

Meeting of Cople Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday January 26 2009

Present: Mr Peter Moore (Chairman)

Ms Linda Davis

Mr Tony Fisher Mr Steve Smith Mr Mike Vacher Mr David Whitehead

Also present: Borough Councillors Mrs Carole Ellis & Mr Robert Harrison

Apologies: Mr David Hughes

The quorum of Cople Parish Council is three. Councillors are in Office to May 03 2011.  
The Electoral Register in 2009 shows 323 properties & 606 Electors in the parish.

49. Council's Meeting of December 08 2008

A copy of the Minutes of the Meeting of 08.12.08 being available to each Councillor were approved today and signed by the Chairman. There was one amendment to the Minutes, the Minute shown as No 39 should read No 48.

50. New Bus Shelter on the A603 in Bedford Road

The new Bus Shelter for the site in Bedford Road, Cople just west of the the junction with Willington Road was delivered and installed on Thursday January 22 2009 to the specifications and siting required. The suppliers offered a mortared hard standing finish at £1600 + VAT which the Council declined.

Council agreed today to a quotation of £595 from a local contractor for the supply and installation of a paved finish in and around the Bus Shelter.

Stagecoach Bus Services Ltd has been requested to supply a bus stop sign and time table.

51. Notice Board - Willington Road

A replacement Notice Board was delivered and installed to the existing site in Willington Road opposite All Saints Road in the week commencing January 12 2009. The existing Board was dismantled and the site was ground tested before assembly of the new Board. The replacement is a lockable Board with a key being held by the Clerk. Today the Council agreed the Clerk be responsible for posting notices on this Board, that Parish Council Notices have priority space, local organisations have precedence over others by rotation when space permits.

52. Planning & Development

There were no new planning applications for the Council to examine.

Notifications.

3 Bedford Road. Reserved matters relating to landscaping & access approved by the Borough Council.

Bedford Development Framework - gypsy & traveller proposed sites in Cople.

Within the BDF are three proposed gypsy and traveller sites (a) In Bedford Road, Cople between Dog Farm and the Hanson Pre-mix site (b) In Bedford Road, Cople west of Dog House, once a filling station & garage now demolished (c) in Bedford Road, Cople & Balls Lane, Willington, the area in Cople being about one tenth of the total. The Borough Councillor Robert Harrison said we will not get anywhere by saying we don't want a site in Cople - the Councillor also referred to issues being quoted by Borough Council Officers such as human rights and race relations. Mr Harrison went on to recommend the Parish Council approach the matter in a constructive way. The Councillor also referred to a report from the Mayor, that he will make it available for copying to Parish Councillors.

Borough Councillor Mrs Ellis referred to brown field sites within the Borough that about 20% could be considered appropriate for this type of development. Mrs Ellis went to recommend that a joint effort with Willington Parish Council may be useful and constructive.

The Chairman Peter Moore said we should attack the ones that affect us, to start looking at it as though they are coming to Cople. The Chairman went on that Savills will help us free of charge.

Councillors took up the recommendation of Mrs Ellis to make an arrangement to meet informally with Members of Willington Parish Council, the meeting to be in February and at Cople.

53. Correspondence

Invitation to a County Council Reception 10.03.09 - a farewell from the Chairman of the County Council. The invitation was left on the table.

Rural Housing Trust. This is the organisation the Parish Council has liaised with over the past few months on a Housing Needs Survey. Today the Council received a letter from the Rural Housing Trust to say it is closing down its operations and would no longer be able to assist the Parish Council. The Council resolved that for the time being the matter be left in abeyance. A copy of the letter to go to the owner of the land in Bedford Road who instigated the Council's proceedings in the issue.

Bedfordshire Police - an invitation to a Joint Action Group meeting on 04.02.09 at Ravensden.

54. The Council's Finances

Council agreed to pay

£ 115:46 E On UK Ltd. Footway lighting energy for December 2008  
821:51 Greenbarnes Ltd. Supply of one replacement Notice Board for Willington Road  
16:00 Cople Village Trust. Room charges 26.01.09  
165:00 Lawn Lord. Lay-by on the A603, cutting the grass & picking up litter, around the two Parish Council litter bins, the whole of 2008 - eleven cuts  
106:09 Andy Muskett Ltd. Footway lighting maintenance QE 31.12.08  
250:00 Cople Village Trust. Half year Grant to 31.2.08 towards maintenance of the Playing Field.  
1560:00 John Squire. Clerk of the Council. Pay of the Clerk QE 31.12.08  
34:50 John Squire. .. Printing & Copying QE 31.12.08 323 44 203  
2787:98 Garrick Outdoor Ltd. Supply & installation of one new Bus Shelter in Bedford Road, Cople

Balances in hand after payment £ 13455

Insured values. The Council agreed to insure the new Bus Shelter at £3k. The replacement Notice Board in Willington Road at £1k and the recently completed Vehicle Activated Sign in Willington Road at £5k.

