playing Field Community Group

A report was presented by Mrs K McRae. Further applications to funding bodies, including Biffa, are in the process of being submitted.

c) To consider improvements to playing field entrance including issue of parking and request to rent car parking space at playing field entrance

Possible plans for the entrance were discussed. Concerns were raised about providing parking spaces because of previous problems with cars in the entrance and the possibility of it becoming an area where youths may start gathering late at night. Possible solutions mentioned included landscaping the whole area and blocking the entrance with a removable post. If possible a deterrent to stop children leaving the entrance way with speed onto the road would be helpful for safety reasons.

The matter will be discussed further at the next meeting.

d) Update on registration of ownership of playing field with Land Registry

The register of title was completed with Land Registry on 1 July 2010 Title number NN281822.

10/113 Highways

Report on highways issues raised since the last meeting

The kerb between the High Street and Peters Lane has now been dropped as requested (minute ref. 10/084)

The reflector posts on the sharp bend on the High Street have been replaced. (minute ref. 09/008)

The local police have been in the village recently checking for speeding vehicles.

The edges of Cross Hill and the triangle of land at the end of East End have suffered vehicular damage again.

10/114 Financial matters - general

a) Monthly accounts to 30 July 2010

The monthly accounts were circulated to Councillors before the meeting together with a bank reconciliation.

b) Updating signatories on the bank accounts

The previous attempt to update this was not successful due to some of the paperwork not being submitted. Clerk to arrange this again at a suitable time.

c) External audit report; to approve the Annual Return

The Annual Return was approved. The external audit report was presented to the Council.

d) Money received:

- i) **Bank interest to 1 July 2010 - £3.09** Received 1/7/10
- ii) **AON – insurance adjustment - £70.40** Received 24/8/10

10/115 Financial Matters - the following payments were approved

E.on	Street lighting quarterly charge	£186.40	Paid 9/8/10	Chq 622
Carter, Slater & Co.	Land Registry fee for playing field	£15.00	Paid 9/8/10	Chq 623
Blades	Grass mowing July'10	£152.18	Paid 9/8/10	Chq 624
BDO Stoy Hayward	External Audit fee	£158.63	Paid 14/8/10	Chq 625
Blades	Grass mowing August'10	£366.52	Paid 8/9/10	Chq 626

10/116 To consider quotes for annual maintenance of the clock

Two quotes were obtained. It was agreed to ask Smith of Derby to carry out the annual maintenance (quoted price £189).

10/117 Update on signs for village hall and playing field

The design and location of the proposed sign was discussed. It was agreed that ideally it would be a timber sign located near the phone box. Mr M Alcock will meet with Abbott Signs to get a quote.

10/118 Correspondence:

a) Department of Communities & Local Government – consultation on capping of local council precepts

The following response was sent to DCLG:

Scaldwell Parish Council does not agree that local precepting authorities such as parish councils should be included within the provisions for council tax referendums for the following reasons:

- i) the cost of referendums for a small parish such as Scaldwell would most likely be greater than the proposed council tax increase;
- ii) parish councils are uniquely placed to understand the needs of the parish and can play a key role in delivering benefit to the parish through suitable use of the precept;

- iii) parishioners, particularly in small parishes, already have the ability to influence council decisions through attending and speaking at council meetings (including those when the budget is discussed), attending the Annual Parish Meeting, communicating with the council and its councillors, and by scrutinising the council's accounts;
- iv) ultimately if parishioners are not happy with the decisions of the Parish Council they can vote in new councillors at the elections every four years or put themselves forward for election;
- v) as a Quality Council, we are already committed to improving communication, community engagement and accountability; parish council activities are already communicated to parishioners through our website, notices and newsletters, giving them plenty of opportunity to have their say on local council matters.

It is therefore unnecessary and a waste of taxpayers money to include parish councils in the proposed provision for Council tax referendums.

b) NCALC – Invitation to AGM in Towcester Town Hall; 7pm on 20th October

Clerk to attend.

c) Northants County Council – Emergency Planning Conference in Thrapston; 6pm on 7th October. Clerk to email details to councillors.

d) Correspondence for information only (list available on request)

10/119 Councillors' reports

Brixworth Bugle – agreed not to continue getting these for the villages. 50 copies of the recent edition have been delivered plus an invoice. Clerk to return these.

Bus shelter – quote received for work to bus shelter (wood preserver) – item of next agenda.

Church events – Mrs J Randell agreed to arrange informing Mr M Alcock of church events to help avoid parking issues around The Green.

Police – it was suggested to invite the local police to the next statutory meeting (Action – Clerk)

10/120 Items for the next agenda

Budget and precept for 2011/12.

Expected extraordinary meeting to be arranged to discuss planning application re. Construction of agricultural building and track on land off Holcot Lane.

Consider quote for work to bus shelter.

Consider improvements to entrance to playing field.

10/121 Date of next meeting

Next statutory meeting - Wednesday 17th November 2010 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.