

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 19 September 2007 in the Reading Room at 8.00pm.

Apologies: Mr Hancock and Cllr Kindersley - other meetings.

Present: Mr Martin, Mrs Hurst, Mr Wittey, Mr Sole, Mr Friend, Mr Wheeler, District Cllr Elsby, the Clerk, Mr K Fowler, PCSOs Rebecca Follenfant and Karla Verity and three members of the public.

Minutes: of the last meetings, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

Police: Inspector Ormerod and Sgt Burns were unable to attend the meeting to discuss NHW and traffic problems, so PCSOs Follenfant and Verity attended to represent the Police. Mr Fowler, our ex-NHW co-ordinator explained why he felt unable to continue in the role and had resigned, citing lack of communication and feedback from information he had forwarded. The PCSOs explained the route that the information Mr Fowler was supplying was supposed to take, and it did not seem to be doing this. The police on the beat should receive the information – unfortunately they did not. The PCSOs are reporting this problem and will liaise with Mr Fowler. The traffic problems with Cereals 2007 could have been minimised, but apparently the event organisers did not ask for assistance. It was felt there could have been better signage for traffic going to the event.

The PCSOs reported that the tractor driver who caused havoc in the village has been charged with five offences and will be appearing in court in October. The Chairman thanked the PCSOs for attending, and both they and Mr Fowler left the meeting.

Matters Arising:

Register of Members' Interests: Mr Friend's form has been sent in.

Code of Conduct: An acknowledgement has been received regarding Council's adoption of the Code of Conduct.

Village Matters:

Collapsing Road: Denis Vacher at the Highways Department is trying to raise funding get the road stabilised on capital expenditure, which could mean a temporary road closure while the work is undertaken.

Fly Tipping: Clearance is being organised by Mrs Young at the Pub.

Cold Calling Zone: Can be set up for a minimal cost – next agenda.

Allotments: Next agenda.

Cemetery: As nothing further has been heard from John Cobbs in Barrington regarding the cemetery fence, Clerk will write to ascertain what, if anything, is happening.

Mud on the Road: A verbal complaint of mud on the High Street was received following a four-wheel drive event in the centre of the village. Highways will clean the road and, if vehicle numbers can be obtained, will pursue the drivers to recover this cost.

Correspondence:

Review of Polling Districts: The District Council is looking to reduce the number of polling stations in order to save money on elections.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan: There has been another change of timetable.

CALC: Several trainings have been offered, none of which has been accepted by Councillors.

BVC Sports Hall: Notification received that the all-weather pitch will be open in September and the sports hall is on schedule for January.

CCC Scrutiny Committee: County Council is looking for persons interested in joining the Scrutiny Committee. Leaflets for this are available from the pub and a link will be put on the website.

Post Office: Letter received from Andrew Lansley exhorting us to use our Post Office, or lose it. As Croydon's Post Office closed years ago it was decided that it was a general plea to use any Post Office.

Local Development Framework: Council has been asked if they would like to receive information via e-mails or paper copies. It was decided that e-mails are more environmentally friendly and Clerk has asked for future correspondence to be sent in this form.

Housing: Andrew Lansley has sent a copy of the reply he received to his letter regarding affordable housing around Cambridge. Mr Wheeler will post it on the website.

Precept: The second instalment of the precept has been received. Council has been asked if it will accept further payments by BACS. All in favour. Clerk to action.

Cllr Ann Elsby: Highways funding is very unlikely to cover our work as we are near the bottom of the list. There are not enough points. (Not enough deaths). Public transport – buses are only available to Cambridge or Biggleswade and the timings are not always appropriate. Tenant Participation – a group is going ahead. This group will represent the Council Tenants in the forthcoming discussions over whether SCDC remains the landlord or sells to a Housing Association. At the moment, the Government takes 50% of the rent raised from council housing and 75% of the sale price. There is not enough money available to improve the housing stock. It seems likely that the houses will be sold. Cllr Elsby said she will be away for about 6 weeks in October-November and January, but may be contacted by e-mail.

Cllr Kindersley had sent a report which had been circulated to Councillors. Public were passed copies for their perusal.

Finance:

Grahame Farrer: A donation of £50 in memory of the late Grahame Farrer was sent to Leukaemia Research.

Bank Statement: Balance stands as £1032 – 61.

Wasps' Nest: A wasps' nest adjacent to the footpath between Farrer's Garden and the Old Post Office was reported in August and, after consultation with the Chairman, the Clerk utilised STEP Pest Control from Whaddon to deal with it. An invoice for £40-00 for the work was received. It was proposed by Mr Friend and seconded by Mr Sole that a cheque for this amount should be raised. All in favour.

Moore Stephens: The accounts have been audited and the audit closed. An invoice for £58-75 was received from the auditors, Moore Stephens. It was proposed by Mr Friend and seconded by Mr Sole that a cheque for this amount should be raised. All in favour.

Planning:

Hawthorn Cottage: Extension passed with conditions.

Items for next agenda:

None put forward.

Mr Martin gave apologies as he may be unable to attend the October meeting

Date of next meeting - Wednesday 17 October in the Reading Room at 8.00pm.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.22pm.

Signed

Date