Contracts for 2009-10.

Highway verges within the 30mph precincts of the village

Quotations, £153 + VAT AR Worboys Ltd, £116 + VAT Green's Grasscutting, £195 + VAT Warners of Bedford. Council agreed to take on Green's Grasscutting, up to four cuts during the season, any more than four by agreement. Cutting to take place at our request and to be carried out not later than seven working days of the request being made, and within two consecutive working days.

Council agreed to accept an offer of Councillors David Whitehead and Mike Vacher to cut respectively the grass on the visibility plays at Woodlands Close/Northill Road and All Saints Road/ Willington Road. The number of cuts at their discretion. The Councillors agreed there would be no charges for their work.

Footway Lighting Maintenance

Council accepted the quotation of Andy Muskett Ltd to maintain the thirty three Parish Council lighting columns in the year commencing April 01 2009 at £386:60 + VAT.

All Saints Churchyard - the Closed Churchyard and the Open section

Council accepted the quotations of Lawn Lord unchanged from last year, and now three years at the same price. Grasscutting £79 per cut up to 12 cuts in the season, hedgecutting once per season £116.

Council has a legal responsibility to maintain the closed churchyard - Council resolved to continue its practice of maintaining the Open section with grass and hedgecutting.

Other maintenance work.

Council accepted the quotation of Lawn Lord to cut the hedges in Willington Road once per annum at £90. and to continue with the contract to cut the grass at the vehicle lay-by on the A603, at £15 per cut and up to twelve cuts in a full year. Cutting at the contractor's discretion but generally once a month.

Quarterly statement of the Council's finances.

Councillors each received a copy.

National Savings & Investments Investment AC Bank Book

Recently sent to NS&I for the addition of Interest for 2008, the Bank Book was sent by NS&I to an address in Wales. We learned of their error by a letter from that address and enclosing our Bank Book.

55. Highways - Street Lighting - Rights of Way

Highway Maintenance Partnership Scheme 2009-10.

Council agreed that if there is a HMPS arrangement for 2009-10 that footway repairs in Grange Lane and Willington Road will be first on the list.

Council noted recent works in Willington Road to repair a leaking water main and the effect it had on the highway. The Vehicle Activated Sign in Willington Road is now correctly installed and functioning. Council noted prospective road closures on the A603.

Street Lighting. All the Parish Council lighting units are functioning correctly. Tony Fisher requested for the next meeting an assessment of the Council's carbon output and whether it can be reduced.

Rights of Way. Council noted replacement direction posts on some of the Rights of Way towards Moxhill. Council agreed to ask the Occupiers of Nos 13-21 Rye Crescent to cut the hedge at the rear of their gardens where it affects the right of way to Dog Field.

Council agreed to enquire about fly tipped rubbish in a field entrance in Cardington.

Council requested the Occupier of 6-8 Willington Road to cut back the hedging that stands outside the dwelling partially blocking the footway. Linda Davis said she is personally acquainted with the Occupiers who the Councillor said are not in a position at the moment to be asked - Council for the time being accepted this.

56. Precept & Council Tax for the year commencing April 01 2009

Councillors had a copy of the proposed budget and precept for the year commencing April 01 2009 prepared by the Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer. It shows a total proposed expenditure of £16350, that's £2300 more than the current year, footway lighting 2100, Administration 8000, Churchyard 1500, Grants 1000, Capital items 2000, Highways 1000 and a Contingency of 750.

The Parish Council's financial policy is based on an enhanced balance in hand at the end of each financial year and Council confirmed this today. At March 31 2010 this should be £13675. The recommended Precept for Cople in 2009-10 is £17430, 3380 more than 2008-9. Councillors unanimously agreed to accept the proposed budget and set the Precept at £17430.

57. Meetings Councillors have attended representing Council

Mike Vacher is the Council's appointment to the Village Trust, a Skate Park for young people is currently under investigation, the Trust is looking at ways of raising £20k.

Steve Smith attended a State of the Borough Debate at the Town Hall, an interesting meeting, it included a reference by the Mayor of a site he has in mind for Gypsy & Travellers.

58. Any Other Business

Mike Vacher asked the Council to look at the provision of allotment land in the village. Linda Davis said she is personally acquainted with an employee of the Southill Estate and will enquire if land is available.

Tony Fisher referred to the Occupiers of Home Farm, 42 Willington Road, burning household and building waste