

## **HOCKLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at Tidbury Green Village Hall. The meeting commenced at 7.45 pm.

### **Present:-**

Cllr R Holt  
Cllr B Brown  
Cllr P Kennard  
Cllr B Lintern  
Cllr M McCarthy  
Cllr M Pettinger  
Cllr C Robinson  
Cllr P Seddon  
Cllr D Skelding  
Cllr A Vine

Chairman  
Vice Chairman

Mrs D Weir  
Members of the Public: 3

Clerk

The Chairman welcomed Mr Peter Horridge, Stansgate Planning Consultants to the meeting. Mr Horridge gave members an update on the Public Inquiry into the proposed Motorway Service Area at Junction 4 of the M42.

### **Minute 1/2008 - Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Brown declared an interest in the items:-  
Illuminated lighting to Cheswick Green Post Office due to business interest with some shopkeepers and  
Cheswick Green Village Hall – Flooding as a member of Cheswick Green Village Hall Management Committee.

**Apologies:-** received and accepted from Cllrs Thompson and Arfan and also from Cllr Hodgson who was attending a Borough Council Planning Sub-Committee Meeting.

Members noted that the Clerk had emailed all members to let her know if anyone had not received their agenda papers and at the 18<sup>th</sup> February only two members had contacted her to indicate they had not received their papers, whereas at the meeting it was apparent that one or two other members had also not received agenda papers. The Clerk asked all members to retain the envelopes in order that she could take the discrepancy in service up with Royal Mail and with the Printers who had posted them.

The **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2008** had been circulated.  
**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that that Minutes be approved.

### **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

The matters arising were not considered.

### **Minute 124/2004 - Proposed Motorway Service Area at Jctn 4 M42 Monkspath**

Mr Horridge, Stansgate Planning Consultants, was present at the meeting to answer any questions from members with regard to the Public Inquiry. Members had been circulated with relevant papers relating to the Public Inquiry.

**IT WAS RESOLVED**:- that a) members note the additional fee of £1,000 approved by the Chairman and Vice Chairman in response to the programme set for cross examination and requirement for barrister to be present for an additional day making a total of 5 days and b) to increase the budget for the barrister's attendance at the Public Inquiry by an additional 2 days to 7 days attendance if required.

**Minute 5/2008 - West Midlands Regional Assembly – “Have your say” – Revision of the West Midlands Spatial Strategy – Phase Two Revision Draft Submission to SOS- Response**

Members noted that the Clerk had contacted Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council to see if it would be possible for a Planning Officer to attend the Parish Council Meeting to talk to members on the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision Draft, but no response had been received. The consultation period was from 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008 to 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

Members noted receipt of a letter from Stansgate Planning Consultants dated 4<sup>th</sup> February 2008 advising that the consultation period for responding had been extended to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2008. Mr Horridge being present outlined the reasons for the consultation to be extended and government proposals regarding housing.

The Chairman stated that he understood that Parish Councils were represented on the Regional Planning Partnership and asked Mr Horridge if he could establish who the representative was in order that the representative could be invited to attend a future Parish Council meeting and for the Parish Council to consider any responses to West Midlands Regional Assembly from the appropriate Body for Parish and Town Councils.

**Public Forum**

Mr & Mrs Pearsall, 14 Cheswick Way, Cheswick Green, outlined their problems with lighting recently installed for added security above the Post Office at Cheswick Green. The lighting was only on during the hours the Post Office was open, but they had been advised by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council that the lighting would require them to submit a planning application. They requested the Parish Council's support to the planning application. Mr Pearsall advised that adjoining shops had similar lighting which had not required planning consent.

**Minute 120/2007 - Cheswick Green Village Hall – Flooding**

Members considered a response from the Environment Agency advising that for the Environment Agency to justify flood defence works for Cheswick Green Village Hall they would need to assess the risk to a community, together with the economic, environmental and engineering effectiveness of any potential schemes.

With regard to assessing the impact of flooding at Cheswick Green in July 2007, due to the low frequency of past flood events and the few properties affected, it was unlikely that the Environment Agency could justify funding for flood defence works. The Agency enclosed various literature on flood products available.

Members considered a request by Cheswick Green Village Hall Management Committee for a brick built container to be built to house sand bags. Cllr Robinson suggested advice be sought from a Hydrologist with regard to the likelihood of flooding occurring again.

**IT WAS RESOLVED**:- that the Clerk seek 3 quotations from specialist contractors, Cllr Robinson to provide the names of 3 hydrologists for the Clerk to approach. A budget of £1,000 to be allocated for such advice.

### **Minute 10/2008 - NALC – Annual Conference**

Members noted receipt of an email dated 4<sup>th</sup> February 2008 from NALC giving details of the annual conference to be held in Bournemouth on 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008.

### **Minute 11/2008 Audit Commission – Appointment of External Auditor**

Members noted the contents of a letter from the Audit Commission dated 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008 confirming the appointment of Clement Keys as auditor to Hockley Heath Parish Council for a five year period commencing with the 2007/08 accounts, together with the Commission's proposals to appoint a panel of its own officers to act in the event that Clement Keys is unable to continue with the appointment.

### **Minute 12/2008 - Dept for Communities and Local Government – Consultation on Orders and Regulations**

Members noted the contents of a letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2008 from the Department for Communities and Local Government relating to the consultation on orders and regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England.

### **Minute 13/2008 - WALC – Newsletter/Seminar/NALC Briefing on the provisions of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007** **WRCC – Firm Foundations - Making it Happen – Seminar**

- a) A copy of WALC Newsletter had been circulated to members together with details of forthcoming seminar on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at Myton School, Warwick. The Clerk expressed an interest in attending the seminar.
- b) Newsletter from WRCC giving details of seminar on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2008 covering sources of funding for building work to improve your facilities and ideas on how to improve your management committees and maximise community involvement.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that a) the fee of £35 be approved for the Clerk to attend the seminar on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at Myton School Warwick, together with the fee for any members wishing to attend and b) the fee of £10 for the Clerk to attend the seminar on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at Arden Hall, Castle Bromwich, together with the fee for any members wishing to attend

### **Minute 14/2008 - Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council – Public Rghts of Way – Practical Works**

Members noted receipt of a letter from the Footpaths Officer, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council enclosing summary of work of the Rural Footpaths Ranger within the parish during the last quarter.

### **Minute 15/2008 - Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council – Britain in Bloom 2008**

Members noted that Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council would this year be entering the national competition for Britain in Bloom as well as the regional competition and requesting confirmation that the Parish Council would again require hanging baskets to be filled and installed at Dickens Heath. The Clerk had met with the Events Manager, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and she had confirmed that Dickens Heath Management Company had agreed to the same arrangements being made for watering of the baskets.

Members agreed to this in principle subject to arrangements being made for watering of the hanging baskets, and for an acknowledgement in the Britain in bloom portfolio that the Parish Council had funded the hanging baskets

**Minute 16/2008 - Dickens Heath Village Green – Lighting**  
**Cheswick Green Post Office – Lighting**  
**Land at Snowhill Drive, Cheswick Green**

Dickens Heath Village Green

Members considered the request by the Police Community Support Officer for improved lighting on Dickens Heath Village Green, a view supported by members.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that the Clerk write to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and Parkridge Development Company raising the concerns about the inadequacy of the existing lighting.

Cheswick Green Post Office – Lighting

Members considered the request by Mr & Mrs Pearsall in Public forum and a letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that in the event of a planning application being submitted for the new lighting, the Parish Council support any application in view of the fact that the Parish Council had previously campaigned for better lighting on Cheswick Way in front of the shops and also that it was understood that the adjoining shops had similar lighting for which planning consent had not been required.

Land at Snowhill Drive, Cheswick Green

Members noted receipt of a letter from the occupants of 60 Snowhill Drive to Mrs Gormley which had been referred to the Clerk by Cllr Vine and the Clerk's response. The Clerk advised that Miss Pearson had contacted her and she understood that she would be coming along to the meeting to outline her query regarding land at Snowhill Drive. Miss Pearson was not present and there was insufficient information for members to consider her query.

**Minute 17/2008 - Cheswick Green Village Green – Damage**

Members considered a report from Cllr Brown regarding damage caused to Cheswick Green Village Green by a vehicle which had been driven across the Green and which had sunk into the waterlogged ground and had to be towed off.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that the Clerk write to the owner of the vehicle to pursue the cost of reinstatement of the land.

**Minute 18/2008 - Standards Committee – Representation**

Members considered an email from Mr Blamire Brown, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, advising that the Council is seeking an additional parish representative on the Standards Committee and this was to be referred to the Solihull Area Committee for a nomination, but requesting expressions of interest from any members.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that the Clerk advise Mr Blamire Brown that Cllr David Skelding would be interested in being considered for the vacancy on the Standards Committee.

**Minute 19/2008 - Local Charter – Parish & Town Councils**

A copy of the Local Charter had been circulated to members. Members noted that Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council's Governance Committee had considered the proposed local Charter and recommended the full Council approve it at the next full Council Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2008 with the intention that after the Charter has been adopted by the Council in April, Town and Parish Councils will be invited to sign up to the Charter.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that this item be deferred to the next Parish Council Meeting.

**Minute 20/2008 - Local Government Pension Scheme – Newsletter**

Members noted the contents of a letter from West Midlands Pension Fund dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 2008 detailing the proposed employer's contribution rate for the Parish Council and also a Newsletter from Communities and Local Government outlining pension changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

**Minute 21/2008 - Application – 2635 Stratford Road, Hockley Heath**

Members noted that a planning application had been submitted for a replacement car dealership with associated offices and vehicle prep workshop facility at 2635 Stratford Road, Hockley Heath.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that this item be deferred to the next Parish Council Meeting for members to consider the plans and the impact of the development on the War Memorial.

**Minute 22/2008 - Representatives Reports**

Cllr Kennard reported to members on train services and the Earlswood Lakes Partnership. Cllr Kennard raised the issue of the bridge at Earlswood and the maximum gross weight limit. Cllr Robinson advised that it was possible to put an axle weight limit on a bridge which is far less than the maximum gross weight limit for traffic management.

**Minute 23/2008 - Any Other Business**

- a) Parkridge Holdings Ltd – Copies of the Parkridge Newsletter was circulated to members.
- b) Hockley Heath Recreation Ground – Members noted that filming by CBBC had taken place at Hockley Heath Recreation Ground on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2008 for the children's television programme.
- c) Cllr McCarthy advised that there were pieces of wood which appeared to have been cut and left in front of the boundary fencing for Heron Close at Cheswick Green Recreation Ground.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.35 pm.