

Meeting of Cople Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday September 21 2009

Present: Mr Peter Moore (Chairman)

Ms Linda Davis

Mr David Hughes Mr Steven Smith Mr Mike Vacher Mr David Whitehead

One local resident

Apologies: Mr Tony Fisher 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 and 606 Electors in the parish.

24. Welcome & Introduction of the new Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer - Ms Amanda Baldwin

Chairman and Councillors were pleased to welcome Ms Amanda Baldwin to her introductory meeting with the Council as the new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

25. Council's Meeting of July 27 2009 & Meeting with the Mayor

A copy of the Minutes of the Council's Meeting and the Council's Meeting with the Mayor both on 27.07.09 being available to each Councillor were approved today and signed by the Chairman.

The Council noted with regret the Mayor of Bedford Frank Branston died on August 14 2009.

26. Bus Services in Cople

The issue of the lack of a bus service in Willington Road Monday-Saturday raised with the Mayor on 27.07.09 had not received a reply from the Mayor's office. Councillors today resolved to ask the Bus Operator Stagecoach for a brief meeting at the Stagecoach local HQ.

27. Allotment provision within the parish

Reporting to Council on the initiative he put forward on 27.07.09 Councillor Mike Vacher advised he had not found any local land owner willing to make land available for the purposes of allotment provision. He would continue with his enquiries the Councillor said.

28. Affordable Housing - land in Bedford Road

No reply had been received from the Guinness Midsummer Housing Association at MK to our invitation to attend a meeting of the Parish Council. The owner of the land in Bedford Road had been informed of this a few days before today's Council meeting.

29. Correspondence to the Council - letters & consultation documents

Rural Bulk Waste Collection Service. Council noted the next visit to Cople is on Sunday October 25 2009.

East of England Regional Planning Assembly. Council noted a meeting in Bedford 29.09.09.

Bedfordshire Police Neighbourhood Watch Quiz Night 22.10.09. Was noted.

Proposed Golf Course in Bedford Road. Council received an E Mail from a non resident wanting to know what is going on at the site of the proposed Golf Course. The enquirer had been advised of the proposals and the planning consents from the local authority. Today, the Parish Council requested we make an enquiry to the Borough Council about the current state of monitoring the site.

Borough Councillor Mrs Carole Ellis sent a report to Council on items of current interest. Mrs Ellis mentioned her concerns over anti social behaviour and policing of the villages in the ward area. The Councillor also mentioned the allocation of grant monies that may become available to her for use in the parishes.

Parish Council web sites. Council noted a letter and report from the Borough Council about Parish Council web sites and training being available.

Councillors Linda Davis, Mike Vacher and David Whitehead agreed to attend a meeting of the Willington Quarry Liaison Group at the site offices of Lafarge on Tuesday October 06 2009 at 2pm.

Councillors noted the content of a report prepared and circulated by Mike Vacher after his attendance at a meeting with Bedfordshire Police at Wilden Village Hall on August 12 2009.

30. Meetings Councillors have attended representing Council

Mike Vacher reported on a Joint Action Group meeting he attended with Bedfordshire Police at Wilden Village Hall on 12.08.09. The Councillor said the Police offered various courses of action to each village, he requested the use of speed detection equipment and more attention to speeding drivers in the village, and recommended a Member of the Council should attend these Police meetings.

Linda Davis and Steve Smith attended a meeting with the MP Alistair Burt and a senior Officer from Bedfordshire Police on the subject of Rural Crime. The Councillors said it was not the most informative of meetings, the emphasis being on the lack of available resources.

31. Planning & Development

Between the last meeting and today Council examined these planning applications.
18 Woodlands Close. Surgery to a number of trees.
Willington Quarry. Variations to restoration scheme.
6-8 Willington Road. Listed Building internal alterations. The Council had no objection to all of these proposals.

Notifications.

33 Grange Lane. Extension to the dwelling. Approved by the Borough Council.
21 Northhill Road. Extension to the dwelling, Porch. Approved.
83 Willington Road. Extension to the dwelling, Conservatory. The application was withdrawn.
8 Bedford Road. Agricultural storage building. The application was withdrawn.
35 Northhill Road. Extension to the dwelling. Approved by the Planning Authority.

32. Highways - Street Lighting - Rights of Way

Footway - Cople to Cardington. Councillors had made a visit to the open spaces between Grange Lane, Cople and Cople Road, Cardington. The Chairman reported he recommends the south side of the highway with lower prospective costs. Council agreed to make a tentative enquiry of the Southill Estate on whose land this would be sited, pointing out the advantages of local people visiting the Southill Estate farm shop at Cardington and being able to do so on foot.

On the question as to whether the pedestrian facility should be a footpath or footway the Council resolved to keep its options open.

HGVs Weight restriction proposal.

A letter from the Borough Council advised the Council the proposals for an HGV weight restriction in some rural areas of North East Bedfordshire (but not including Cople) have been put on hold while the matter is re-assessed.

An E Mail from a resident of Willington Road drew attention to the situation relating to speeding drivers in and the number of HGVs passing through the village. Council agreed to respond with the up to date situation, advising of our involvement with Bedfordshire Police, the action we have taken recently in this matter, and a copy of the letter about HGVs.

Rights of Way. Council noted temporary closure of Right of Way No 6 while re-instatement takes place.

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

33. The Council's Finances

Council approved these payments.

£	158:00	Lawn Lord.	Grasscutting in the Closed & Open Churchyard, sixth and seventh cuts
	115:63 x 3	E ON UK plc.	Footway lighting energy June July & August
	133:40	DJ & JM Green.	Highway verges, third cut of the season
	16:00	Cople Village Trust.	Room charges 21.09.09
	1560:00	John Squire.	Clerk of the Council. Pay of the Clerk QE 30.09.09
	37:94 Postages & Tel Half year 01.04.09-30.09.09
	23:64 Printing & Copying QE 30.09.09 jul 166 aug 88 sep 140

Council noted receipt of the second 50% of the Precept 2009-10 £8865. Balances in hand after payment £22100.

Cople Argus Cricket Club.

Council received a letter from the Cople Argus Cricket Club which in essence requested the Council to consider making a grant to the Club to assist with its programme of encouraging young people to join and also to maintain standards of equipment. The Chairman Peter Moore recommended approaching the Borough Councillor Carole Ellis for access to the fund the Councillor holds for use in her Ward.

The Council agreed in the first instance the Councillor David Hughes communicate with the Cricket Club and establish what level of funding is being sought and for what purpose.

Lloyds TSB Banking.

The Council resolved to amend its instructions to Lloyds Banking Group for the two accounts held by the Parish Council with effect from October 01 2009.

34. Any Other Business

The right of way between Willington Road and the Dog Field is obstructed by vegetation from adjacent gardens and local residents are requested to clear the way.

The Chairman and Councillors expressed the Council's thanks to the retiring Clerk with a presentation.