

RAVENSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING Held on Wednesday 18th November 2009

1. OPENING PROCEDURES:

1.1 **PRESENT:** B Ball, P Foss, S Holt (Chairman), J Jones, J Matts, S Pasley-Tyler, R Spring, M Worthington and C Giles (Pocket Park)

1.2 **APOLOGIES:** J Humphrey, C Boardman (CC)

1.3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Personal - None

Personal and Prejudicial - None

2.1 **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on Wednesday 21st October 2009 were agreed and signed as correct by the chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 **Dog Bins** – the clerk reported that a member of the public objected to the original place chosen to install this. R Spring has suggested erecting it by the Give Way sign on the West Haddon Road. The clerk had been informed by a District Councillor that DDC might not be emptying any new bins. She is now waiting to hear from DDC before she can proceed.

3.2 **Allotment** – buildings – letters have gone out to all allotment holders – two people have shown an interest to date. The agreement has been amended to incorporate these changes.

4. **PUBLIC TIME** – C Giles told the council that the wood at the Pocket Park is getting too thick and needs thinning out. He said that he has looked at it and it would be feasible to make a pathway about 3' in width through the trees – only 6 trees would need cutting down. He also advised that New Zealand Pygmy Weed was clogging up the pond – this would eventually kill everything. There are three ways to get rid of this: 1. drain it and leave for three months. 2. Cover with plastic – until dead. 3. Get a specialist in. The Chairman Thanked Cliff for all his hard work.

5. BUSINESS

5.1 **Pocket Park** – proposals for extra walkways – After further discussion regarding the best way to dispose of the tree stumps and any health and safety issues, the council agreed that this should be carried out. A note to go into the newsletter for volunteers. It was also agreed that more investigation should be carried out regarding the pond weed.

5.2 **Guilsborough Road Pavement** – the clerk and chairman have been chasing up the county council on this. There has been a further accident on this pavement. A letter has been received from Stephen Matthews (Highways Assistant Engineer) advising that it will be resurfaced during this financial year.

5.3 **Consultation WNDK Sustainability Manual** (feedback by 23 November) – it was agreed that the chairman and M Worthington would fill this in.

5.4 **Rural Services Network** – Community Survey for Parish Councils – it was agreed that the chairman and M Worthington would fill this in.

5.5 **DDC – Recycling of Christmas Trees** - it was agreed that the council use this facility this year. The Green and the verge on the corner of West Haddon and East Haddon Road to be pick up points. J Jones will check to see if residents in Coton would like to participate. Clerk to advise DDC and put a note in Newsletter.

5.6 **Street Lighting** – J Matts advised that he was still waiting for a quote for ten time switches which go off at midnight, (a cherry picker to be hired for a day) from N Roberts. It should be less than £100 per pole. Clerk also to get a quote form e.on. S Holt will

check the estimated savings as it was felt that it should be self funding as well as 'green'. Clerk to check with NALC to see if other councils have done this

5.7 Audit - Risk Assessment and Fidelity Guarantee – report by J Jones and Clerk –

The risk assessment that should be undertaken should include: Fraud and Corruption, Outsourcing of services, Activities being outside legal powers, Electors right not being followed, Improper expenditure under S137 – it was agreed that this is ongoing assessment throughout the year but the council should also look at this annually in March incorporating any necessary alterations to the insurance policy.

The cost of increasing the fidelity insurance would be minimal – it was agreed that this should be increased to £10,000 per annum.

5.8 Precept for 2010/11 – papers were provided for councillors with proposed figures prepared by the clerk.

After a lengthy discussion and minor amendments, it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the following precept should be sought.

Estimated Bank Balance Year Ending 31/3/10 **2040**

ESTIMATED INCOME 2010/11

Rents/Bank Interest	310
NCC Mowing	555
	865

ESTIMATED Expenditure 2010/11

Street Lighting	2390	NALC/ACRE Subscriptions	190
Village Hall Rent	120	Mowing	2500
Insurance	750	Audit	300
Clerks Salary	2160	Clerks Expenses/Office Costs	250
Councillor/ Clerk Training	150	Sundries	100
Pocket Park	250	Church Clock maintenance	170
Cleaning Bus Shelter	60	Allotments – Water	60
Gardening – The Bank	80	Section 137	300
TOTAL			<u>9830</u>

Other Expenditure

Repairs to Street Lamps	500
2 Dog Bins	600

TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET **10930** **(10930)**

8025

PROPOSED PRECEPT for 2010/11

£11000

Estimated Bank Balance 2011/12: Reserves	2000)	
		2975

5.9 NHS – Delivering the Future – 17th November – out of time

5.10 Northamptonshire ACRE – Subscription £34 – it was agreed to subscribe

5.11 NALC Update Sept/Oct – to circulate

5.12 Northamptonshire Link – membership – to circulate

5.13 Meeting with Catherine Boardman (County Councillor) – S Holt advised that he, P Foss and B Ball met with Caroline, who hoped to represent the area better by consulting with parish councils in this way. Issues raised were: Speeding, HGV's, Guilsborough Road Pavement, White Lines and pedestrian use of the Causeway. Catherine advised that she had access to £10,000 again this year although a lot of it had been allocated.

The Pocket Park was suggested as one idea, councillors to suggest other options for next meeting. S Holt will look out the details regarding white lines and the Causeway and pass them on to Catherine. She also advised that Anglian Water should be reminded about cutting the hedge although it did not appear to need to be done at the moment.

6. PLANNING

6.1 Planning Permissions

DA/2009/0673 Demolition of front porch and construction of new front porch and rear extension. New window in west elevation. Enlarged door in north elevation. Ravensthorpe Village Hall, High Street

DA/2009/0695 Detached Dwelling (revised application). Land adjacent to 24 Scott Close, Ravensthorpe.

7. FINANCE

7.1 IT WAS AGREED to pay the following ACCOUNTS

South Court Environmental	mowing pocket Park	212.00
e.on	Street Lighting July/Sept	590.76
Chris Spokes Trees Services	Tidying up The Bank	120.00
Anglian Water	Supply to Allotments	19.02
Northamptonshire ACRE	Subscriptions	34.00
Total		975.78

7.2 Received - 0.00

7.3 BALANCES AT BANK £6230.94

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Guilsborough Pre-School – Thank you and update on work following council donation

8.2 DDC – BT Payphones – letter advising that the DDC had also been consulted and had objected to the removal of 55 of 60.

9. COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

9.1 Pocket Park – All in good order

9.2 Allotments – In good order

9.3 Highways – B Ball said that the village will be having an electronic flashing indication speed sign on the High Street near the Chequers for a month shortly. There will be other opportunities to have it and it will be placed in other areas of the village. Traffic surveys had been carried out in Teeton Road: between 30.03.09 and 6.04.09 8937 vehicles were surveyed of which 13.79% were speeding. Between 25.05.09 and 3.06.09 8851 vehicles were surveyed of which 20.94% were speeding.

10. LEAFLETS

10.1 Tenants Voice – to circulate

10.2 Northamptonshire ACRE – Annual Report and Accounts 2008-2009 – to circulate

10.3 NHS Northamptonshire – 2008/9 Annual Report – to circulate

11. Items for next month's Agenda

Training Statement

Adoption of Emergency Plan

The meeting closed at 9.29pm