

GOODNESTONE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
WEDNESDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2014

Present:

Councillors Plumptre, Phillips, Compton, Ellison and O'Sullivan. Dr Geewater.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from District Councillor Conolly.

2. Public Contribution Time

Dr Geewater expressed concern at the speed at which some drivers take the bend at the top of the village, and also about the volume of traffic and inconsiderate parking around the school at the beginning and end of the school day. Cllr Plumptre reminded the Council that previous attempts to request traffic calming measures for both had failed. Cllrs Phillips and Ellison advised that any specific incidents should be reported to the Council along with a registration number and date/time.

Dr Geewater fielded the idea of a large mirror for the bend. Cllrs Phillips and Ellison reminded the Council that Highways had previously advised that obtaining planning permission might be difficult, but that was not to say that it would not be possible.

Cllr Plumptre observed that there is only one arrow sign on the bend and that it perhaps is not sufficient warning. It was felt however that narrowing markings on the road might be more psychologically effective at slowing drivers.

The Council agreed that the Clerk would ask PCSO Doreen Lee to visit the school one morning.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 10th September 2014

The minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting held on 10th September 2014 were signed as a true record of events by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the Agenda

There were no matters arising.

5. District Councillors invited to report on DDC

The Clerk read out District Cllr Conolly's report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

6. Community Policing

The Clerk read out PCSO Doreen Lee's October/November report for Goodnestone, which stated that ten calls were made to Kent Police relating to Goodnestone. There were no concerns as a result of these and no anti-social behaviour calls. There were no crimes reported in Goodnestone.

7. Goodnestone CE Primary School

Cllr Plumptre reported that Nonington and Goodnestone schools are now federated and that a meeting was held on 7th November to finalise arrangements.

Cllr O'Sullivan reported that Goodnestone had received a surprise Ofsted inspection recently. It was suggested that the new headteacher should be invited to the next PC meeting – Cllr Plumptre offered to do this.

8. Footpaths

Cllr Ellison reported that there had been a complaint that the Long Wood (Aylesham Rd) path to Chillenden wasn't marked, but that it has now been marked. Cllr Plumptre said that he had left messages with KCC regarding the maintenance required on the Crixhall Court path, and that he was still waiting to hear back from Highways about the churned up footpath in Chillenden.

9. Highway Matters

It was observed that Highways have repaired some potholes in the parish. Cllr Phillips reported that Short St was surprisingly clear for the time of year. It was established that the Gibsons have not yet installed any

hardstanding at the entrance to their pig field. Cllr Phillips reported that Highways are to install some soakaways in Chillenden, including one in Short St

10. Goodnestone Church Disabled Access

Cllr Phillips produced the invoice for the works. As it was not featured in the agenda, it was agreed that an extraordinary meeting would need to be scheduled to sign a cheque. The work had reportedly been carried out to a revised specification, enabling a £1200 saving to be achieved. The path is currently very slippery and best avoided until the grass has grown through it. Cllr Plumtre reported that a part of a corner had been missed – Cllr Phillips volunteered to look into it.

11. Goodnestone village hall request for funding

The Clerk reported that Martin Usher of the Goodnestone Village Hall Committee had enquired re the availability of the Community Fund as a source of funding for extraordinary repairs or development for the Hall. The Council were unsure of the suitability of the Fund for costly infrastructural items, but supported its use for items that would improve the usability of the Hall. Mr Usher had cited a replacement projector screen and stand as items that would be particularly beneficial, for around £350. Cllr Ellison proposed that payment should be made for this out of the Fund, seconded by Cllr Phillips.

12. Village noticeboards - quotes

The noticeboard at Rowling is reportedly in need of replacement – Cllr Phillips volunteered to look into this. It was suggested that Ken Birch might be contracted to carry out the work. The Chillenden noticeboard is reportedly in good condition and requires no action.

13. Dog bins

The best location for a new dog bin in Goodnestone was discussed. Cllr Plumtre proposed siting it at the junction of the Street with the concrete path leading to the recreation ground. It was decided that siting it on the recreation ground would be too far away from the road to be usable. Cllr O’Sullivan reported that there is dog poo warning sign on a lamp post, and that new signs would be required.

14. Finances

- *Payments for Approval*

The following items were approved for payment:

i. Roger Austin £708.00 Cheque 296

Proposed by Cllr Plumtre, Seconded by Councillor Ellison

ii. Smith of Derby £254.40 Cheque 297

Proposed by Cllr Phillips, Seconded by Councillor Compton

iii. KALC – New Councillor Workshop £72.00 Cheque 298

Proposed by Cllr O’Sullivan, Seconded by Councillor Phillips

15. Planning

There were no planning related matters to discuss. Cllr Ellison reported that application 14/00886 (internal alterations to the Old Post Office) had been withdrawn.

16. Written Correspondence

A letter from a Short St resident regarding its condition was read out. Cllr Plumtre commented that it might be advisable for residents to take their complaints straight to a County Councillor.

17. Councillors Reports on Parish Matters

Cllr Ellison reported that he had not heard back from the NFU, but that the Gibsons might have. Cllr Plumtre reported that he had yet to meet the Natural England representative, but that he felt that the Gibsons are definitely in breach of cross compliance requirements (which enables them to receive their Single Farm Payment) regarding the conditions around the pig pens.

It was agreed that Short St residents should be provided with a log sheet to record all past and future incidents related to the condition of the highway.

Cllr Phillips reported that a Chillenden resident had asked who maintains the phonebox. It was decided that this would be BT, and the clerk agreed to contact them.

Cllr O'Sullivan reported that he had found his KALC course for new councillors to be very useful.

Cllr Ellison reported that village clubs and societies are not making use of the village website. The Clerk agreed to remind the relevant people in the next email she sends round.

There being no further items to discuss, the meeting closed at 9pm.

Future Meeting Dates:

PC Meeting

Weds 21st January

Chillenden Church Hall