

Minutes of Abthorpe Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 15 April 2019
at 7:45pm in the Old School, Abthorpe

Present: Chairman Perrigo, Councillors D Cambray, A Hammon, M Greenhalgh, F Noble, Parish Clerk T Emerton

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies received and accepted from Councillors M Berry, K Fenwick.

2. Members declaration of interest for items on the agenda

A declaration of interest was raised from Councillor Noble for agenda item 6.1

3. To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4 March 2019

These were accepted and signed.

4. To note any matters arising from the minutes

| Action No. | Description | Action |
|----------------------|---|--|
| March 2017 – 001 | Clerk to arrange to download of data from the Speed sign onto the Parish Laptop | Councillor Fenwick will take the sign down to enable the software to be updated via a laptop. - Action ongoing |
| March 2019 - 006 001 | Code of Conduct | All councillors to sign the Register of Members Interest ensuring any land that is owned in the village is also noted. - Awaiting Councillor Hammonds form |
| March 2019 - 008 003 | Tree Warden | Councillor Fenwick to report on advice received from the Path Warden. - Action ongoing |
| March 2019 - 006 005 | Best Village Award | Clerk to find out what is needed to enter the competition. - It was decided not to enter this year after discussing the amount of work involved and the School Hall Committee were not interested in entering either - Closed |
| April 2019 - 006 001 | Old School funding request. | Clerk to share the grant process with the Old School Committee and to find out what options there are for grant applications to support the request. To be put on the agenda for the next meeting. |
| April 2019 - 006 002 | Telephone Box | Councillor Perrigo, Councilor Hammond and the Clerk will obtain 3 quotes for the Telephone Box to be repainted and to replace the broken pane. |
| April 2019 - 006 003 | Speed Sign | When the Speed Sign moves to the other end of the village Councillor Noble will be trained on how to change the battery. Clerk to work with other Councillors to put a rota together for changing the batteries. Councillor Cambray to supply the serial number of the current Speed Sign to allow the Clerk to get a quote for a solar battery. Clerk to find out what will work best at the end of the village due to the trees as these may impact a solar battery and find out if there is any other options, rather than purchasing one, for example if one can be leased. |

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|----------------------|--|--|
| April 2019 - 006 004 | Online banking - additional councillors required | Councillor Cambray and Greenhalgh will be authorisers for Online Banking. Clerk to obtain mandates for completion. |
| April 2019 - 006 006 | Code of Conduct Training | The cost of £36 each was agreed for the training. Clerk and Councilor Noble to attend the training. Clerk to book. Once attended the Code of Conduct will be reviewed at the meeting after the training. |
| April 2019 - 006 007 | Village Green Project | To understand if any other further work is needed on footpath restoration a survey will be carried out by members to plot the work required, so a plan of phased further action can be agreed to improve appearance and access on paths around the whole village. This will be part of the agenda at the next meeting. |
| April 2019 - 007 001 | Gift for Church Warden | Clerk to organise payment. |
| April 2019 - 007 002 | Dog Fouling | Councillor Noble to purchase some illuminated paint. Clerk to investigate signage solutions. |
| April 2019 - 007 003 | Correspondence | Chair Perrigo to respond to the correspondence. |
| April 2019 - 008 001 | Village Reporter | Clerk to ask for a volunteer to be advertised in the next edition of Abtalk. |
| April 2019 - 008 004 | Church Yard Extension Mowing | Clerk to put a notice on Facebook regarding donations of a mower. Councilor Cambray will investigate the type of mower needed. |

5. 1. Cash in bank as of 04/04/19

- Treasurer's Account - £4252.43
- 30 Day Business Account - £5880.58
- Petty Cash - £31.00

These balances were agreed.

The Chairman reminded the Council that the 2019/20 Precept has been reduced to £4,000. These monies are what the Council requires to carry out its statutory annual duties. It should be noted that the budget set for 2019/20 exceeds the precept by between £400 to £800. This means expenditure this year is likely to eat into the reserve maintained in the Treasurer's Account. It is the Council's practice to maintain sufficient funds in the Treasurer's Account equivalent to a precept and a half at all times, to ensure sufficient funds are available to carry out our annual statutory duties.

2. Invoices for payment

| Item no. | Payment to | Description | Net | VAT | Total |
|----------|-------------|---|--------|------|--------|
| 6.2.1 | T Emerton | Ink Cartridge | 8.97 | 1.79 | 10.76 |
| 6.2.2 | School Hall | Rent for Parish Council meeting venue | 150.00 | | 150.00 |
| 6.2.3 | G. Gilbert | Clearing of path - additional cost after estimate | 164.00 | | 164.00 |

It was also asked if the invoices below received after the agenda was published could be authorised to be paid - Councillors approved these payments.

| Item no. | Payment to | Description | Net | VAT | Total |
|----------|------------|-----------------------------------|--------|------|--------|
| 6.2.4 | G Gilbert | Clearing of path - estimated cost | 235.00 | | 235.00 |
| 6.2.5 | EON | Street Lighting | 85.95 | 4.30 | 95.25 |

6. Specific items for discussion

1. Funding support for Abthorpe Old School Hall

The Old School Hall committee described what the budget request was for and why the funding was required. They described that as part of the refurbishment they identified additional work needed to re-lead the roof, this had to be completed before the renovations could be started. The re-leading of the roof was unknown when they budgeted the original renovation work and therefore depleted their funds. The budget request is for the following items:

- 1. Re-leading the roof: £950**
- 2. Soft furnishings: £978 - the making of the cushions and blinds was free of charge, the time being donated by a volunteer in the village**
- 3. Insurance: £1,269**

The Council discussed the sums requested and queried the inclusion of the amount for insurance as this is an annual business expense which could not be considered for grant assistance. It was suggested that The Old School Committee seek to identify other sources of additional grant funding, and that the Clerk could assist them in this. This will be added to the agenda at the next meeting to discuss further.

