

Meeting of Cople Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday March 09 2009
Present: Mr Peter Moore (Chairman)

Ms Linda Davis

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

Whitehead

Also present: Borough Councillor Mr Robert Harrison

Apologies: Borough Councillor Mrs Carole Ellis

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.

59. Council's Meeting of January 26 2009

A copy of the Minutes of the Meeting of 26.01.09 being available to each Councillor were approved today and signed by the Chairman. There was one amendment to the Minutes, the Minute No 52, third para and where the sentence commences with (b) and reads east of Dog House should read west of Dog House.

60. The Council's Finances

Council approved these items for payment

£	43:36	Allianz Insurance.	Additional premium to cover the newly insured items, Bus Shelter, Notice Board and Vehicle Activated Sign in Willington Road.
	48:00	Cople Village Trust.	Room charges 16.02-09.03 & 16.03.09
	115:46	E ON UK plc.	Footway lighting energy January 09
	115:46 February 09
	106:09	Andy Muskett Ltd.	Footway Lighting maintenance QE 31.03.09
	176:25	AR Worboys Ltd.	Grasscutting of highway verges 2008 season 4th & last cut
	57:00	FR Locke & Son.	Bus Shelter in Bedford Road - pre-installation site Ground Test
	595:00	..	Supply & install paved hard standing in & around Bus Shelter
	187:00	FR Locke & Son.	Notice Board in Willington Road. Dismantle existing, ground test, assemble & install
	1560:00	John Squire.	Clerk of the Council Pay of the Clerk QE 31.03.09
	21:06	..	Copying & printing QE 31.03.09 223 45 83 351 @ 6p
	64:16	..	Postages Tel E-Mail One year 01.04.08-31.03.09

Balances in hand after payment £10746:66 Current AC £145:66 FS AC £1:00 Investment AC
£10600

Highway verge cutting 2009 Season.

Council resolved the appointed Contractor be asked to promptly respond to our request to confirm a contract is now in place.

61. Carbon Emissions

Councillor Tony Fisher spoke to the issue of whether the Council should be looking at ways and means of reducing carbon emissions that come within the focus of the work of the Parish Council. An appropriate course would be to assess the thirty three footway lighting installations the Parish Council owns and maintains. Tony suggested that either some or all of the units could be turned off say at midnight, or all of the units could be re-set with a lower energy output. Of the 33 twenty nine have an 80watt output, three have a 70watt output and one has 35watt. Council agreed to enquire of the Lighting Contractor the cost per unit of making the wattage reduction and to place the issue before the residents of Cople at the Annual Parish Meeting on April 20 2009.

62. Correspondence to the Council

Rural Bulk Waste Collection. Council noted the next Collection is on Sunday June 14 2009 beginning 8.30am.

Council noted without comment Borough Council Pride in Bedford nominations, Cople Lower School Litter Tidy on 26.03.09 - Mobile Library alteration to services - small circus business that visits rural parishes.

A letter from the Mayor of Bedford offered a meeting with the Council, it was agreed to extend an invitation to a meeting with the Parish Council at Cople on any meeting date that is convenient.

Council responded to a notification from the County Council of proposals to introduce an HGV Weight Restriction Order in various parts of North East Bedfordshire (but not including Cople.) The Council responded that it has no objection to the proposal but its effect should be assessed in neighbouring rural areas.

Councillors noted an anonymous letter addressed to the Council about land in Cople. Council resolved it will not respond or take action on issues placed before it based on hearsay and without identifiable evidence.

Rural Housing Trust. An E Mail letter from the departing Co-ordinator of the now defunct Trust suggested the Parish Council should get in touch with a named Housing Association to further their work. Council resolved to make no formal response and await any further communication.

The Borough Councillor Mrs Carole Ellis made a report to Council principally on the issues of Unitary changes.

A copy of an E Mail letter from a resident of Cople describing an incident that took place at a disused pond sited near to the rear of dwellings in Northill Road, where the owner of a dog got in to difficulties attempting to rescue the animal that had fallen in. Council resolved to place the matter as an issue of safety before the owner of the land where the pond is situated. The persons involved and the animal were ok and came to no harm.

63. Website Entry - cople.org

The Administrator of the Cople Website www.cople.org.uk Mr Ian Whiting enquired if the Parish Council would be interested in creating a page for the website that would include information from and about the Council. Councillors resolved to accept the proposal and make available immediately Minutes of 26.01.09 that were signed today. And to make available indefinitely Minutes, Agendas and Notices and items that may be of interest. Council agreed to enquire of the costs and if there are any liabilities that need to be covered.

64. Planning & Development

Planning applications.

Home Farm 42 Willington Road - new driveway & new dropped kerb. The Council opposed this proposal on the basis the applicant does not show the approval of the Highway Authority. The new vehicular access Council says is in the wrong place putting emerging vehicles more or less opposite the junction with Rye Crescent. The Council also said it regrets to see the loss of a number of trees the proposals will require. The Borough Councillor Mr Harrison advised Council the item goes to the Planning Committee.

Between Nos 103 & 107 Willington Road, an outline application to develop one new dwelling on open land. The Parish Council had no objection. The land is within the Settlement Policy Area.

Bedford Development Framework. The three areas within the parish included in the emerging Development Framework as Gypsy/Traveller sites. This is an issue that may require declarations of Interest by Members of the Council and Councillors were advised today the Monitoring Officer will consider applications from all seven for Dispensation from the Register of Interests.

Steve Smith said that Cardington Parish Council also has concerns about these issues and is requesting to send a representative to our meetings. The Councillor also drew attention to a proposal of the Mayor to create a Traveller site in Cardington - if the site at Canvins is proposed Steve Smith said, would we Cople Parish Council oppose it. Would we he went on, be willing to receive their support but not give ours in return. Councillors said they had not communicated with the Council at Cardington and resolved to set aside the request for the time being.

Borough Councillor Robert Harrison recommended the situation requires a lot of consideration.

The Chairman Peter Moore referred to the ongoing meetings with Willington Parish Council and recommended we decide on our course of action after those discussions are completed.

65. Highways - Street Lighting - Rights of Way

Highway Maintenance Partnership Scheme 2009-10.

The Council has not received any communication from the Highway Authority about the HMPS for 2009-10. Council resolved to continue to request a roundabout at the junction of Willington Road/Northill Road/Grange Lane whenever the opportunity arises.

Vegetation overhangs the footway on the south side of Bedford Road east of the junction with Willington Road and the owners of the property are requested to cut and trim.

Street Lighting. All the Parish Council lighting units are functioning correctly.

Rights of Way. The Right of Way between Rye Crescent and Willington Road has still not been cleared and the Council resolved to ask again for the work to be done.

66. Meetings Councillors have attended representing Council

Peter Moore Chairman of the Council, referred to our meetings with Willington Parish Council on the subject of the Bedford Development Framework and proposals for three traveller sites, two in Cople and one jointly in Willington & Cople. The meetings are useful the Chairman said.

Steve Smith reported he attended the Annual Parish Meeting at Cardington.

67. Any Other Business

David Hughes mentioned the use of community speed officers. The Councillor also referred to a East-West Rail

Link, that it has been in the news again.

Mike Vacher mentioned he had received nine indications of interest in the provision of allotment land in the village. Councillors agreed to give publicity about the Annual Parish Meeting on April 20 2009 to the residents of Cople, to make a flyer distribution to all households.