



Minutes of Meeting 16th November 2010

Present: Cllr. Mr. B. Ingham, Cllr. Mrs. P. Watson, Cllr. Mr. M. Tetley, Cllr. Mr. R. Gadd, Co. Cllr. Mrs. S. Derwent, Boro' Cllr. Mr. J. Starkie, Cllr. Mrs. C. Lomax, Cllr. Mr. D. Forrest, PCSO. J. Owen, Mrs. P. McBurney (Clerk).

Apologies: Cllr. Mr. L. Townsend.

Members of public in attendance: Four.

3020: Police Report and Public Questions

PCSO. Owen reported the theft of a tractor from an area just outside Higham. There were no public questions.

3021: Declaration of Councillors Interests/Code of Conduct

No interests were declared.

3022: Minutes of the last meeting

Cllr. Ingham proposed that the minutes of the last meeting were correct. This was seconded by Cllr. Watson and agreed.

3023: Matters arising (for information only).

There were no matters arising .

3024: Finance

Cllr. Ingham itemised the cheques and these were signed.

3025: Clover Croft Development

Work has restarted on the development. The completed houses are now all sold except the show house. The developers have raised a temporary fence blocking the pavement and Cllr. Ingham has asked the developers to erect a sign warning drivers approaching the development from the western end of Higham Hall Road that there may be pedestrians walking in the road.

3026: The Water Spout

The possibility of obtaining a grant for a treatment plant was discussed but this was not felt to be a practical option. Cllr. Ingham proposed that an additional sign should be put up stating that the new regulations decree that the water is unsuitable for drinking. There was a discussion about appropriate wording and this will be decided by the next meeting.

3027: Four Alls Inn

There is no new tenant at present but work on the interior seems to be ongoing.

3028: Planning Applications and Decisions

- St John's Primary School - Radio Mast. The plans were examined. There were no objections to the proposed mast.
- St John's Primary School - Outdoor Classroom and Nature Trail. The plans were examined. There were no objections to the proposed developments.

3029: Clerk's Report

The clerk's report was distributed before the meeting.

3030: County Councillor's Report

- Co. Cllr. Derwent reported the decision to charge daily bus fares of £2 to pupils attending faith schools. These charges will not affect pupils who are currently attending these schools.
- Co. Cllr. Derwent clarified the position on householders clearing snow from the front of their properties. Snow and ice can be cleared without fear of prosecution if an accident occurs if reasonable precautions have been made.
- Co. Cllr. Derwent gave information on extra funding for Village Halls to Cllr. Watson to be passed on to the Village Hall Committee
- There is to be a meeting at County Hall to decide on the new duties for County Councillors.
- Co. Cllr. Derwent urged the use of Welfare Rights as these bring extra funding.
- The next Census Day will be in March 2011.
- The reason for locks on grit bins was explained at the request of Cllr. Forrest. The locks will be used after the winter season to prevent inappropriate use of the bins.
- Cllr. Gadd commented on the excessive water which runs across part of Back Lane. Co. Cllr. Derwent will contact the appropriate department.

3031: Borough Councillor's Report

- Boro' Cllr. Starkie warned that the cuts in grants of around 25% would mean that Higham will lose around £700.
- The LALC meeting is to be held on Tuesday 23rd November. Cllr. Ingham and Cllr. Lomax will attend.
- Boro' Cllr. Starkie reported an incident of fly-tipping.
- The proposed New Year celebration in the Village Hall was referred to. The cost of a temporary licence for Village Hall events was discussed

3032: Committee/ Working Group Reports

Nothing that affects Higham was discussed in the last committee or working group reports.

3033: Sabden Rd Car Park

No further progress. Work should begin soon. It was agreed that the contractors should be asked to give an estimate for preparing the ground in addition to laying the new surface.

3034: Land between 106 Higham Hall Road and the Village Hall

The clerk is to contact Liberata to ask about the cost of registering the lease, the terms of which are satisfactory to the Parish Council.

3035: The Playground – Report on Monthly Inspection

Cllr. Gadd has investigated the cost of replacing the top of the rocking structure in the playground and has been given estimates of £300-£400. The price for fitting would be an extra £120-£160. After discussion it was decided not to include the fitting and Cllr. Gadd was asked to order the replacement if the price could be held.

3036: Parish Matters

- “The Spout” was once again well received. The next edition should be prepared by mid January.
- The SPID is now in Higham and is working well.
- The Millennium Clock. There is no change to last month’s status. The Millennium Clock will not appear on the agenda until further notice.
- All arrangements for the party are now complete, though final numbers are awaited. Alcohol prices need amending and raffle prizes are still needed. In future invitations will be placed in all copies of the Autumn edition of “The Spout”.
- Postcard Competition. There have been no further entries. The item will not appear on the agenda until further notice.
- Boundary Signs. The need for extra boundary signs was discussed. Boro’ Cllr. Starkie outlined places where, in his opinion, boundary signs should be placed. Cllr. Forrest suggested that prices for the signs should be obtained before a final decision is made as to whether these are necessary. The size of the signs was also discussed.
- Cllr. Ingham reported receiving a phone call regarding the replacement of a fence. The conditions under which the fence was first erected needs to be established. Cllr Ingham will carry out enquiries to discover this.

3037: Parish Lengthsman Scheme

- The Lengthsman will be asked to trim the trees on Blind Lane and to trim the hedges around signs and hedges.

3038: Correspondence

No further correspondence.

3039: Items for Future Discussion

- Positioning of the new bench on the playground.

3040: Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 21st December at 2010 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.