

MINUTES OF THE HOLCOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2015

1. Apologies: Councillor A Carter, Councillor R Hawkins

Present: Councillors: R Gunnett, D Walker, M Wilson, K Buckle, P Scordellis,
J Fountain, R Sinclair,

Clerks: K Winter, L Callan
2. **Declarations of Interest**

None
3. **Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting**

Minutes agreed and signed.

Proposed: P Scordellis. Seconded: M Wilson
4. **Matters Arising**

Councillor Hawkins to speak to residents on Brixworth Road regarding parking on the grass verge.
5. **District Councillors Report**

In Councillor Carter's absence, Councillor Gunnett gave a briefing on the Ward Meeting which took place on 22 October 2015.

Future Housing

A Housing Needs Survey will be posted out in November, and will last for 7 weeks, with a final report being issued in March 2016. All four villages will also issue a separate survey, but the Ward Survey will create a better understanding of the community as a whole.

Public Transport

It was noted that Judy Shepherd was attending a private meeting with Stagecoach and John Ellerby (NCC).

Clerk to contact Judy regarding the outcome of the meeting.

Parish Constables

It had been suggested that the two new Constables allocated to Walgrave and Holcot should perhaps be deployed elsewhere as an economic measure, since Walgrave and Holcot are considered low crime areas.

Speedwatch

Two villages that had joined together to create enough volunteers for the Speedwatch exercise had proven successful. This could be a potential possibility for other villages who are struggling for enough volunteers to cover similar exercises.

Street Lighting

Clerk to contact Walgrave Parish Council to request a copy of the lighting report.

Communications between Parishes

The possibility of increasing communications between Parish Councils was raised.

It was discussed that perhaps a Design Statement would be beneficial to the village, to enable residents of the village to voice their opinion on the future of the village.

Councillor Gunnett expressed his thanks to Councillor Carter for organising the Ward Meeting. Councillors regarded the meeting a huge success, and proposed another meeting is held within the next six months.

6. **Finance**

Current Account: £9552.75

Deposit Account: £7995.64

Invoices

100833 New Clerk £250

100834 Current Clerk £375

100836 EON £28.16

100837 Park Landscapes £522.72

Proposed: D Walker. Seconded: K Buckle

It was requested that we have two new signatories. Councillor Walker and Councillor Sinclair volunteered.

Precept

The Precept for next year was provisionally discussed. It will be added to the next agenda, and finalised during the meeting in January.

7. **Village Cart Race**

The Clerk investigated the closure of roads. As it is a Police matter, we are to contact them when a date and time has been arranged for the event.

8. **Queen's Birthday Celebration**

Councillors discussed possible options for the event. Councillor Wilson suggested a street party, using the Village Hall as a base. Councillor Scordellis suggested a fancy dress ball, charging residents a small fee as a contribution for a band. He is currently in possession of many fancy dress costumes, so it's a possibility that people could hire the costumes with a £10 deposit.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact fellow resident David Ashworth to ask if he would still like to front and organise the event. If so, he will be asked if he would like to attend the next Parish Council Meeting to discuss it in further detail.

9. **Defibrillator**

Holcot resident Tony Moulds has kindly offered to buy and cover installation for a defibrillator in the village with an accompanying plaque in memory of his late wife.

Councillor Wilson suggested we would need a key co-ordinator.

Parish Council would inherit the ongoing cost of the defibrillator.

Councillor Gunnett to follow up with Mr Moulds.

10. **Work on old School Site**

Nothing to report.

11. **Police Matters**

Councillor Buckle reported that the Village Constable is currently in training and is progressing well.

The results of the recent Lorry Survey have been returned. Out of 60-70 vehicles, 26 were thought to be over 7.5 tonnes. The 26 will be receiving a letter, which they have to reply to by law.

12. **Planning**

None

13. **Highways**

No news as yet on the hidden dip.

14. **Communications**

Councillor Walker asked if there was anything we could do to maintain communications to the community. Social Media was discussed, and Councillor Gunnett expressed his concern regarding the possibility of Social Media abuse. Councillor Wilson and Councillor Buckle think that the current channels of communication are correct, but that we need to find ways of improving those. Councillor Buckle also suggested a refreshment of the website. Councillor Fountain suggested knocking on residents doors to communicate face to face. Councillor Sinclair made a suggestion to put a form in the newsletter for residents to complete and return.

Councillor Scordellis has given Councillor Fountain a new contact sheet to put in the next Newsletter. It was decided that this would be printed on yellow paper so that it stands out.

Councillor Gunnett concluded that we should continue with the current modes of communication, and just refresh everything.

15. **Village Seat**

Councillor Gunnett to speak to neighbours to discuss the location of the seat.

16. **Parish Council Logo**

Nothing to report. Councillor Gunnett suggested inviting Mark Jessett to the next meeting.

17. **Youth Matters**

The Youth Club is going well, with a large number of children attending on a good night, with some of those children coming from surrounding villages.

18. **Lighting**

The Clerk has written a formal letter regarding the price of reinstatement for the light on Poplars Lane. They were also asked for a price update. Awaiting reply.

Councillor Wilson suggested the possibility of a lighting sub-committee. He would also like to know what the unmetered supply is based on. The Clerk is to pass EON contact details onto Councillor Wilson.

19. **New Residents**

New residents have moved into the property at 6 Moulton Road. Councillor Fountain to visit them with a welcome pack.

20. **Washbrook**

Still looking good.

21. **Website**

Nothing to report.

22. **Northampton North SUE**

Nothing to report.

23. **Village Hall**

Many thanks to Friends of Holcot for their work on the garden.

Councillor Scordellis reported that the Hall has been damaged internally. The incident was reported to the Police, who have suggested installing CCTV. To enable a reasonable view of the Village Hall on camera, the camera/cameras would have to be installed onto neighbouring houses. Councillor Scordellis has contacted neighbours to ask if they have any concerns regarding the installation of CCTV.

Councillor Buckle raised the question about whether the Parish Council would be insured if any damage occurred to a camera on a neighbour's property. Councillor Scordellis will investigate.

Councillors had no objections for camera's to be installed, but agreed it is a matter for the Village Hall.

24. **Footpaths**

Councillor Gunnett has been in touch with Ramblers and they are keeping in touch.

No closer to getting a footpath.

25. **Playing Field**

Councillor Wilson reported that the roundabout is not working. This should be picked up on the next inspection. Clerk to contact Wickstead.

26. **Dog Bins**

Councillor Wilson reported that the residents on Brixworth Road would like the dog bin moving from the outside of their house. It was agreed that the bin would be moved to the fence at the village entrance, and a sticker be put on the bin in it's current location to notify people that it is going to be moved.

27. **Friends of Holcot**

Continuing.

28. **Correspondence**

None

29. **Councillors Comments**

Councillor Gunnett suggested writing something on the website or newsletter regarding ongoing smoke pollution from neighbouring houses.

Councillors would like to express their thanks to Ken Winter who is retiring from his post as Parish Clerk. Ken has been the Parish Clerk for 11 years, and his hard work and dedication has been very much appreciated.

30. **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 18 January 2016 starting at

7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 10 p.m.