

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL
Copythorne Parish Hall – 12 January 2010
(7.00 p.m. – 9.30 p.m.)

PRESENT: Cllr Lady Kara Hawks (Chairman); Cllr G James, Cllr I Milsom, Cllr M Moriarty, Cllr J Samways and Cllr G Stenson

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Mansell

124. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Stephens of Spring Cottage, Winsor Road, referred to the recent traffic accident at the junction of Winsor Road and Pollards Moor Road resulting in damage to Mr Stephens' property. This was one of a number of similar incidents in icy conditions over the last few years. The Clerk confirmed that he was pursuing matters with the HCC Surveyor.

Mr Mancey, of Paultons Park Ower, thanked the Council for their support concerning the planning application for the Cobra ride. He also advised that, after considering the options, a decision had been made to submit a further application for retention of The Edge ride. While this ride could be re-located elsewhere in the Park, the owners felt that the current site was the best available.

125. PLANNING MATTERS

Current application: Members agreed to comment as shown on the following application:

09/94796 Forest Verge, Southampton Road, Cadnam (Rear conservatory). Support (3)

Decisions etc: Members noted recent planning decisions and applications referred to Committee, as shown in the schedule tabled at the meeting (appendix 1).

126. MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SPLITWIND POND

Consideration was given to a draft Management Plan for Splitwind Pond prepared by Cllr James. Members agreed to adopt the Plan and thanked Cllr James for his work.

It was agreed that the Clerk would now pursue a claim to the Land Registry for formal ownership of the pond. Once ownership was established, the Council could proceed with a grant application to Viridor for assistance with maintenance costs. In the meantime, Cllr James would invite Alex Catt to provide a quotation for maintenance work, initially on a 1-year contract.

127. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, 2010/11

Members agreed the draft timetable of meetings for 2010/11, as circulated with the agenda.

128. FINANCE MATTERS

Appointment of External Auditor: A letter from the Audit Commission proposed the appointment of Wayne Rickard as the Council's external auditor for the period 2009/10 to 2013/14 in accordance with the policy of rotating auditors after five years. Agreed, no objection.

Application for grant: Members considered a grant application from the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group. Agreed, that the Council is unable to assist in this financial year.

Stanleys Own Magazine: A letter from the Magazine Managers thanked the Council for their past support and invited payment of the 2010 contributors fee. Notwithstanding cost rises, the proposed fee was £100, the same as for last three years. Agreed, fee to be paid.

Current balances: Deposit A/c £8126.28

Current A/c £538.06

Payments: Expenditure was authorised as shown in appendix 2 (cheques 728 to 730).

129. SPRING COTTAGE, WINSOR ROAD – HIGHWAY HAZARDS

Further to the public participation session (minute 124), members noted a letter from Mr Stephens of Winsor Road, Winsor calling for solutions to deal with the highway dangers outside his property during icy conditions. A separate e-mail from a local resident also suggested a possible change of road surface.

The Clerk had written to the highway authority about the situation and was awaiting a response. Members also suggested that HCC Community Transport be asked whether the priority rating for the bus route could be upgraded to ensure that the road was gritted in icy weather.

130. IT WORKSHOPS FOR OLDER PEOPLE

An e-mail from Age Concern, New Forest East, referred to a combined project with HCC for holding regular IT sessions at remote locations to offer older people access to computers. The sessions would have a tutor for teaching the basics of using a pc, using the Internet and sending e-mails etc. Age Concern had enquired about the possible use of Copythorne Parish Hall and the Clerk had referred them to the Hall Committee for assistance.

131. RED TELEPHONE KIOSKS

The Council had previously made enquiries of BT about any conditions applying to red telephone kiosks earmarked for removal which were adopted by parish councils. An e-mail from BT confirmed that, subject to planning approval, an adopting body was free to use a kiosk for any purpose, apart from selling, leasing or renting to another telecommunications supplier. Kiosks could also be relocated (again, subject to planning) but this was not recommended in view of their weight.

Cllr Stenson also presented a letter from a Newbridge resident asking if the Council intended to adopt the Newbridge kiosk under the BT adoption scheme. He referred to a parish council elsewhere in the country that had adopted a kiosk and was using it as a village 'library'. However, members reaffirmed their previous decision not to adopt any of the kiosks earmarked for closure in Copythorne.

132. STANDING ORDERS

Standing Order 4(ii) was invoked to allow the meeting to deal with the business in hand.

133. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Members had previously received copies of correspondence on the subject of the possible withdrawal of Hampshire Association of Local Councils from the NALC. The Clerk tabled further papers on the topic, including notes relating to National Council discussions on 15 December 2009 and additional information from HALC.

134. PARISH WEB SITE

Discussion took place on the new web site designed by TLC Online which was now accessible through a .org address. Members approved the design in principle and agreed to proceed with the contract with TLC. The new site included a new Council logo, incorporating a horse's head. It was agreed to retain this for the time being pending a response from Bartley Junior School on the logo project.

It was also agreed to hold a further meeting of the Web Group on Wednesday 20 January 2010 at 7 pm at Hazeldene, Newbridge.

135. PLANNING DISPLAY EQUIPMENT

The Clerk presented options for a motorised projection screen for installation in the rear extension of the Parish Hall. It was agreed to purchase, from Equip4Work, a 160 x 160cm square electric screen (£268 plus VAT) and a key switch (£77 plus VAT).

CHAIRMAN _____ **DATE** _____