

Minutes of the meeting of the Lower Heyford Parish Council held on

Thursday 15th November 2012 at 7.00 pm in the Church

Present: - Mr Macnamara (Chair), Mrs. Ball (Vice Chair), Mr Dare, Miss Hawkins, Mr Thompson, Mr Mortimore (left mtg at 20.06)

Members of the public : Mr Clayton, Mr Humberstone, Mr John, Mr Deeley

In attendance: WPC Caroline Brown, PCSO

Apologies: Apologies had been received from Cathy Fleet

Declarations of Interest: Mr Dare declared an interest in the boat yard and Station Road

Minutes of the last meeting held on 20th September 2012 were read and, subject to the deletion of wording in the Drains section of 09.12.01 signed by the Chair it was RESOLVED to accept these as a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chair.

11.12.01 Police Report - WPC Caroline Brown presented a 12 month review of police matters in Lower Heyford. However it was noted that figures for Caulcott are collated separately and were not provided at this meeting. There were:-

7 motor vehicle break-ins at the Station

2 assaults (1 domestic)

5 pushbikes and 1 car stolen from the Station

3 non-injury assaults (2 at the same party)

1 boat break-in and a break-in/theft at the boatyard

12 cases of criminal damage

3 residential (of which 2 to boats) and 7 non residential break-ins/burglaries

7 domestic incidents

1 drugs incident

Ms Hawkins was concerned that she had left messages regarding a drugs problem locally but that no action appeared to have been taken. WPC Brown reminded the meeting that for any non-emergency incident a call to 101 should be made and a crime reference number taken.

Traffic Matters: Mr Dare requested contacts to progress the analysis of SID information. WPC Brown replied that a contact within the Safer Roads Partnership at Milton Keynes should be approached but that at OCC the post had been made redundant. The Police had carried out speed checks on 28/9/12 in Station Road between 18.25 and 20.00 resulting in 10 cautions and six tickets being issued: one of which was issued to a resident of Upper Heyford. There is no resource at present to carry out speed checks at Caulcott. Speed checks cannot be carried out in the hours of darkness.

Mr Thompson advised the meeting that the local beat officers have been instructed that they are no longer allowed to swap shifts to facilitate attending parish council meetings: ACTION Clerk to write to express the Council's concern if this matter has not been addressed within the next month by the Police.

Mr Thompson also advised that the NAG was at risk of being broken up by the representatives who felt that their views were not being adequately acted upon by the Police. The chief constable had been written to by the Chair of the NAG and a reply just received indicated that their concerns were to be addressed.

WPC Brown advised that a recent instruction from her Superintendent directed that the evening/night time rural patrols were being re-directed to assistance in towns and that only emergency calls would be responded to. The Council expressed its dismay at this despite taxes being paid to the Police for such a service. ACTION Clerk to write to the Chief Superintendent if the situation has not been changed in the next month.

The Chair thanked WPC Brown and Mr Thompson for all of their efforts in relation to police matters.

11.12.02 Clerk's Report

* Salt – the 2t ordered in bags had not arrived at the boatyard (but was delivered Fri 16/11/12). Salt bins have been topped up by OCC in both Caulcott and Lower Heyford.

* Weedkilling – in hand next Spring. Concern expressed about weeds now.

* Mirror- no progress

NOTE Mr Mortimore left the meeting at this point, 20.06hrs

* Building at rear of the Bell Inn. Mr Deeley provided a report in which the CDC Planning Officer stated that although the thatch on the building had a limited life the interior showed no signs of damage and as such no further action was being taken against the owner by CDC.

11.12.03 Matters Arising

Highways:

- A response from Councillor Rose of OCC Highways was received and read out. Chair to respond with three letters, one each regarding progressing the footway problems between the Station and Long Bridge, a second to develop the idea of hard traffic calming, and a third regarding the PC proposal for a weight restriction on the B4030.
- Drains. Mr Dare reported that drains now being addressed to his satisfaction Mr John stated the drains at the top end of Station Road are not as yet unblocked. Mr Dare agreed to raise this with the OCC Highway engineer.
- Kissing Gate: Noted that this had been removed but no other progress. Mr Humberstone stated he believed he could trace the owner of the land on which the gate sits and will report any information to the Clerk in due course.
- Speeding: See Police Report
- SID: Has been on the Heyford Road by the bus shelter for three weeks and positive feedback received from residents. Moved to the B4030 at Caulcott to monitor/ assist with the 40mph limit there and will then move to Station Road outside the Bowling Green in two weeks' time.

Cooption of a new Councillor. The Chair confirmed that a new councillor should be advertised for and instructed that the Clerk proceed in this regard.

King George Field: Mr Thompson stated that the Trustees of the field have undertaken to provide a response to the Parish Council in no more than two weeks as a result of their asking Fields in Trust to review the draft lease. It was resolved that if no such response was received the Council would seek legal advice with a view to withdrawing the lease from the Trustees and charity.

11.12.04 Meetings - none reported as being attended

11.12.05 Correspondence - Correspondence lists were circulated and discussed

11.12.06 Lower Heyford Relief in Need charity. A meeting between the Trustees of the charity and members of the PC was held on Mon 11/12/12, attended by Mr Mortimore, Mr Dare and the Chair (Mr Thompson arrived later). Ms Hawkins and Mrs Ball had apparently not been advised in advance of the meeting as they do not use an email address and no phone call had been received. Ms Hawkins stated that although she has an email account she does not wish to use it once at home: nonetheless she agreed that the report of the meeting had satisfactorily addressed the concerns she had raised at the last PC meeting about the responsibilities of the PC

11.12.07 Parish Plan – no update

11.12.08 Affordable Housing – no update. It was agreed this item would henceforth be deleted from agendas as there was little prospect of any further developments in the foreseeable future.

11.12.09 Finance – In the absence of the Clerk – it was resolved to pay the following: Clerk – 2 cheques £456.40, Roger Bowen –cheque for weed control £50

11.12.10 Planning

12/00245/TCA Mr Macnamara – approved

12/01318/F Mr/Mrs Kyte – refused on highways grounds

11.12.12 Any Other Business

11.12.12.01 Canal Path Improvements. Mr Dare sought the Council’s support by means of a letter to the Canal and River Trust (CRT) to an improvements scheme to the towpath between Heyford station and Pigeon Lock on the Oxford Canal, upgrading the path to being capable of being used by cycles and pushchairs. Funding was intended via Landfill Tax Credits and Natural England in conjunction with CRT and CDC/OCC. Approved unanimously. ACTION: Mr Dare/Clerk

11.12.12.02 Rubble in Market Square. Ms Hawkins offered to follow up on the continuing pile of rubble from a collapsed wall in the Market Square as reported by Mr Humberstone: ACTION: Ms Hawkins

Date of next meeting : 17th January 2013, preceded by the annual Precept Meeting starting at 7pm in the Church.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed Mr J J Macnamara Date