2. Telephone Box

It was agreed that the telephone box needed renovating and as it is a focal point of the village. Chair Perigo described that the door, hinge and strap that holds the door, were in good order and do not require any work but the telephone box needs repainting and a replacement pane. It was agreed to purchase the recommended paint and the replacement pane. We are to obtain three quotes to repaint and replace the pane. It was agreed the Telephone Box should be jet washed prior to the refurbishment.

3. Speed Traffic Sign

The Clerk will work with Councillors to put a rota together to change the battery. Councillor Noble will be trained when the sign moves to the end of the village. Clerk to investigate if there are any other alternatives instead of purchasing a solar battery, for example can we lease one, and what is the best option to power the sign when the one at the end of the village is surrounded by trees. It was also discussed that the current battery only lasts a week and is quite dangerous having to climb to change the battery for the sign at the end of the village. The Parish Council would like to thank Jamie Ford-Cordes for his continued support with maintaining the sign and changing over the batteries.

4. Online banking - additional councillors required

Councillors Cambray and Greenhalgh have volunteered to be online banking authorisers. Clerk will obtain the bank mandates for them to complete.

5. Northamptonshire Village Awards

It was discussed and agreed that we would not take part in this competition this year due to the time needed for the application. The Clerk asked The Old School Committee if they would like to enter for the £1k prize, they were not interested in entering.

6. Code of Conduct Training for Clerk and Chair - £36 each

This was agreed to be paid. Clerk and Councillor Noble will attend this training on 10th June 2019 and the council will review the Code of Conduct and how we agreed to apply it after this training. This will be part of the agenda following the training to agree if any further changes are needed.

7. Continuation of the clearing moss and weeds from the paths / re-tarmacing

It was discussed and agreed that the path around the Church looks fantastic and it is important that the Village Green Project continues to maintain the upkeep and ensure there is no risk to health and safety due to the weeds and moss being slippery when wet and icy.

A letter was received from the PCC thanking us for the work completed to the wall and path and that the work on the path not only looks fantastic but also feels safer now when walking on it.

It was discussed that the rest of the village will be surveyed to assess the scale of work required on other paths, and if any work is needed and a report will be discussed at the next meeting. Clerk will survey the Green, Councillor Hammond around his property. Councillor Noble Wappenham Road and Chair Perrigo Brackley Lane.

7. Correspondence

1. Church Warden gift donation

It was agreed to donate £50 from the Parish Council in recognition of the dedicated work and time given over the years of the Church Warden. The Parish Council would like to personally thank Richard Tomlin for everything he has done for the Church over these years. .

2. Dog Fouling

A number of complaints have been raised over dog fouling and suggested that Dog Fouling Bins were installed. The Clerk investigated who would maintain these, it would be the responsibility of the village, Councillors didn't think this practical. It was discussed that having bins wouldn't change the behaviours of people who are not clearing up after their dogs. Councillor Noble discussed what other Parishes have put in place to help. They have purchased illuminated paint, that is washable, that is sprayed around the area that has been left. This is to, hopefully, when the people who are not clearing up after their dogs see the paint it may make them think about not doing it again, although it has not eradicated it from other Parishes but it has reduced the problem. The Councillors agreed it is worth a try. Councillor Noble will purchase some paint. It was also agreed for the Clerk to investigate some more prominent signage to ask dog owners to clear up after their dogs, as the signs we have are too small and not prominent.

3. Abthorpe Parish Council funds

Correspondence received from a resident has queried how the Council is spending its money and that it should not fund the Church. It also commented that the PCC had not agreed the work. The Chairman was able to confirm that she had met with the Church Warden and Secretary to discuss the Village Green Project, and its impact on the churchyard wall. They confirmed they were very pleased with the project and have subsequently thanked the Council for the work which looks so good.

Councillors discussed what the Parish funds can and can't be spent on and it agreed it isn't conclusive. However there was unanimous agreement that it is the right thing to spend the Solar Farm money on as it is a focal part of the village.

8. Any other business

1. A volunteer to take over the parish reports from John Riches

Clerk to organise an advertisement to be placed into the next edition of Abtalk. The Parish Council recognise the fantastic work John has done for the village and thank him for this.

2. Donation or volunteer drivers for TADD

The council have been asked if we can donate to the TADD volunteer driver scheme. The Councillor discussed this and thought rather than donating we need to get people from the village to volunteer as drivers as members of the village use the service.

3. Grass cutting Wappenham Road

This was discussed as part of the Village Green Project and will be discussed as part of that report at the next meeting.

4. Lawn Mower purchase for the Graveyard extension

The Parish Council have been asked if we could purchase a new mower for the Graveyard Extension as the current mower needs replacing. It was discussed that the mower from the Church Graveyard could not be used due to the uneven nature of the Graveyard Extension. The Councillors discussed that could we, instead of purchasing a new mower, ask the village if anyone has an old one that they no longer need that they would like to donate. Clerk to put a notice on Facebook. Councillor Cambay will investigate the type of mower needed.

9. Close - The meeting was closed at 21.40

Signed
(Chairman Perrigo)

Date

Next meeting dates

- Monday 13th May 2019 Parish Council AGM and Ordinary
- Monday 20th May 2019 Annual Parish Meeting
- Monday 1st July 2019
- Monday 12th August 2019
- Monday 23rd September 2019
- Monday 4th November 2019
- Monday 16th December 2019
- Monday 27th January 2020
- Monday 9th March 2020
- Monday 20th April 2020