

**Minutes of the Deferred Meeting of the Council held on Monday,  
16<sup>th</sup> February, 2009 at Church House, Newport.**

<b><u>Present:</u></b>	<b>Cllr A. Yarwood</b>	<b>(AY)</b>	<b>(Chairman)</b>
	<b>Cllr P. Arscott</b>	<b>(PA)</b>	<b>(from C035)</b>
	<b>Cllr M. Bowker</b>	<b>(MB)</b>	
	<b>Cllr C. Gilbank</b>	<b>(CG)</b>	<b>(from C035)</b>
	<b>Cllr A. Johnson</b>	<b>(AJ)</b>	<b>(Vice-Chairman)</b>
	<b>Cllr J. Rose</b>	<b>(JR)</b>	
	<b>Cllr M. Sell</b>	<b>(MS)</b>	
	<b>Cllr J. Smith</b>	<b>(JS)</b>	<b>(from C030)</b>

<b><u>In attendance:</u></b>	<b>M. Webb</b>	<b>Church Warden</b>
	<b>J. Roos</b>	<b>Uttlesford District Council</b>
	<b>R. Stretton</b>	<b>RGP Architects</b>
	<b>L. Baillie</b>	<b>Resident</b>
	<b>C. Griffin</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
	<b>J. Grogan</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
	<b>Dist Cllr P. Wilcock</b>	<b>(PW) (from C027 -C030 and C047)</b>
	<b>Cty Cllr R. Gooding</b>	<b>(RG) (from C036)</b>

**09/C027 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr T. Denyer and Cllr C. Mitchell.

**09/C028 To receive any 'personal' or 'personal and prejudicial' interests relating to items on the Agenda**

The following interest were declared: AY in C038, C039, C040, C044 and C045, AJ in C043 and C046, JR in C030, C037 and C039, JS in C030, C037, C038, C041 and C044.

**09/C029 To discuss the PCC's proposals to tarmac the footpaths from Church House up to the Church and from the main Church door to Millers Gate**

Michael Webb, Church Warden, outlined the proposals. Firstly, the PCC are planning work on the Church building. A Statement of Significance and Statement of Needs was circulated to members present, which gives details of the planned improvements. Michael Webb will update the PC on progress at a later date.

With regard to work on the footpaths, Michael Webb reported that the PCC are planning to tarmac the path from Church House up to the main Church door with a surface suitable for cars, in order that cars can drive up to the Church door. A turning

area will also be incorporated. The path from the main door to Millers Gate would be suitable only for pedestrians. A guide price of £3,200 has been obtained although it is expected that the total cost will be in excess of this. The PCC are planning to do all the work together and are hoping to complete by the summer.

Some years ago the PC supported work on the main footpath through the churchyard and the PCC would welcome whatever financial help the PC can give on this occasion.

The Chairman confirmed that this will be included on the agenda for the March meeting and a decision will be made.

The Chairman thanked Michael Webb for attending

**09/C030 To discuss proposals for an Energy Efficiency Day in Newport with Mr. Jake Roos, Uttlesford District Council**

JR outlined the plans for the Energy Efficiency day and the benefits for residents and businesses of Newport and surrounding areas. Uttlesford District Council, the Energy Saving Trust and other organisations will support the event.

Robin Stretton of RGP Architects explained the benefits of using a thermal camera to identify areas which need addressing. Residents can then be advised on suitable, cost effective, measures to consider.

AJ expressed concern because the plans for the event are at a final stage and the PC has not approved this. Whilst there is a need to educate people on this topic this is part of UDC's remit, therefore, do the PC need to take a lead on this. Also, we are faced with a list of organisations that have a commercial interest, where does this leave the PC.

Jake Roos, UDC, advised that similar events have been held in Dunmow and Saffron Walden and commercial exhibitors have been involved. The Energy Saving Trust has a remit to put on events and they prefer to organise these where there is local support.

The Chairman asked if a risk assessment and insurance have been arranged. JR advised that, to date, these have not been organised

After further discussion it was agreed that the PC are not ready to make a decision on this, therefore the event cannot go ahead on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> March. This item will be included on the agenda of the next Full Council meeting in two weeks time.

The Chairman thanked Robin Stretton and Jake Roos for attending and JR for the work he has done on this.

**09/C031 Public participation session (15 minutes available if required)**

No other members of the public present.

**09/C032 To approve and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2009.**

C012. page 004, first paragraph was amended to read “The PC felt this was not something they should be involved in but should be handled by ECC and Network Rail”.

C016, page 005, addition to last sentence, “Chairman and Clerk will discuss this at a meeting with the RHT on 6<sup>th</sup> January and suggest that the footpath becomes a cycle path in addition to the provision of a road.

Resolved that with the above amendments the Chairman should sign the Minutes as approved.

Proposed: JS

Seconded: AJ

All agreed

**09/C033 Chairman’s comments**

The Chairman reported that:

- The official opening of Bowker Close on 27<sup>th</sup> January was extremely successful. A letter has been received from a Lady in Waiting to HRH saying that the Princess was most touched by the warm welcome everyone gave her in the Village Hall and she enjoyed talking to the contractors, Parish and District Councillors, and local residents. A photograph was sent to Peter Gibson, Chairman of the VHTMC, and a very nice reply has been received.
- The North Area Forum meeting was well attended. Issues were raised on the Newport Pharmacy and 20mph speed limits around the Schools.
- It appears that the CIF (Highways) application for funding has been successful but we are awaiting confirmation.

**09/C034 To discuss the co-option of new Council members**

The Chairman explained that the PC invites interested candidates to attend several meetings before making a decision on co-option. If any further information is required please contact the Chairman or Clerk.

Mr Peter Arscott and Mr Charles Gilbank confirmed that they were willing to be co-opted and, after signing a Declaration of Acceptance of Office, the Chairman welcomed them to the Council. The two new Councillors were handed a copy of the code of conduct, standing orders and register of interest form.

**09/C035 To receive the Clerk’s Report**

Duly received.

Clerk reported that:

- There were flooding problems at Bridge End on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February. Sandbags were obtained from the UDC depot in Water Lane and UDC delivered a further supply later in the day. Photographs have also been received of flooding on the Common.
- ECC have requested that the PC approach the residents who replied to the Chalk Farm Lane consultation, asking them to withdraw their comments. Clerk will contact.

- A resident in London Road has again requested that the PC remove the graffiti on the wall at the bottom of Frambury Lane. It was pointed out that neither the PC nor UDC is responsible for this. The Police have visited the owners and asked them to remove it, therefore there is nothing more the PC can do. Clerk will advise the resident.
- Letter has been received from the Chairman of the Tennis Club thanking the PC for their support.

**09/C036 To receive the Treasurer's Report and approve accounts for payment**

Duly received.

The cheques for £359.50, issued on 27<sup>th</sup> January to cover expenses for the Royal visit were approved.

Proposed: AJ

Seconded: MS

All agreed

Clerk has now received a cheque from Hastoe Housing to reimburse the PC for the above.

The payment schedule showing 16 items, totalling £2,694.39 was approved and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: JS

Seconded: AJ

All agreed

The Chairman will request an Invoice from the Scouts.

**09/C037 To discuss holding an Energy Efficiency Day on 1<sup>st</sup> March as proposed by Cllr J. Rose and consider start-up and running costs of £500 plus VAT**

Following discussions under item 09/C030, the PC felt unable to support this proposal as the Insurance and Risk Assessment are not in place.

**09/C038 To receive an update on the possibility of a disabled access to the Pharmacy in the High Street**

JS reported that he has spoken to the Pharmacist and the information obtained from the Conservation Officer at UDC will be passed to the owner, Mr. Patel.

**09/C039 To receive an update on the RHT Affordable Housing Scheme in Frambury Lane**

The Chairman reported that Hastoe Housing Association have taken on the second affordable scheme in Frambury Lane following the winding down of the Rural Housing Trust. A meeting was held last week with Mr John Lefever, Hastoe Housing Assoc. Ltd., and he is anxious to proceed with the scheme as quickly as possible. New plans are being prepared which will include changing the access into the site. RG confirmed that because the existing track is a bridleway a change of use will be required and the necessary process would probably cause a delay.

The PC has received an invitation to visit the Hastoe premises at Little Chesterford on the afternoon of Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February. Members should contact the Clerk if they

would like to attend. At a later date, a visit to one of their schemes at Leaden Roding will be organised.

Hastoe Housing will be holding an Information Day at Church House on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 10 – 3.00pm, for residents to register. An article will be included in the Walden Local and 2000 fliers will be requested for inclusion in the newspaper and for delivery. Clerk will contact John Lefever regarding the possibility of the PCC supplying the refreshments, which Hastoe Housing will fund.

**09/C040 To decide on whether the PC wishes to re-apply for Quality Status, which expires on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2009.**

It was agreed that the PC should re-apply for Quality Status.

Proposed: AJ

Seconded: JR

All agreed

The Chairman pointed out that the Clerk would need time to compile the necessary portfolio.

**09/C041 To receive a report on the Joint Parish Council Group meeting**

JS advised that the Group has received two reports on the general issues of the Eco town. The general issues report is very comprehensive; the transport report is not so fully satisfactory. These reports will serve as a basis for all future opposition to the Eco town. The PC has been requested to send a response to the consultation by 6<sup>th</sup> March. JS will draft a letter and this will be circulated in advance of the next Full Council meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

**09/C042 To discuss the Essex Compact Initiative**

Details of the initiative were sent to AJ from UDC. The Chairman agreed to study the scheme and report back at the next meeting.

**09/C043 To receive a report on the Tourism meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January.**

AJ reported on the last meeting. Saffron Walden Town Council is developing its own infra structure, other areas are still considering the promotion of tourism. AJ will attend the next meeting in March and then decide whether there is anything to be gained from this.

**09/C044 To receive a report on the Village Hall and discuss items that are in urgent need of attention**

JS reported on the current financial situation. Phase 2 commenced on 10<sup>th</sup> February. The items requiring immediate attention are; the rear wall (repair and paint), the kitchen window, floor covering for the annexe, cladding of internal walls of the annexe.

JS proposed that a further contribution from the PC funds should be made to the Village Hall, in the region of £7,000.

PA is awaiting a quotation from ECC for the tarmac area at the front of the Hall. It is also recommended that the suspended ceiling in the annexe is dealt with and the rear soak away/pipe to the river.

**09/C045 To receive an update on the new development at Bury Water Lane**

AJ reported that the PC has received a copy of some proposals from David Wilson Homes for a footpath on the north side of Bury Water Lane. AJ and PA have several options for consideration but need to consult with the residents. To be included on the agenda for the March Full Council meeting.

**09/C046 To receive a report on Neighbourhood Watch**

AJ reported that the NAP meeting last week was well attended. There are several issues that are causing concern, namely, youths causing a nuisance, serious car incidents, and further damage to bridges.

Lindsay Baillie, the Essex Watch Administrator, is bringing valuable information from the Police to Neighbourhood Watch and this is now being fed through to the coordinators.

The Chairman congratulated AJ on the recent article in the newspaper and for everything he does for Neighbourhood Watch.

**09/C047 To receive reports from Dist Cllr P. Wilcock and Cty Cllr R. Gooding**

Dist Cllr Peter Wilcock advised that the overall increase in Council Tax for 2009/10 would be 2.6%. (Reported at beginning of meeting)

Cty Cllr Ray Gooding advised that the ECC increase in Council Tax for 2009/10 is 1.9%, which is the lowest for a very long time.

**09/C048 Items for next Agenda**

To discuss the Essex Compact Initiative

To discuss the PCC's proposals for upgrading the footpaths and consider a financial contribution.

To discuss the Energy Efficiency Day in Newport

To consider whether the Village Hall JSG is redundant.

To agree a further release of PC funds to the Village Hall

To discuss proposals for a new footpath in Bury Water Lane.

To discuss procedure to deal with Urgent items.

To approve a response to the Eco town consultation.

To update Parish Representatives/Committees list

**09/C049 To discuss any urgent matters of interest to the Parish**

**C049.1** JS raised the traffic light speed limit system used in Spain.

Cllr R Gooding advised that this is not available in this country.

**C049.2** JS has received a complaint from a resident concerning the fence in Pond Cross Way. Letter passed to Clerk.

**C049.3** PA reported that the bollards on the corner of Tenterfields/School Lane have still not been replaced. Clerk will chase ECC.

**C049.4** Clerk has advised ECC that the bollard outside Monks cottage has been broken.

**C049.5** JR has received complaints concerning the gritting of Bowker Close. Additional grit bin to be considered in the area.

**C049.6** CG reported that the grit bins need filling up. Clerk will chase ECC.

**C049.7** JR reported that the road sign near the Pharmacy in the High Street needs to be reported to ECC. Ivy needs cutting back from nearby wall.

**C049.8** The Chairman advised that the next Village Plan meeting is on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February at the Coach & Horses.

**C049.9** The Chairman reported that the Youth Centre has been successful in obtaining some funding from the High Sheriffs Office.

**09/C050 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March , at 7.30 pm at Church House.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm