

DITCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The 2013 March meeting was held on the 18th in the village hall at 7.30pm with Cllr.Green in the Chair & the following present: Cllrs. Chadd, Cossey, James, Mison, Ogden & Weston together with clerk John Smith.

Also present were Dis. Cllr. Allen, parishioners David & Sylvia Fairhead, Georgina Simmonds & Richard Jenkins (Bungay UK Support Chicken Roundabout).

Action
By:

Parishioner Question Time opened with Mr. Jenkins being given the opportunity to address the meeting and he gave details of the worldwide encouragement received for the idea of commemorating the “famous” Chicken Roundabout brought about by his Facebook page. It was pointed out to him by the Chair that SNC were the Planning Authority and NCC owned the land and the majority wish of the parish council was that it could not support any type of clutter on this busy roundabout.

Nevertheless should a committee be formed by the Support Group there was no objection from councillors that Cllr.Weston,Chair of the Planning & Highways Advisory Committee, attend. Mr.Fairhead commented that the idea had some merit & due consideration should be given.

At this stage Mr.Jenkins stated that the committee had still to formulate a plan as to what form the Commemoration should take and thanked the Council for hearing what he had had to say.

KW

Mrs. Simmonds was then given the opportunity to discuss, and ask permission for use of The Dip, to stage a non-profit making event in July where all local groups would be invited to participate in a village fete. Saffron Housing would bring their Road Show and any profit would go to All Hallows hospital.

JC

This suggestion was favourably received and Cllr.Chadd, Chair of the Local Dev.

Advisory Committee, would liaise with Mrs.Simmonds with the expectation that such an event, when details were known, would receive the go-ahead.

With no further items for discussion he Chair thanked members of the public for participating and at 7.45pm the meeting proper commenced.

1. Apologies for absence were received & accepted from Cllrs.M.A. & M.C.Ankrett, Kirkpatrick & Mulley with a “Get Well” card signed for Cllr.Martin Ankrett who was in hospital.

The police, too, apologised for non-attendance.

2. Member’s Interest was reported by Cllr.Green concerning the firm to be given the work concerning tree maintenance in the Play Area.

3. Minutes of the meetings held on 21st January & 4th March were authorised for signing after one typo correction on the former.

4. Matters arising

Cemetery gates had been repaired.

Bins for litter and dog mess were ready for siting in the Pirnhow Street cul-de-sac.

At this point Mrs.Simmonds & Richard Jenkins took their leave.

5. Police action concerning inappropriate behaviour in the bus shelter had resulted in more evening patrols and in general they were able to say that anti-social behaviour in Ditchingham was down.

The spate of our village burglaries had been investigated fully but the culprits remained undetected.

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One of the PCSO's had met with youth workers to set up more youth activities & Cllr.Chadd would be involved in this as would Dis.Cllr.Allen. JC

6. Finances

Cheques as at Annex A were authorised.

Forecast 2012/13 out turn & draft budget 2013/14 figures were tabled by the Chair & discussed. The Chair proposed that the Finance & Resources Committee should meet as soon as possible agree recommendations for the May council meeting and asked the Clerk to organise an appropriate date. This was agreed.

7. Planning Committee report (tabled) gave details of plans recommended for approval with the council confirming this.

8. Internal Advisory Committee reports

Planning & Highways Chair,Cllr.Weston tabled his report and updated the meeting on planning applications dealt with since the last meeting. He also gave information on an NCC scheme whereby funds could be available to a council wishing to implement minor highway improvements. These would be on a 75%/(NCC) 25% (PC) split. With a closing date, for applications, of 30th April unanimous permission was given (Cllr.Cossey proposing with Cllr.Chadd seconding) for Cllr.Weston to take initial steps with regard to applying for grant for two VAS signs alerting drivers to the dangers of the Hollow Hill bend, and noting that this would in no way commit us, at this time, to spend the required Council contribution of £4K. KW

At this point, 8.15pm., County Cllr. Tomkinson arrived, having been at a prior council meeting.

Local Development Chair,Cllr.Chadd enlarged on her tabled report which confirmed receipt of a total of £29,682 from three bodies-Nfk.Com.Foundation,Awards for All,Nfk.Foundation Construction fund & the ERVNB Social Action fund.

This would enable the youth schemes proposed to go ahead.

Maintenance & Environment Chair,Cllr.Kirkpatrick, being absent, his tabled report was read by Cllr.Green the report giving further information on a very productive period,especially where intentions for the Play Area were concerned.

The clerk reported that necessary safety work in the wooded area had been priced at £575 by Norse & on Cllr.Weston's proposal, 2nd by Cllr.James it was agreed to put this work in hand. Cllr.Green took no part in these proceedings.

Finance & Resources Cllr. Green reported that the Committee had not met but a meeting would be convened (as noted in item 6) during the next two weeks.

An additional member of the public took his place among the public present.

9. External Reports

County Cllr.Tomkinson was proud to report that the NCC share of the Council Tax Bill had shown no increase for an unprecedented three years. He reported that funds are still available in the Community Construction Fund.He would not be standing at the forthcoming elections and thanked the council for the courtesy always shown him.

Dis.Cllr.Allen had kindly tabled her report, in the form of her new Pauline's Posting, and would mail two copies to her ward councils for future meetings This gave information on her general activities on which she elaborated.

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10. Information not considered by committees concerned the forthcoming Big Litter Pick proposed for 20th April and received council backing. Strenuous efforts had been made to advertise the event and a good turnout of volunteers was expected.

11. Council Working Practices papers were distributed by the Chair together with a Policy Statement. Cllr. Weston expressed Council's thanks for the time and effort put in by Cllr. Green to prepare these documents. They would prove invaluable for future council and committee working & be reviewed (initially) within six months. The paper included two proposals that Councillors were asked to vote on.

Proposal 1 "The Council accepts the recommendation of the Chair to adopt the tabled document – Ditchingham Parish Council Committee Terms of Reference & Policies- in their current form & subject to further formal revision."

Proposal 2 "The Council undertakes to formally review the tabled document at least annually and agrees exceptionally in this first year it will do so in the first 6 months of use; bringing to this Council a revised document as is found necessary."

Both proposals were carried with one abstention to the first & two to the second and acknowledging that the above proposals had been accepted Councillors were asked to vote on the following draft resolution:

Resolution: "The Council acknowledges that the proposed recommendations noted above are accepted and resolves that the Council adopt the tabled document 'Ditchingham Parish Council Committee Terms of Reference & Policies'."

This resolution, proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr.Chadd was carried.

12. To Notice Correspondence received

The letter from a parishioner requesting an additional bus shelter would be responded to by the Chair and Vice Chair.

The opportunity to learn more about the New Standards Regime would be investigated by the clerk.

Chair/Vice
Chair

13. Urgent Other Business None.

JS

14. Next Scheduled Meetings

Planning Committee 22nd April 6 pm & Full Council 20th May 7.30pm. The Clerk reminded Council that this would be the Annual Meeting.

15. No Items for Next Agenda and meeting closed at 8.55pm.

NOTE: Papers tabled at the meeting are appended to the file copy of the minutes.