

**AMPNEY CRUCIS PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2014 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, AMPNEY CRUCIS.**

Present: Councillors Rosanna Armitage, Barry Dent, Adrian Grazebrook, Simon Holt and Alan Lewis  
 Presiding: Councillor Barry Dent  
 Clerk: Jayne Webster

Also present: District Councillor Sir Edward Horsfall, Harold Stevens, Janet Campbell and Douglas Crook

		<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>Apologies for absence</b> Councillor Vessey</p>		
<p><b>Minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2014</b>  <b>Resolution 42/14</b> <i>The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 July, 2014 be signed and adopted.</i></p>		
<p><b>Matters arising from the meeting held on 7 July 2014</b>                      The Taylor memorial bench has been installed.                      GCC have cut back the branches around the new sign.                      CDC advises that an election has not been requested, so the Council is able to co-opt a new member. This will be completed at the next meeting.</p>		
<p><b>Reports from County and District Councillors</b>                      District Councillor Sir Edward Horsfall expressed concerns that the proposed solar farm in Preston was very close to the solar farm at Crucis Park Farm. He was aware Preston Parish Council have reservations and some Ampney Crucis residents have expressed worries and are particularly concerned that their views are not being taken into account and Belectric UK's consultation process has not been adequate. The Chairman will write to CDC, on behalf of the Parish Council, advising that some residents have concerns and would like to be kept informed. Councillor Horsfall asked for a copy of the letter. He also reported there is still some money available from the Youth Fund, Councillor Holt advised that activities may be planned for the October half term.</p>		<b>BD</b>
<p>With regard to the Village Hall planning application for new windows, Councillor Horsfall advised that he would support the Village Hall committee and Mr Stevens advised that he had started to look at alternatives to satisfy CDC requirements; he also advised that new windows were necessary to cut down on maintenance. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council would support the Village Hall committee and agreed to write to the Case Officer supporting the Village Hall committee.</p>		<b>BD</b>
<p><b>Questions from the Public</b> None.</p>		
<p><b>Planning matters</b> Decisions</p>		
646	14/02272/COMPLY Crucis Park Farm	CDC permit (info only)
647	14/03037/FUL Land behind Ampney Crucis Burial Ground	CDC permit
651	14/02956/FUL The Old Mortar Mill	CDC permit
652	14/03461/COMPLY Agric. Building, Backs Lane	CDC permit (info only)
656	14/03377/COMPLY The Lodge	CDC permit (info only)
<p>Outstanding applications</p>		
648	14/02886/FUL 14 Ampney Crucis	Orangery to rear
649	14/02887/LBC 14 Ampney Crucis	“ “ “
650	14/02266/FUL Village Hall	Replacement of existing windows to UPVC windows
654	14/03424/FUL 21 Ampney Crucis	First floor side extension
<p>Belectric UK's proposal for a solar farm. As a Parish we have not been asked to comment on this</p>		

application. See item 4 regarding action to be taken the Council.

### 6.3 Tree works

For information only

653 14/03639/TCONR Waterton Farm House Pending (Ash Tree – reduce height & cut back by 30%)

655 14/03672/TCONR Berkeley Cottage Permit (Maple-fell)

### 6.4 Local Green Spaces

Councillor Holt submitted an application to CDC, after consideration they have decided not to proceed. It was agreed that no further action was needed and the Council would see how other Local Green Spaces progressed.

## 7. Financial matters

### 7.1 Current financial position

**Resolution 43/14** *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the financial statements prepared by the Responsible Financial Officer should be adopted by the Council as an accurate reflection of the Council's financial position on 28 August 2014.*

JW

### 7.2 Transfer of payments

**Resolution 44/14** *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that £400.00 be transferred from the Lloyds Treasurers account to Imprest account.*

JW

### 7.3 Agreement of payments

Cottage Garden Services (£207.36), Clerk's expenses (£85.48 including £76.02 for paper for The Ampney Times)

**Resolution 45/14** *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the above amounts, totalling £292.84, be paid.*

See item 8 – strimming of the southern boundary of the Burial Ground. Tony Williams has agreed to do the work and will add the cost of the work to a monthly invoice once the work has been completed.

**Resolution 46/14** *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that Cottage Garden Services strims the southern boundary of the Burial ground in preparation for the extension, the costs will be added to his monthly invoice, once the work has been completed, and paid out of the Burial ground reserves.*

JW

Mr Harold Stevens has incurred extra expenses when he mended the new burial gates, both had badly shrunk.

**Resolution 47/14** *The Council agreed that £15.98 should be paid to Mr Stevens for expenses incurred mending the Burial Ground gates. This amount will be taken from the Burial Ground reserve fund.*

JW

### 7.4 Review of the Assets Register

The Clerk advised that the Taylor Memorial bench had been added to the register. Councillor Grazebrook thought the location of the deeds for the Burial Ground was incorrect. The Clerk agreed to amend.

**Resolution 48/14** *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the Assets Register, as shown on p.1213 of the minutes, be adopted.*

JW

### 7.5 Insurance

The annual premium from Came and Company is £949.34. This takes into consideration the long term agreement which expires on 30 September 2015. However, the policy has reached the maximum 4 years no claims discount this year, so it is no longer applicable.

**Resolution 49/14** *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the insurance premium of £949.34 be paid to Came and Company, the insurance brokers, (cheque is made payable to Broker Network Ltd).*

### 7.6 External Audit for the year ending 31 March, 2014

The Annual Return has been completed and returned to the external auditors, Grant Thornton. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit has been displayed on the notice board. Grant Thornton mentioned that the Council Tax Support Grant should have been included in Box3 and not Box 2 in section 1 of the Annual Return. There is no charge this year since the Council's income and/or expenditure did not

exceed £10,000.

## **8 Burial ground matters**

Councillor Vessey spoke to CDC who has agreed to a central path through the southern boundary, subject to Councillor Vessey being on site during the work and calling a halt to the digging if roots are found.

The planning application for an area of land adjacent to the Burial Ground to be used as an extension to the Burial Ground (14/03037/FUL) was permitted by CDC on 14 August 2014. However, Condition 5 of the Decision Notice (see p.1214 of the minutes) is incorrect as it had been rejected earlier by Councillor Vessey on behalf of the Council as being too onerous. CDC had agreed on a less onerous condition in an exchange of emails between Councillor Vessey and CDC's Tree Officer, Ben Holding in June 2014.

CDC had suggested that the position could be remedied by the Council submitting a further planning application asking for 'non-compliance with a condition'. Councillor Vessey rejected this suggestion and suggested in turn that the position could be remedied by the Council simply ignoring the condition in return for an assurance from CDC that they would not take enforcement action on the grounds on non-compliance.

JW

AG

Mr Kevin Field (Planning and Development Manager at CDC) has given his assurance in an email to Sir Edward Horsfall (as shown on p.1215 - 1217 on the minutes).

DV

**Resolution 50/14** *With regard to the Decision Notice on planning application, 14/03037/FUL (issued on 14 August 2014), the Parish Council resolved that in developing the extension to the Burial Ground, Condition 5 would be ignored.*

The Parish Council will send a letter to Mr Kevin Field confirming the above resolution (as shown on p.1219 of the minutes).

The next stage is to Register the Burial Ground and Councillor Grazebrook has kindly agreed to do this.

JW

The Chairman explained that there would be a 10m strip on the west boundary of the extension. Planting of the hedgerow could begin next summer in that area and the Council agreed that Councillor Vessey should get a quote from Martyn Adams so that it could be included in the budget for next year at the November meeting. In the meantime a fence will be erected so that the area on the west of the new extension can be grassed at the same time as Mr and Mrs Kingsley's field.

JW

In addition, Councillor Vessey has asked Tony Williams to trim the southern boundary of the Burial Ground (see item 7. 3). He plans to do this once the crop behind the Burial Ground has been lifted and he can access the Burial Ground via this field.

JW

### **8.2 Burial Ground Entrance**

BD

GCC are planning to renew the bitumen at the entrance to the Burial Ground but to date do not have a timescale from Amey, their contractors. The clerk agreed to contact GCC again especially as the path is very uneven.

JW

AG

## **9. Village Update**

### **9.1 Playground**

The inspection had been completed. Clerk to pay the invoice. Councillor Armitage is liaising with County Councillor Shaun Parsons in the application of a grant for replacing playground equipment. The Council will need to discuss the insurance implications once the application has progressed further.

The clerk reported that George Ponsonby, farm contractors for Crucis Park Farm has very kindly agreed to cut the playground hedge and this should be completed in the next few days. Clerk to thank Mr Ponsonby.

### **9.2 Ampney Times**

DV

The Council agreed that the Chairman should agree to negotiate with the production team on how to save postage costs. A discussion followed regarding the paper for The Ampney Times.

JW

### 9.3 Footpaths

Councillor Grazebrook reported that the footpaths on Waterton Farm were all clear except for the ones east of Hilcot End. However, it was agreed not to pursue at the moment but bear in mind for next year. The footpaths on Crucis Park Farm land still need attention and the clerk agreed to liaise with Councillor Grazebrook and write to Jon Dearsley, the Smithsgore agent outlining the issues.

RA

### 9.4 Community Trust

The Chairman reported that the solar farm was connected at the end of July. Sun Edison will provide a one off community benefit payment but he does not yet know when this payment will be paid into the Community Trust.

### 9.5 Dog Waste Bins

The clerk reported that a standard bin was approximately £100 plus delivery charges. Extra coats would be incurred if a post was required depending on location. The Council agreed that Councillor Vessey would write for The Ampney Times advising residents that the Council planned to purchase one bin per year over the next 2 or 3 years and asking residents for their views on the best locations. The clerk agreed to contact GCC regarding the fixing of bins to existing posts on the Highway verge.

RA

The clerk reported that CDC had supplied 6 'No Dog Fouling' stickers which were distributed amongst the Councillors. If residents wish to have a free sticker call CDC on 01285 653000 and ask for the Dog Warden.

JW

### 9.6 Potholes

Councillor Armitage will write for The Ampney Times providing residents with information on how to report a pothole and what criteria GCC use before they will repair a pothole.

BD

## 10. Highways

10.1 The winter preparation form has been returned to GCC, who have advised that the grit bins will only be filled once during the winter. Councillor Armitage will remind residents via The Ampney Times that the grit supplied by the County Council is for public roads only and is more effective when used sparingly.

10.2 GCC are still unable to give a timescale as to when the two new 'slow' signs on the approach to Ampney Park and Waterton House and the refreshment of the lines at the Crown of Crucis crossroads will be completed. County Councillor Shaun Parsons has asked Highways to be more specific and the clerk agreed to contact Highways.

JW

In addition, the school put forward several designs for the proposed new entry signs and the Council has agreed upon a final design. The next stage is to send off the designs to GCC for approval.

JW

### 10.3 Solar powered Vehicular Activated Signs (VAS)

One company could provide a VAS for between £895 and £1495 depending on the specification. However, GCC have advised the Council that they have adopted a policy for screening requests for the provision and installation of these signs and they also aim to standardise all signs for maintenance reasons. GCC have advised that a typical solar powered sign costs between £6,000 and £7,000. In view of the huge discrepancy in cost the Chairman agreed to approach County Councillor Shaun Parson for this advice on the best way forward.

The Council discussed the possibility of a 20mph speed limit through the village. It was agreed to concentrate on the A417 speed issues at present.

## 11. Correspondence received

11.1 Email from Mr Neil Holt regarding the water which flows down Butcher's Arms Lane. He is concerned that if something is not done there could be a serious accident. GCC are aware of the problem and the clerk agreed to write to GCC reiterating the need for remedial action.

**12. Matters outstanding**

Councillor Holt reported that he had contacted BT over the positioning of the new cabinet at The Donkey Field. BT advised that it was permitted development. A discussion followed regarding the fact that the Council was not advising of the new cabinet or the current temporary traffic lights in the village at the School Lane/Allotment Lane. Clerk agreed to contact GCC to ask for notification of road works in the future.

Councillor Lewis reminded the Council that the Burial Ground clear up will take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

**13. Date, time and place of next meeting**

Monday 10 November 2014, 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm