

## SIBBERTOFT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Reading Room at 8.00pm on Tuesday 6 September 2011

**Present:** Cllrs. Fernandes, Garner, Gibbs, Merry, Putt, Smith, Walpole, and five parishioners along with District Cllr. Driver and David Smith, (Daventry DC's Enforcement Officer).

**Kay Driver, District Cllr. – Update:** Prior to responding to several issues that were raised at the July meeting, which Cllr. Driver agreed to take forward on the PC's behalf, she gave an update on the micro-flight problem at Marston Trussell where flights over the village have upset both parishioners and livestock. The situation was originally complicated with M/Trussell being situated on the Leicestershire border and therefore Harborough District Council is also involved. This aspect has been sorted out, with DDC taking the lead role but incorporating any input from H'boro District Council. Notice has been served on the participants and the activity has ceased and should it start again DDC will act.

i. **Refuse collection:** A slight improvement in the actual collection has been seen but the recycling element has still not been properly addressed and the contract with Enterprise is under review. (Email also received from DDC apologising for the problems and confirming the Council and Northants. Borough Council are working hard to resolve the problems)

ii. **Site visits re Planning:** DDC have advised that they have basically done a "U-turn" regarding this issue. Their previous stance that members of the public/PC representatives were no longer allowed to attend any sites when planning matters were being discussed by the District Council's Planning Committee, has been overturned and future attendance is to be permitted providing the request comes via District Cllr. Driver and is restricted to contentious applications. The past problems (of which we have never been advised) were perceived as being health & safety issues, unruly attendance and the land owners' reluctance to allow the public on their land.

iii. **Village Design Statement:** There has been no reference to VDS's in general planning correspondence for some considerable time but Daventry DC confirms the documents are still valid and remain as supplementary planning guidance.

iv. **31 Welland Rise:** See David Smith's comments below.

**David Smith (Daventry DC Enforcement Officer) – Presentation:** There have been planning issues surrounding 31 Welland Rise for some considerable time and Mr Smith kindly agreed to attend the meeting to explain DDC's stance to clear the air:

i. **The property:** When developed the build did not comply exactly with the original plans submitted. This was reported to DDC who advised they would seek a retrospective application which has never been forthcoming. That said the alterations made, prima facie, did not appear to fall outside permitted guidelines. The end result is that no further action will be taken but the property sits without the benefit of full planning permission.

ii. **The garden:** The PC's view is that the state of the garden appears to be a builders' yard. Mr Smith advised it is permissible to run a modest office/business from home and for there to be any breach of planning there must be a material/significant change of use. This is not considered to be the case here with there being no deliveries of building materials or presence of workmen. Additionally, there is no requirement for a garden to be maintained to a certain standard. In the circumstances no course of action is open to DDC.

iii. **The tree:** The large willow tree on this land is subject to a Tree Preservation Order and, inexplicably, appears to be dying. At the PC's request Daventry DC has undertaken some tests as to why and the results are awaited. Should the tree die it has to be replaced (not necessarily by another weeping willow) and all costs have to be met by the landowner.

**1040 Apologies:** None

**1041 To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of 2 August 2011:** Agreed. Prop. Cllr. Garner; sec. Cllr. Walpole; unan.

**1042 Public Participation:** Jasper Hart congratulated both Cllr. Geoff Smith and Cllr. Richard Gibbs on their successes (a first and third respectively) in the recent Harborough Mail Best Gardens Competition. Mrs Barbara Tabiner advised that a fund raising evening entertainment event was being organised for Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2012 to meet the cost of organising a full village photograph. The timing of the picture to coincide with next year's Queen's Diamond Jubilee. She also proposed some form of village celebration to acknowledge the Jubilee and enquired if the PC could provide some funding to assist (this to be an agenda item in October). Mrs Tabiner will also seek out any available grant monies.

**1043 Declarations of Interest:** None

**1044 Matters Outstanding and Arising from the above Minutes:**

- i. **BT Broadband:** Difficulties encountered in trying to identify all villages on the Husband Bosworth BT exchange which is the start point in co-ordinating a petition to BT requesting increased line speeds. However South Kilworth (who is on the Welford exchange) is some way along the road in organising similar action and we have been invited to their next meeting. Cllr. Gibbs and clerk to attend.
- ii. **War Memorial:** Await confirmation as to when stone mason will commence work on the re-lettering but in the meantime the rear border is to be tidied up and the beech saplings to be replaced as, unfortunately, the original ones did not take. Cllr. Garner/clerk to take forward. It was agreed to spend up to £150 (to include purchase of some quicksets to replace the elders recently removed, as previously agreed by Cllr. Garner, from the play area hedging). Prop. Cllr. Putt; sec. Cllr. Smith; unan.
- iii. **The Pound:** Progress continues with rear hedging removed and Cllrs. organising the required materials. Cllr. Walpole produced a draft lease which Cllr. Gibbs will review.
- iv. **Commemorative Plaque – Wellington Bomber:** Wording agreed and clerk to obtain quotes.
- v. **Naseby Battlefield Project:** Cllr. Putt advised that planning permission had now been received to construct a building which will be in the parish of Naseby.
- vi. **Refuse collection:** See Cllr. Driver's comments above.
- vii. **Street lighting:** It transpires that the main problem is a specific light in Berkeley St. which some 10 years ago had been partially blanked out to reduce the glare. Unfortunately the alteration had fallen into disrepair so E-On have been contacted and they have now partially blanked the light again to the satisfaction of all parties.
- viii. **New Model Standing Orders:** The revised documentation having been circulated to all Cllrs. returned without comment and therefore adopted. Prop. Cllr. Putt; sec. Cllr. Garner; unan.

**1045 Correspondence:**

- i. **Steve Shaw re Proposal to Empower Local Councils:** A general request seeking Parish Council's support to a proposal that would empower local councils by seeking new planning guidance to major developers urging them, as a matter of planning procedure, to:
  - ✓ Attend a council meeting to answer questions about their planning application if the council wishes
  - ✓ Provide resources (if councils wish) to enable councils to assess their applications – which may be over 1000 pages long – based on a professional critique of their evidence.
 Unanimously agreed to support and appropriate response to be sent.
- ii. **CPRE re Planning:** Defer
- iii. **Daventry DC re Grant Funding Programme:** Noted. Details of 3 funding schemes but on checking eligibility local authority activities, (including those of schools or parish councils), are excluded.
- iv. **Daventry DC re Sex Establishment Licensing:** Notification that DDC is undertaking consultation with a view to adopting an appropriate policy – noted.
- v. **Daventry DC re Dog Control Orders:** Consultation period to run from 21 Sept – 18 Oct to revise and strengthen the existing byelaws and further details will be made available over forthcoming weeks. The PC fully supports the initial proposals.

- vi. **Northants CC re Revised bus timetable:** Numerous emails have been sent out by Northants CC over the past month, some of which referred back to the initial consultation period which started back in May 2011. Unfortunately none of this correspondence was received by the clerk. The end result is that the existing service to Mkt. H'boro ceased on 5 September to be replaced by a new flexible, on-demand service. Details are on the PC's website [www.sibbertoft.org](http://www.sibbertoft.org) with posters in the village notice boards and leaflets left in the Reading Room and Red Lion.
- vii. **Northants CC re Parish Path Warden & Tree Warden Scheme:** Advice that annual "Get Togethers" are to be arranged to discuss a wide range of issues affecting this subject - noted
- viii. **Joan Beretta re Reading Room Accounts:** Received for year-end 31.03.2011 and reviewed by Cllrs. Gibbs & Putt – noted.
- ix. **Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine – Queen's Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Mug:** A four-day period of celebration is to be held over the holiday weekend 2-5 June 2012. To mark the event PC's have the opportunity to purchase genuine bone china Balmoral style mugs personalised with the Council's name. It was agreed to purchase 72 mugs at a cost of £373.90 (ex VAT) to give to all children in the village under the age of 12; the balance to be distributed as the PC sees fit and/or sold. Prop. Cllr. Garner; sec. Cllr. Smith; unan. The number of children to be identified by "letter drop" – Clerk to organise.

#### 1046 Reports:

- i. **Recreation Ground:**
  - **Digley Associates – Annual Inspection Report:** Cllr. Putt will review and report back at October meeting.
- ii. **Neighbourhood Watch:**
  - Northants Police Authority – Questionnaire: Defer to Oct.
  - Theft of metal continues to feature across the area.
- iii. **Highways:**
  - All attempts to remedy the continual flooding at the bottom jitty have been unsuccessful and following a visit by Dave Coleman, Area Technician, MGWSP, he is to arrange for a detailed excavation to properly identify the cause.
  - A water leak has re-appeared on Clipston Road – Clerk to report.

#### 1047 Planning:

- i. **DDC: DA/2011/0626 – Lancaster House 1A, Church Street – Remove tree subject of a Tree Preservation Order:** No objections/observations. Prop. Cllr. Garner; sec. Cllr. Merry; unan.
- ii. **DDC: DA/2011/0658 – Spring Cottage, Welford Road – Two storey front extension, first floor extension to rear, alterations to garage with link to dwelling:** No objections/observations. Prop. Cllr. Smith; sec. Cllr. Garner; unan.
- iii. **31 Welland Rise – Condition of tree subject to a TPO:** See Dave Smith's comments above.
- iv. **31 Welland Rise – State of the garden:** See Dave Smith's comments above.

**1048 Finance:**

- i. Bank balance as at 1 August 2011 - £4,899.06**
- ii. Interim review of Budget to Actuals:** Projections of income and expenditure confirm that the PC's finances are broadly in line and the year-end reserve figure should be approx. £6,000
- iii. Annual review of Clerk's Terms & Conditions:** The pay freeze on clerk's salaries since 2008/9 continues and the last increase on the "spinal column point - SCP" dates back to 1 April 2007. Cllr. Gibbs in acknowledging that the Council's administration continues to run smoothly recommended an increase to SCP 27 which equates to an hourly increase of £1.434 (w.e.f. 1 Oct 2011) be granted – sec. Cllr. Putt; unan.

**iv. Financial Receipts/Payments**

Receipts

£  
NIL

Payments

Nice N Stripy

228.00

I H Arnott Sal & Exps.

557.93

HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE tax)

109.18

Daventry DC – Election exps.

63.00

Digley Associates – Play area survey

48.00

Prop. Cllr. Putt; sec. Cllr. Merry; unan.

**1049 Future Agenda Items:**

- i. Speed limits within the village
- ii. Refurbishment of BT's telephone kiosk
- iii. Diamond Jubilee celebrations

**1050 Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 4 October 2011. The meeting closed at 10.20pm.