

Mursley Parish Council

Minutes of the Mursley Parish Annual Meeting held at 8.00 pm on Monday 23 April, 2012 in the Village Hall Mursley.

Present: Members of Mursley Parish Council –Gerry Gallagher (Chairman), Barry Agnew, Neil Coles, Sandra Doherty, Laura Hook, Richard Pepper.
Clerk to Parish Council – Ian Hook

Residents: Alison Agnew, Chris Alcock, Sue Alcock, Pauline Debbage, Beryl Dickens, Susan Gallagher, David Prosser, John Williamson.

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous annual meeting held on 19 April, 2011, had been approved at the Parish Council Meeting on 23 May 2011 and are available for inspection.

1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A report from the Chairman on the Council's activities during the past year. He concentrated on three main areas, the planning process, the Affordable Homes application and traffic and Roads. The full text of this report is attached to these minutes.

2. ISSUES RAISED BY PARISHIONERS.

Traffic Calming

Beryl Dickens asked the reason for the increase to the precept.

Gerry Gallagher responded by saying that a number of possible solutions to reduce traffic speed through the village had been suggested by BCC Transport for Buckinghamshire and all of them are quite expensive ranging from £1000 to £30000. As nothing had yet been decided, it was felt prudent to include some money in the coming years budget. In any event, nothing would be implemented without consultation with parishioners.

Beryl Dickens noted that the agenda for the Parish Council Meeting had included an item regarding the pavement in Main Street and asked what the outcome was of that.

Sandra Doherty said that was one of the possibilities discussed but that any proposal would first require a feasibility study which would be paid for by the Council and would cost between £3000 and £4000.

Beryl said that in her experience, nothing was very effective and the money would be better spent on something like more street lights.

Gerry Gallagher advised that we had consulted other parishes regarding their experiences with traffic calming solutions and that they indicated that they were of questionable benefit.

Loan to Jubilee Committee.

Beryl Dickens noted that the Council had made a loan to the Jubilee Committee and asked if the Council had the authority to make such a loan and what were the terms and duration of the loan.

Gerry Gallagher responded that the period of the loan was through to the event itself and was intended to assist the Jubilee Committee with advance deposits ahead of any income. There were no specific terms other than that it should be repaid from any profits made on the event. If it transpired that insufficient profits were made, then it would be regarded as sponsoring a village event for the enjoyment of all parishioners at a cost of no more than £4 per head.

Neil Coles said that the Council had adopted a Government-drafted Standard Code of Conduct and there was nothing specific included on this issue. Gerry added whether to adopt more specific rules on requests for financial assistance will be addressed in the near future. With regards to donations generally, Gerry advised that the guiding principle the Council used when deciding whether to make a donation was whether the activity directly benefited Mursley parishioners. For example, a donation was made to Winslow Community Bus which villagers (including Beryl) used whereas the Dial-a-Ride operation which is less specific to local communities was refused.

Subsequent to the meeting, Gerry Gallagher showed Beryl the sections on loans in the book on Local Council Administration, the definitive authority on all matters of the Council, and it indicated that the Council were perfectly entitled to make such a loan in order to facilitate a local event aimed at the entertainment and enjoyment of parishioners.

Entrance from Field onto Cooks Lane.

Beryl Dickens wished to know why the Council had not objected to the Planning Application which allowed access onto Cooks Lane. Gerry Gallagher responded by saying that the Council had made the caveat that it should be for agricultural access only. Beryl said that the approval did not impose any such condition. Gerry pointed out that the condition had been applied and could be viewed on the AVDC planning website. Neil Coles said that the developer had responded to concerns from residents in Manor Farm by moving the location of the garage thereby precluding access to the field for any future development.

Whaddon Road.

David Prosser raised the issue of the height of the kerb stones and manhole cover at a particularly narrow part of the road. Also, the hedge at Anglia Water's boundary should be inside their boundary. Gerry Gallagher said that the Council would address the issues with BCC Highways.

Chris Alcock raised a concern with the speed of vehicles leaving the village, particularly motorcycles. Gerry Gallagher said that the Council is continuing to press BCC regarding speed restrictions on the Whaddon Road.

Station Road.

David Prosser expressed concern at the situation when football matches are taking place on the sports field as the parked cars make it almost impossible to pass safely. He thought that the ditch which he thinks is within the sports association's boundary, should be filled in thus enabling cars to be parked further off the road. Gerry Gallagher said that the planning approval for a new pavilion included off-road parking spaces which will go some way to alleviating the problem.

Pauline Debbage, noting the approval for the affordable houses, enquired whether there would be any changes to the roadway, given that people will be leaving the houses to get to the village centre. Gerry Gallagher said that part of the planning approval was for a footpath opposite the planned new houses. Beryl Dickens pointed out that that would compromise the filling in of the ditch but Gerry said that the location of the footpath was specifically the recommendation of BCC Transport.

Excess Water on Main Street.

Beryl Dickens stated that recently there had been considerable surface water on Main Street outside the school. Neil Coles stated that he believed that it was caused by the (lack of) camber of the road at that point. Anglia Water had done much by way of jetting the drainage pipes below Main Street and it was felt that there were no plans for any further action.

There being no further meaningful points, the meeting was closed at 8.46pm.