

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF POLESWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE TITHE BARN, POLESWORTH,
ON WEDNESDAY, 7 APRIL, 2010

PRESENT: Councillor R.M. Meredith, Vice-Chairman, in the Chair,
Councillors Mrs Ball, Critchley, Hipkiss, Parsons, Pugh, Smitten and Mrs Smitten.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Stanley and Mrs Stanley submitted apologies for absence.

763. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 3 March, 2010, copies having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

764. REQUESTS FOR GRIT BINS:

(748) (a) Paddocks Close, Polesworth:

In response to the Parish Council's enquiry, the Borough Council's Principal Housing Management had replied that the Housing Division was prepared to help those of its elderly tenants at Paddocks Close who have difficulty in scattering grit, but was unable to commit to specific timetables because there were no staff that could be specifically deployed for such work.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the information received from the Borough Council be passed to the spokeslady for the elderly residents of Paddocks Close;
- (ii) That the residents be informed the Parish Council was prepared to purchase a grit bin for the Close, subject to the County Highways agreeing to provide regular supplies of grit to the bin, and the residents being able to make their own arrangements for spreading the grit on the footways within Paddocks Close.

(b) Laurel Avenue, Polesworth:

Consideration was given to a request for a grit bin at the junction of Laurel Avenue and The Beeches. During wintry weather, the residents state they were unable to drive their vehicles up the incline of The Beeches.

Members were aware that the Parish Council's policy regarding the provision of grit bins was as follows:

"The Parish Council's policy is to provide grit bins for the clearance of ice/snow from public footways only (not road surfaces) at locations throughout the Parish where the gradient of the footway is so steep as to be hazardous to pedestrians using the footway during icy conditions."

RESOLVED:

That the application received from the residents of Laurel Avenue be not approved on the grounds that the location and proposed use of the grit bin does not meet the requirements of the Parish Council's policy.

765. PUBLIC TOILETS, POLESWORTH:

(752) Further to the resolution at minute 752, the Clerk had written to the Borough Council's Chief Executive, the receipt of which had been verbally acknowledged by the officer dealing with the matter. Trustees of the Community Association had been asked to confirm in writing their agreement to the preferred site. The Parish Council would be kept informed of progress.

766. CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE GRANTS:

(756) Letters of thanks had been received from the respective parochial church councils for the above grants, paid on 3 March, 2010.

767. RESPONSES FROM AREA HIGHWAYS:**(757) (a) Excessive Surface Water, Junction Kisses Barn Lane and Barn End Road, Warton:**

A temporary road closure to vehicular traffic had been made by the County Council to enable engineering works to be carried out to deal with the above problem. The order affected a 50 metre length of road, which would only be closed between 26 and 30 April, 2010. Pedestrian access and egress from adjacent properties and land would be maintained at all times, including, where possible, vehicular access.

(b) Obstruction of Public Footway by Overgrown Hedge, Castle View Estate, Polesworth:

A letter had been sent by Area Highways to the owner of the hedge requesting it be cut back within a period of 14 days.

768. DEATH OF MR JOHN RIDGLEY:

(758) A letter had been received from Mrs Linda Ridgley, thanking the Parish Council for its letter of condolence following the death of her husband.

769. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:**(740) (a) Polesworth Scout Group:**

Councillor Parsons reported that the Scout Group had been granted temporary accommodation at the Nethersole C of E Primary School premises in High Street, Polesworth.

(739) (b) Polesworth Churchyard Extension:

(Councillors Parsons and Mrs Pugh declared interests under the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council and took no part in the consideration of the following business nor voted upon the matter.)

A written report on a meeting between the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council and the Vicar of Polesworth, held in the Tithe Barn premises on 29 March, 2010, was received and consideration was given to the recommendation of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, regarding the grant application discussed at the March meeting. The application was for an annual grant of £2,000, over a period of five years.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Parish Council renews its support for the proposals to extend the Polesworth churchyard;
- (ii) That the Parish Council agrees to make a grant of £2,000.00 in 2010, towards the implementation costs for that year; and
- (iii) That separate applications for the balance of the requested funding, over the remainder of the period, be submitted by the applicant, accompanied by progress reports and costs, annually.

(747) (c) The Polesworth Society — Request for Contingency Financial Support:

Consideration of the above request was deferred at the March meeting of the Council, pending receipt of further information, which was subsequently received and circulated to each Councillor.

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council re-affirms its support of the proposal in principle and will consider an application to grant emergency funding, if found necessary.

(c) North Warwickshire Cricket Club (Junior Section):

Consideration was given to an application for grant aid, submitted on behalf of the above organisation.

RESOLVED:

That further consideration of the above application be deferred pending receipt of specific details of the numbers of members of the Junior Section who reside within the Parish of Polesworth, and copies of more recent accounts.

770. DRAFT CALENDARS OF MEETINGS, 2010/11:

(744) Following the announcement that the Parliamentary Election for the Warwickshire North Constituency would be held on Thursday, 6 May, 2010, further consideration was given to the draft Calendar of Meetings of the Parish Council and Committees during 2010/11.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council shall be held on Thursday, 13 May, 2010;
- (ii) That the June meeting of the Parish Council be held on Wednesday, 2 June, 2010;
- (iii) That the fixing of the date for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in 2011 be deferred until it is known whether the Parish Council election for May, 2011, is to be contested or not; and
- (iv) That the draft Calendar of Meetings, 2010/11, as submitted and amended in (i), (ii), and (iii), above, be adopted.

771. WARTON HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY:

(703) Mr Phil Ward, Rural Housing Enabler, W.R.C.C., had written to say that the Warwickshire Rural Housing Association had produced a draft layout for an affordable housing scheme on the site in Barn End Road and that he and a representative of the Housing Association would be happy to attend a meeting of the Parish Council to discuss the draft layout.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Mr Ward, together with the representative of the Warwickshire Rural Housing Trust, be invited to present the draft layout for discussion prior to the Parish Council's Annual Meeting on Thursday, 13 May, 2010, at 6.30 p.m.; and
- (ii) That should the above date be inconvenient, the invitation be extended to the meeting scheduled for 2 June, 2010.

772. APPLICATION TO USE RECREATION GROUND — POLESWORTH CARNIVAL COMMITTEE:

Permission was sought by the Polesworth Carnival Committee for the Carnival Fair to use part of the Station Road recreation ground during the 2010 Carnival Week.

No dates were submitted concerning the period required by the carnival fair, but based on past years, the fair was likely to require entry on Sunday, 27, June and depart on Tuesday, July 6, 2010.

RESOLVED:

That the Polesworth Carnival Committee be granted permission for its Carnival Fair to use part of the Station Road recreation ground, between 27 June and 6 July, 2010, on the same conditions as imposed by the Parish Council in 2009, including the need for the Carnival Committee to have adequate public liability insurance for the whole of the period during which the recreation ground is being used for the purposes of the Polesworth Carnival Committee.

773. WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL — CHAIRMAN'S "AT HOME" RECEPTION:

An invitation to the above event, to be held at Shire Hall, Warwick, on Saturday, 17 April, 2010, from 6.30 p.m.

until 8.30 p.m. was received but no Councillors wished to attend on that evening.

774. WARWICKSHIRE RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN REVIEW:

It was noted that the above review document could be downloaded or viewed at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/carowip and comments must be made by no later than 3 May, 2010.

775. W.A.L.C. NEWSLETTER ADH/87:

Copies of the above, having been circulated previously to all members of the Council, were received and noted.

776. PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED:

The following publications were received:

N.A.L.C. Direct Information Service, issues 727 and 730.

777. POLESWORTH FIRE STATION – LICENCE FOR BUS SHELTER:

In May, 1990, the County Council had granted a licence to the Parish Council to use an area of land at the above site for a brick-built bus shelter, for a term of ten years or until determined.

The County Council proposed to determine the licence on 8 May, 2010, and issue a fresh licence for a further 10 year term on the same conditions and at the same licence fee of £1 per annum, payable if demanded.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Parish Council accepts the offer of a new licence for the bus stop site at Polesworth Fire Station, Tamworth Road, Polesworth, for a further term of 10 years, on the same conditions and licence fee as the current licence; and
- (ii) That the Clerk of the Council is authorised to sign the new licence on behalf of the Parish Council.

778. PLANNING MATTERS:

(a) Weekly Lists:

Copies of lists 7 to 12, inclusive, were submitted, together with details of applications on those lists for development within the Parish, but there were no comments which the Council wished to be formally submitted to the district planning authority.

(b) Parking of Heavy Goods Vehicles:

A letter was received from the Borough Council's Planning Control section, for the information of the Parish Council, regarding a proposal to park a heavy goods vehicle on agricultural land and other material changes of use being carried out on the land, in contravention of policies in the North Warwickshire Local Plan and the actions taken by Planning Control to secure a planning application.

779. EXTERNAL AUDIT FOR THE YEAR-ENDED 31 MARCH, 2010:

Monday, July 12, 2010, was the date appointed by the external auditor, Clement Keys, as the date on or after which local government electors of the Parish might exercise their rights to attend and question the auditor about the accounts of the Parish Council for the year-ended March 31, 2010.

780. TRANSFER BETWEEN BANK ACCOUNTS:

The Clerk reported on a transfer of funds from the Parish Council's Business Money Manager Account (1) to its Treasurer Account which he had arranged, under his delegated powers, for April 9, 2010.

781. ACCOUNTS PAID AND FOR PAYMENT:

Invoices and details of accounts paid and due for payment were submitted by the Clerk.

RESOLVED:

That the following accounts be passed for payment:

		£
Nuneaton Glass	– Replacement window unit (pd. 8.3.10)	387.75
E.On	– Un-metered supply to CCTV cameras (pd. 15.3.10)	6.07
Midland Fire Ltd.	– Fire equipment service (pd. 15.3.10)	126.04
Globalwave	– Broadband connection (due 1.4.10)	29.32
N.A.L.C.	– DIS subscription	105.00
N.W.B.C.	– N.N.D.R. 2010/11	2,450.07
Information Commiss.	– Renewal registry entry	35.00
Poles. Scout Grp.	– Litter picks, March	170.00
Poles. Air Cadets	– Litter picks, March	170.00
Poles. Swifts F.C.	– Litter picks, March	170.00
A. Craig	– Salary (March)	541.72
D. Craig	– Salary (March) and telephone	697.80
H.M. Rev. & Cstms.	– Income Tax & Nat. Ins.	246.70
R.M. Meredith	– Travel exes & paint purchase	22.52
B.T.	– Telephone charges	185.78
W.A.L.C.	– Membership renewal	901.00
D. Craig	– Stationery, postage & catering items	35.92
AKF Electrical	– Thermostat replacement	30.00
Northcliffe Media	– Public notice, annual assembly	179.07

782. PUBLIC NOTICE OF ANNUAL ASSEMBLY:

The cost of placing a public notice in the local press advertising the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting was raised and discussed.

RESOLVED:

That the practice of placing a public notice in the local press advertising the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting be discontinued and publication of future such meetings be confined to the Parish Council's notice-boards.

783. POLESWORTH POETRY TRAIL:

(707) Councillor Meredith submitted a proposal for the purchase of additional plants for the area of the Poetry Trail at the corner of High Street and Bridge Street, Polesworth. He had raised the matter with the Chairman of the Parish Council, who had signified his support for the proposal.

As it was imperative that the planting be completed before the official launch on Saturday, 10 April, 2010, Councillor Meredith had purchased and planted shrubs and bedding plants to the value of £30.77, after discount, and had obtained a receipt form the supplier.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Meredith be thanked for the work he had undertaken to substantially improve the appearance of the site concerned and that he be reimbursed for the cost incurred.

784. MATTERS FOR OTHER AUTHORITIES:

The Clerk undertook to raise the following matters with the appropriate authorities:

- (1) Pothole in Orton Road, by the entrance of Willows Farm; and

- (2) Overgrown hedge in Cockspur Street, Birchmoor.

785. ITEMS FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE:

Councillor Hipkiss asked that the following matters be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee:

- (1) Warton play-area fence; and
- (2) Woodland off Birchmoor Road.

786. POLESWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION A.G.M.:

Councillor Parsons reported on his attendance at the above meeting. The finances of the Association were improving and the Trustees publicly thanked the Parish Council for its assistance during the past year.

NOTE:

The meeting was formally closed at this juncture, in readiness for the commencement of the Parish Meeting, but was re-convened, with the Chairman's permission, upon the rising of the Parish Meeting to deal with an urgent item raised at that meeting.

COUNCILLOR R.M. MEREDITH IN THE CHAIR

787. ABBEY GREEN PARK, POLESWORTH – LOCAL NATURE RESERVE PROJECT:

Mrs Z. Davies, Community Development Officer, Environment, North Warwickshire Borough Council, had attended the Parish Meeting and given a comprehensive overview of the above Borough Council project, for which funding applications were being prepared. Mrs Davies had suggested that a letter of support from the Parish Council might help in securing grants for the project, which suggestion was formally considered by the re-convened meeting. The urgency arose from the need for the Borough Council to submit this applications before the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council fully supports the Borough Council's proposals for creating a local nature reserve at Abbey Green Park, Polesworth, and agrees to give a formal letter to this effect for submission to the relevant funding bodies.

Chairman