

MINUTE 191 (Annual Parish)

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday 9th MAY 2016 at the Methodist Chapel, Bell Street – commencing 7.00 pm. Accounts on show.

COUNCILLOR'S PRESENT: - Mrs Batten (Chairwoman), Mr Lambert (Vice Chair), Mr Cock, Mr Cooper, Mr Leamon, Mr Rayner, Mrs Bane, Mrs McGeeney and Mrs Williams. Also present were 17 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Received from Mrs Mills.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Mr Cock declared an interest in Amendments to the Local Plan.

MATTERS ARISING

1. **Amendments to the Local Plan** – Mrs Batten began by stressing the Parish Council are strongly opposed to the increase in residential dwellings on land north east of Oak Street from 15 to 50 and urged members of the public attending the meeting to express their concerns and objections in writing to the Inspectorate before the consultation period ends on 18th May 2016. The Chair said this could be done online and if residents did not have this facility then they could use the computers at St Mary's Church or write a letter. A resident stated that the initial recommendation for Feltwell was for 54 dwellings based on the population. The population has not vastly increased so she asked why the recommendation has been increased to 100 dwellings (there are also 40 dwellings recommended for land behind Munsons Lane and land had been earmarked behind Skye Gardens for an additional 10). She strongly disagreed with this amount of dwellings and stated that the school could not accommodate all the Feltwell admissions last year and that the doctor's surgery is stretched also. She said that unless the doctors close their register, they are obliged to accept anyone within the catchment area which includes Methwold, Hockwold, Northwold and Mundford. Another resident asked where the access would be to the dwellings and this was confirmed as Lodge Road beside the bus shelter and the general opinion was that this would be totally unsafe. The resident then asked if safe access will be determined prior to the plan being adopted. The question of what would happen to the bus shelter was posed as this belongs to the Parish Council; would it be moved and if so where to? A vote was taken and all councillors objected to the bus shelter being moved (8 against, 1 abstained). The Chair pointed out that the Parish Council does not have much say in the matter as the plan has already been approved but that they would be making a representation to the Inspectorate with their objections. A resident requested that a public meeting be held with the planning officer and local MPs before the consultation period ends and it was agreed that this should take place. Clerk to contact the planning officer and all relevant parties, and display notices around the village. Mrs Bane will advertise on social media. Clerk to inform the primary school and the doctor's surgery. The members of the public were extremely disappointed at the lack of presence by Borough Councillors at this meeting as none of their questions could receive a response.

CHARITY ACCOUNTS – Clerk gave report of Rawlins Charity – in 2015, 41 donations of £5 were made plus £10 to the church – total of £215. Balances @ 31.3.16 were £691.25 COIF Deposit and £22.63 Barclays, a total of £713.68. Mr Lambert proposed the accounts are accepted, seconded Mr Cooper, all agreed.

P.T.O.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Members of the public were invited to speak.

1. Mrs Peckham advised that the litter problem at the playing field was not solely caused by people as she had also seen some rooks emptying the bins.
2. Mr Linkin from the Royal British Legion advised that in celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday, they would be holding a small party at the British Legion on 12th June 2016 with an open invitation to the public. The event is free but donations would be gratefully received. Mrs Parker, the Churchwarden, said the church is holding a street party on the 11th June 2016 and suggested that the two parties discuss this further.
3. Mr Linkin also advised that in remembrance of the start of the Great War, the Battle of Somme, three short blasts will be blown at the war memorial at 7.30 am on 1st July 2016.
4. A resident asked who was responsible for maintaining the skate park once it is complete. Mrs Batten confirmed that the Parish Council are not going to be responsible for it unless absolutely necessary and that the upkeep would be financed by fundraising.
5. A complaint was raised regarding the condition of the village grass verges. The Clerk read out an email from Chris Durham from the Borough Council stating that two options could be offered which the Clerk has subsequently enquired about; firstly to cut the whole area at a rate of 6 cuts and obtain the charge to Special Expenses for the area to be flailed; secondly obtain the one-off payment this year for 12 cuts and going forward, the cost to add this to next year's special expenses. However, the point was made that the Parish Council should have been advised of this so that they could have incorporated any extra charges into their budget.

Meeting declared closed at 7.50 pm.
