

ILMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 24th July, 2013.

Present: Mr. A.G. Wilkins (Chairman), Mr. F.J. Edmunds, Dr. I.H. Jones and Mr. M.T. Robinson. Also present were County Cllr. I. Seccombe, District Cllr. C.J. Saint, Mrs. R. Allison, Mr. C. Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. M. Carr, Mrs. C. Jones, Mrs. S. Tremellen and Mr. T. Allen.

Apologies were received from Cllr. A.D. Wright.

DEFIBRILLATOR

At the invitation of the Chairman Mrs. Allison gave an account of the present situation regarding the defibrillator. More volunteers were urgently needed and further funds to cover the necessary repairs to the present machine and the purchase of three more machines. The group had raised some money themselves and more had been recently raised by a sponsored cycle ride. Mrs. Allison was hoping for a further grant from the Parish Council. She was thanked by the Chairman.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 26th June and 11th July were confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

1. Armscote Road Housing. Mr. Neil Gilliver of the Warwickshire Rural Housing Association had asked if the Parish Council could make a decision by late August on what project of benefit to the village the Housing Association's small budget of up to £2,000 could be used for. Cllr. Fred Edmunds proposed, seconded by Cllr. Wilkins and agreed that this budget should be given to the Defibrillator group to spend on whatever was necessary.
2. Verge Mowing. In reply to the Parish Council's enquiry about possibly organising the mowing of the verges in the village themselves, the District Streetscene Manager had said that he would get in touch again in October/November when they had had the chance to review the service with their new contractor. He also said that the District Council would be able to transfer to the Parish Council approximately £500 for carrying out the work.
3. War Memorial. Cllr. Ian Jones showed photographs of plaques which had been put on French memorials, and said that these could be replaced whenever necessary. A grant of up to 50% could be obtained, but not for work of this kind as the war memorial would not be being repaired in its original state. Cllr. Jones proposed that the Parish Council followed the route of reinstatement, obtained two quotes for the work and applied for a grant. This was seconded by Cllr. Edmunds and agreed.

4. Sports & Social Club. Cllr. Jones reported that he was following up the possibility of the Club getting a partial refund on the £1,800 Council Tax which had been paid by the Club.
5. In reply to the letter from Mr. Geoff Davies discussed at the last meeting, the Chairman reported that the gully emptier had been round the village since then, but that it was not yet possible to tell whether the non-functioning gullies had been cleared. Letters of thanks had been sent to the bus company and the District Council for the provision of a small bus to the school. A decision on unnecessary signs was deferred.
6. Cllr. Edmunds asked if an invoice for the £214.00 for verti-draining one pitch on the playing field and spreading fertiliser could be sent to the Playing Field Committee.
7. Gap in Playing Field hedge by the skateboard ramp. After some discussion Cllr. Jones proposed, seconded by Cllr. Mark Robinson and agreed that the gap should be closed with a fence and hedging. The Chairman agreed to ask Mr. Adrian Meredith if he could do the necessary work.
8. The Clerk reported that she had asked County Highways about the abuse of the residents' parking in front of the Armscote Road bungalows, but had been told that this was the responsibility of the Traffic Department. County Cllr. Seccombe agreed to investigate the problem.
9. A letter of resignation as a Parish Councillor had been received from Mr. M.P. Taylor. This was accepted but regretted by the Parish Council, and a letter should be sent to him thanking him for his contribution to the Council. The District Democratic Officer had informed the Council that no requests had been received for an election to be held, and that therefore the remaining Councillors could now proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option. The Chairman proposed, seconded by Cllr. Robinson that Mrs. Rachel Edmunds should be asked if she was willing to be co-opted.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter from Lauren Lewis and Josh Hawkins about their project of building their own house on the site opposite the house of Josh's parents, Mr. & Mrs. Rob Hawkins, and asking for the Parish Council's suggestions. Cllr. Jones said that the Council should only comment after seeing a planning application. He proposed, seconded by Cllr. Robinson and agreed, that Lauren Lewis and Josh Hawkins should obtain pre-application advice from the District Council about their project, which would include change of use of the land from agricultural to domestic, before putting in a planning application,.

PAVILION ROOF

Cllr. Jones reported that Jessop Roofing had intended to start work on the roof after the August bank holiday, but that with the recent good weather forecasts they felt they

could get the work done well before the bank holiday. They started work at the beginning of July, took off and removed the asbestos and had already re-roofed the front part of the building. Cllr. Edmunds suggested that while the scaffolding was in place the timber gable ends should be treated with preservative. Cllr. Jones agreed to ask Jessops to give a quotation for the work and to then carry it out. Cllr. Edmunds reported that while the work was being done the suspended ceiling fell in. It had been put up some 20 years ago but had not been properly secured. The insulation had not been spread out but had been left in heaps. Jessops had said that this was not their responsibility.

PARISH COUNCIL REVIEW

Cllr. Jones produced a paper on this, and said that a complete list of the roles and responsibilities of the Parish Council was needed. He suggested that he, the Chairman, the Clerk and Cllr. Edmunds should get together to produce this, possibly by mid September. Amongst other matters, agendas should go out seven days in advance of meetings, and not three days as at present, and they should be put on the parish notice boards and in the 20-20 letter.

FINANCE

1. The Clerk reported that a cheque had been signed out of meeting for £20.00 to the Village Hall for hire of rooms for the extraordinary meeting held on 11th July.
2. The following cheques were agreed, signed and were within budget:-

(a) S.M. Gardner, Clerk's salary and expenses	£ 600.02
(b) A.G. Wilkins, reimbursement for weed killer	£ 43.20

PLANNING

1. 13/01284/LDP. Certificate of lawful proposed use or development of loft conversion with 3 no. conservation rooflights at 1. Foxcote Hill.
2. 13/01716/TREE. Application for permission to fell and replace one Conference pear tree at Puddocks, Frog Lane. The Parish Council had no representations to make.

PLAYING FIELD

1. Cllr. Edmunds reported that the playing field had been sprayed with weedkiller.
2. The Chairman reported that when the playing field hedges were eventually cut the whole of the perimeter hedge on the inside needed tidying up.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The Clerk reported that, although she had not yet put in her statutory three months' notice, she would be getting together with Cllr. Jones to find a new Clerk.
2. There had been notification of increases in the salaries of part-time clerks, and it was agreed that the Clerk's salary should be increased in accordance with this notification and back dated to April.
3. Cllr. Robinson said that grass mowing for next year should go out to tender, and the Clerk should give him a copy of the current specification to see if it needed updating.
4. County Cllr. Seccombe reported on progress to provide the region with superfast broadband. There was a considerable pot of money, and the project had been awarded to BT to provide broadband in 90% of the region by 2016. Champions were needed throughout the region, and most of the villages had one already, but there was not one in Ilmington. Anyone interested in becoming a champion should contact cswbroadband.org.
5. District Cllr. Saint reported that the next election for Parish Councils would be in May 2015, and that ward boundaries would have to change.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Date

Chairman