

HAMPTON LUCY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2008 in the village hall at 7.30 pm

Present:

Councillor Michael Woodman (Chairman)
Councillor Huw Williams
Councillor Paul Waterworth
Councillor Niven Conchar
Councillor Richard Hobbs (SDC) (from ca 8.30 pm)

Alan Scaife, Clerk

(+ 6 members of the public)

1. Apologies had been received from Cllr Main.
2. There were no declarations of interest in items in the agenda.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting (21 November), copies of which had been sent to and accepted by all the councillors, were signed by the Chairman.
4. Slot for County and District Councillors: neither was present at this stage. However Susan Lampitt, our representative on the HL School Governing Body, offered to say a few words about the school. The Headmistress apparently appreciates receiving our e-mail news, and the new “gazebo” (a memorial to a mother who died) is proving popular with the children. The old Victorian school is now the Early Years Centre, which can take 8 children. (Currently there are 5, + 1 staff member). In it, “learning by play” is very important. Experiments on cats have shown the importance of physical movement to brain development. Cllr Woodman praised the new gate. In response to a question from Cllr Waterworth, Mrs Lampitt said that there were no building or other plans in the pipeline which might affect us. The Chairman jumped to item 7 on the agenda to ask her if the school will be willing to take part in some way in our Calor Village of the Year competition in April. She agreed to mention it to Mrs Lunnon, whereupon he thanked her for coming.
5. Matters arising:
 - (a) Street lamp maintenance. Mr Scaife reported that WCC’s annual charge for street lamp maintenance is due to rise from £297 to £424 (ex-VAT) for the next financial year, but that he had negotiated an agreement with Mike Cunningham (i/c lighting at WCC) whereby they would not do any routine cleaning, bulb changes, night checks etc., but would change bulbs and clean lanterns if and when a lamp failed and was reported to him by the Clerk. This would cost £43.80 + VAT for the first half-hour’s work. Cllr Williams was not very happy about not having a “service contract” but Mr Scaife did not believe that it was being carried out as specified by WCC. He pointed out that normally only one or two lamps fail each year, but nevertheless recommended that we budget for the old contract cost (£297) which should cover the cost of 6 or 7 lamps failing. It was agreed to do this and accept Mr

Cunningham's offer. Cllr Waterworth would prefer to do without street lamps in any case.

(b) Footpath to spinney. Mr Scaife had received a quote of £4000 from Murray MacLeod to create a 1m wide x 110m long tarmac footpath along the southern verge of the Stratford road from the parking layby to a point opposite the beginning of the spinney. He had intended to use this for a grant application to the High Sheriff's Fund, but Mr MacLeod had not sent a written quote by the January 8 closing date, which was needed for the application. He proposed to try again in time for the next closing date (8 March). Paul Chedham thought that a seat in the spinney would be preferable to a tarmac path leading to it. It was agreed that we should put both into the grant application. It was also resolved to spend up to £500 of the Parish Council's own funds on this project if need be.

6. 2008/9 budget. Mr Scaife had provided council with a spreadsheet with the current year's income and expenditure projected to the year-end, together with a proposed budget which, if the precept were to remain at £5,700 (as this year), would leave a balance on 31 March 2009 of about £3,000. Cllr Waterworth wanted to raise the precept slightly because the budget involved slightly more expenditure than income, but after considerable discussion it was resolved by 3 votes to 1 to ask WCC for a precept of £5,700.

7. Calor Village of Year competition; dealt with above.

8. Mowing contract; three companies had been invited to tender but only Mary Bloxsome had done so (with a 4.3% increase). It was agreed to accept her tender.

9. Expenditure was approved as follows::

- (a) M. Woodman; two picture frames for Competition certificates, £5.00
- (b) CVS affiliation fee, £27.50

10. Planning applications passed round council:

(a) NFUM Ryon Hill; various proposals; no objections except against felling of three oak trees.

Decisions received from SDC:

(a) The White House, Snitterfield St; Mr and Mrs Jackson; 2-storey extension to rear and 1st floor extension to front. PP granted

(b) St. Peter's Church; Lombardy poplar; fell; no objection.

(c) Tudor cottage, Church St.; insert one air brick; PP granted.

(d) Clarkco Developments Ltd; Grove Fields; demolish pair of semi-detached cottages and replace with two detached dwellings and garages; PP granted.

11. Correspondence etc received:

(a) WCC 8 Nov 07; Consultation; Responsive Services and empowered communities; circulated

(b) WCC; New library service; circulated and public informed. Romeo is our vehicle.

(c) Shakespeare's Avon Way Association 21 Nov.; new footpath from Naseby (source of Avon) to Tewkesbury (confluence with Severn (on existing public rights of way)).

(d) Warwick District Council 27 December; Core Strategy consultation; Scaife gave his views.

(e) SDC; Decorum (Standards and Ethics newsletter); circulated.

(f) WCC 4 Jan 08; Speed Limit Review; applies to A and B roads; HL Charlecote road is not A or B so not eligible.

12. Financial statement as at 1 Jan 08:

Savings ac	£3753.64
Current ac	£169.66
Playing Field ac	£686.78
Total	£4610.08

13 Any other business:

Mr Scaife had just received the annual playground inspection report which he showed to Cllr Hobbs, complaining about numerous trivial items in the report plus a comment that the skateboard ramp, which we have just refurbished, is at the end of its life. Cllr Waterworth suggested calling the contractor back, and this was agreed. Mr Scaife to copy correspondence with the safety inspector to Cllr Hobbs. The latter had received e-mail correspondence about the leaves on the pavement near the electricity substation. He confirmed that it is the District Council's responsibility, not the County Council's, to sweep pavements. He promised to follow this up. The Chairman asked him about the huge puddles across the road at Sal's Grave and Hatton Rock farm. Cllr Hobbs said that this was a WCC matter, but that he would look into it. Cllr Williams complained about the large number of cars parked at Speeds Garage at Blackhill. This complaint has been ongoing for some years, but it appears that little can be done. Mr Scaife had had a complaint from Peter Cain about low-flying aeroplanes from Wellesbourne Airfield, but the Chairman said that we had tried to approach them but they are not obliged to take any notice of us. Cllr Waterworth asked if there had been a planning application for Old Pastures Farm, which is for sale. The answer was no.

The next meeting was fixed for Wednesday March 12.

The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.