

Meeting of Cople Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday May 11 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 Mrs Carole Ellis and One local resident

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.

01. Council's Meeting of March 09 2009

A copy of the Minutes of the Meeting of 09.03.09 being available to each Councillor were approved today and signed by the Chairman. There was one amendment to the Minutes, the Minute No 61, Tony Fisher said he did not suggest lighting units could be turned off or reset, that these were some of the options.

02. Election of a Chairman of the Council - & Vice Chairman

Councillors unanimously elected Peter Moore to be the Chairman of the Council for the year to May 2010, and were pleased to elect Steve Smith for a further term as Vice Chairman.

03. The Council's Finances

Council approved these items for payment

£ 115:46	E ON UK plc.	Footway lighting energy March 09	
115:46	April 09
158:00	Lawn Lord.	Grasscutting in the closed & open churchyard.	1st & 2nd cut of the season
133:40	DJ & JM Green.	Grasscutting of highway verges	first cut of the season
1083:29	Allianz Insurance.	Renewal of comprehensive policy for one year to 31.05.10	
16:00	Cople Village Trust.	Room charges 20.04.09	

Balances in hand after payment £18904:97 Current AC £304:97 FS AC £8000:00 Investment AC £10600

Tree Cutting in the Open Churchyard

Councillor David Hughes declared an Interest in this item and left the meeting and took no part in debate. The Councillor requests the pruning of Holly trees in the Open Churchyard that are part of the boundary with his property and dwelling in Grange Lane. The Clerk had made a site inspection and obtained a quotation for the work from the Parish Council contractor Charles Malcolm of Lawn Lord to reduce the height to about 12 feet. Councillors today recommended the work should be to reduce the height of the trees where in future they can be dealt with from ground level, and to go back to the contractor for a revised quote.

Audit for the year ending 31.03.09

Council received notice from the external auditors Stoy Hayward of the commencement of the audit of the Council's transactions for the year ending 31,03.09 on June 01 2009. Council today approved the completion of the Annual Return which is based on our accounts for the year, and that the accounts shown in the document are a true reflection of the Council's proceedings.

Asset Register

Councillors received each a copy of the Asset Register as at May 2009. It shows Assets valued at £ 58753, an increase of 5982 in the last twelve months.

Notice Board in Willington Road

The Notice Board sited opposite All Saints Road, new in January this year was vandalised over the Easter weekend and damage to the door and frame. The crime was reported to Bedfordshire Police. Council today agreed the damaged items could be replaced and to obtain a quotation from the manufacturer.

Litter Bins - A603 Lay by

One of the two Parish Council litter bins sited on the A603 lay by in Bedford Road was recently damaged beyond

repair by a vehicle mounting the kerb. Council today agreed the bin can be replaced.

04. Planning & Development

Between the last meeting and today Council examined these planning applications - Cople Cottage, Northhill Road. New garage. Council made no comment or objection. Council noted the first application for similar development refused by the Borough Council has gone to Appeal. 34B Northhill Road. Closing off roof lights - installation of dormer windows to rear west facing elevation. Council had no comment or objection. Dog Farm Bungalow and site. The planning application was for the removal of the conditions attached to the recent approval for office development of the site. The Parish Council was of the opinion the conditions required by the Borough Council in giving consent to this development are reasonable and do not require alteration.

Today Council examined one new planning application.

An application by Bedford Borough Council to develop its own land in Meadow Lane within the town accessed from the A603 for a traveller and gypsy site, nine temporary pitches ultimately to become permanent. Councillors were unanimous in their opinion, that the application shows nothing unexpected and that there is no good reason to object under the guidelines the Council has been given. It was the unanimous resolution of the Council today to make no comment on the application and to remain silent on the matter.

Notifications.

These recent planning applications have been resolved by the Planning Authority.

Home Farm 42 Willington Road, new driveway and kerbing. Approved.

Open land between 103-107 Willington Road, outline for one new dwelling. Approved.

Dog Farm Bungalow and site. Development without compliance to conditions of recent approval, as described above. The application was refused and all conditions remain in place.

3 Bedford Road.

The owner of 3 Bedford Road enquired if the Council would be interested in taking on some of the land as a community site. The owner has presented an application to the Bedford Borough Council within the emerging Bedford Development Framework for housing development for some or all of the site but offered the Parish Council an alternative use and recommended an alteration to the Settlement Policy Area that would enable this. Council agreed it would not be able to accept the offer and did not support changes to the SPA.

Letters of Dispensation

The Parish Council recently made an application to the Standards Committee of Bedford Borough Council for all Members of the Council to be given dispensation from the Register of Interests when debating and resolving issues relating to the development of land in the parish for traveller/gypsy sites.

The Standards Committee approved all of the requests and each Councillor has received a letter of dispensation.

05. Correspondence to the Council

Council noted these items of correspondence.

The Mayor of Bedford Mr Frank Branston has accepted our invitation to a meeting with the Council on 27.07.09.

Rural Bulk Waste Collection. In Cople on Sunday June 14 2009.

Alistair Burt MP. Meeting with the MP on 16.05.09. Peter Moore and David Hughes agreed to attend.

A local resident sent a note of thanks and approval for the new Bus Shelter on Bedford Road.

Hastoe Housing Association based in Oxford suggested the Parish Council might be interested in the Association taking over from the Rural Housing Trust in furtherance of the issue of Affordable Housing in Cople. Council resolved to invite the Housing Association to a future meeting.

Ministry of Justice. Council noted an E Mail communication from the Ministry of Justice about the care and maintenance of burial ground memorials, stones and kerbs. The communication was made available to the Churchwarden of All Saints Church, Cople.

Bedford Borough Council enquired if there is a central location where their in house newspaper can be deposited for collection by residents. The Parish Council suggested the best way to ensure delivery is as an insert to

free newspapers.

06. Highways - Street Lighting - Rights of Way

Street Lighting. Looking again at the issue of carbon emissions and the footway lighting owned by the Parish Council the Council today resolved that to make a contribution it would reduce the output of its units as and when each one required attention either for repair or replacement. The cost per unit for the alteration is quoted by the lighting contractor currently at £175:00 + VAT.

Highways. Speed Indicator Devices. Council agreed to be willing to be part of a scheme where Councillors use SIDs to monitor passing vehicles and report them to the Police if the driver is exceeding the speed limit. Council agreed to enquire of the cost and training required.

There were no issues under Rights of Way.

07. Meetings Councillors have attended representing Council

The Chairman Peter Moore spoke to meetings he attended with Willington Parish Council on the question of proposed sites for travellers in both Willington and Cople. Useful meetings the Chairman said where the exchange of views was interesting. It enhanced the Chairman's view we should wait and see what transpires before presenting our arguments or objections.

David Hughes attended a meeting with the MP Alistair Burt at Oakley where they met a senior Conservative MP about issues relating to traveller sites. Interesting but not effective right now the Councillor reported.

08. Dates of Meetings 2009-10

Council agreed its dates of meetings for 2009-10. July 27 - September 21 - October 26 - December 07 2009, January 25, March 08, April 19 (Annual Parish Meeting,) May 10 and July 26 2010.

09. Any Other Business

Council agreed to make a case for a footway between Cople and Cardington - an Agenda item for the next meeting.

Councillor Mike Vacher reported he now had twelve local people interested in Allotments and it was agreed this should be an item for the next meeting.

10. Clerk of the Council

The Clerk gave notice to Council of retirement on September 30 2009. It was agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting on June 08 2009 and Council requested the Clerk prepare a Job Description as a commencement to recruitment proceedings.

Extraordinary Meeting of Cople Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday June 08 2009.
Present: Mr Peter Moore (Chairman) Ms Linda Davis, Mr Tony Fisher, Mr Steve Smith,
Mr Mike Vacher, Mr David Whitehead.

Also present: Two local residents

Apologies: Mr David Hughes.

11. Land in Bedford Road

Council received a letter from the owners of land in Bedford Road, Cople suggesting a meeting with the Guinness Housing Association on the question of affordable housing and a needs survey. It was agreed to continue with an arrangement to invite the Hastoe Housing Association to a future meeting.

12. Footway Cople - Cardington Dog Waste Bin in Water End Poor standard of lighting in Water End

The local residents attending the meeting today requested the Council consider several items - the provision of a footway between Cople & Cardington, the supply and installation of a dog waste bin in Water End, the poor standard of lighting in one part of Water End due to vegetation overhanging from a nearby property. Council agreed to look at all these items.

13. Appointment of a new Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Council agreed to advertise the post. The Chairman proposed that to get the right person for Cople as wider targets as possible would be appropriate and it was resolved to use the Bedfordshire on Sunday, the Cople website and the Church magazine for advertising purposes. Councillors agreed in broad terms the general requirements of applicants, eg., 12 hours per week, working from home, and the Clerk was requested to prepare the copy for an advert and present in draft for approval. Councillors agreed the Job Description is accurate and up to date and resolved the Clerk should manage the process of advertising, applications and recruitment arrangements. The closing date to be July 10 2009 and the successful applicant to be in post by September 01 2009.