



FITTLEWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21st DECEMBER 2009 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion Building.

Present: Dr A Poole (Chairman), Mr M Allin, Mr J Barstow, Mrs S Dipper, Miss J Hawkins and Mr J Mills.

In Attendance: Mr P Henderson (Clerk).

159/9. To Receive and Approve Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received and accepted from Mrs H Barkworth, Mr A Butcher and Mr P Stanforth.

160/9. Declaration of Personal or Prejudicial Interest: There were none.

161/9. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th November 2009, and previously circulated, were accepted as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

162/9. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Re 146/9 - With reference to the query regarding disclaimer notices in Hesworth Common car park; There was no requirement under the terms of the insurance policy to have such notices in place.

So far as damage caused by falling trees to individuals or property is concerned;

If the tree that caused the damage was not healthy, and the PC knew about it and had done nothing about it, then there was potential for a claim under the Public Liability section of the policy by the third party.

If, however, the tree was perfectly healthy and was brought down by the wind then it would be deemed an 'act of God' and the PC would not be liable. If harm was caused to an individual or their property i.e. a car, then they would need to claim from their own insurance.

Re 149/9(3) – Christopher Donne had been informed that the ditch was to be cleared by Howards when the weather permits. He and his colleagues have been thanked for their efforts in clearing the lower area.

Re 149/9 b)1 - Cheque to West Sussex Mobile Trust – A cheque was to be signed under item 5 of the meeting.

Re 149/9b)6 – The Clerk has written to Fittleworth Sports Clubs Association to take up their offer of a monthly report.

Re 150/9 e) – The number of hits on the website as of 17/11/09 was 1091.

Re 150/9i) – Sebastian Anstruther had been invited to attend the meeting on January 18th 2010. The Clerk had not received a reply.

Re 153/9 – A thank you letter had been sent to Mr Paul Warriner of the Swan Inn.

Re 146/9 – AP reported that the shackles on the small swing had been lubricated.

Re 146/9 – Ma reported that the overhanging tree branch in the Hesworth Car Park was to be investigated by a tree surgeon.

Re 149/9(b)(4) – AP had requested that the subject be included on the agenda of the next Village Hall meeting.

Re 149/9(a)(3) – a meeting with Richard Godfrey of High Trees to be arranged. **JM to Action.**

163/9. Finance:

- a) **It was resolved to pay the following invoices** (proposed by MA and seconded by JB).
 - b) Peter Evans – Internal Audit Services – March to September 2009 - £30.00
 - c) B & S Chains – Post Cover for small playground - £10.13
 - d) P Henderson – Clerk's wages and expenses for December - £345.98
 - e) HM Revenue & Customs – Tax deducted for the period October to December 2009 - £255.33.
 - f) Mill Farm Trees – Various Trees for Hesworth Common. - £23.12
 - g) Mill Farm Trees – 100 hedge plants + Spiral Guards & Canes for Alley Dick. – £247.25

b) It was resolved to pay the following donations (proposed by JH and seconded by JM).

1. West Sussex Mobile Youth Trust - £50.00
2. Community Mini Bus - £150.00
3. Fittleworth PCC - £285.00
4. Burton & Coates PCC - £100.00
5. Fittleworth Play Group - £50.00

6. Fittleworth Over 60's - £50.00

7. Petworth Nursing Home - £50.00

c) Income Received since the last Meeting

1. Mr C Letchford – Donation to the Parish Council in return for part of fallen beech tree - £25.00

2. COIF Dividend - £12.28

3. COIF Dividend - £4.81

d) Budget v Expenditure

An updated version was distributed to members.

164/9. Budget for the Financial Year 2010/2011:

Following discussion the following budget was unanimously agreed.

Maintenance	£4500
Hesworth Common	£0
Insurance	£2400
Purple Bus	£50
Donations	£700
Loan Repayments	£1238
Bank Charges	£40
Audit Fees	£250
Courses	£200
Subscriptions	£260
Clerk's Wages & Expenses	£5250
Maintenance Contract	£3875
Solicitor	£700
Sundries/Admin.	£150
Hire of Village Hall	£150
CDC- Litter Bins	£180
Fittleworth PCC	£50
Chairman's Allowance	£100
Youth Fund	£50
Election Costs	£500
Community Working Group	£50
Security Light	£40

Total £20733

It was agreed that;

- Any expenses incurred on Hesworth Common to be taken from the Hesworth reserve fund.
- The annual subscription to Action in Rural Sussex to be stopped.
- The allocation of £500 to election costs be transferred to the reserve fund in preparation for 2011 elections.
- All donations to be left at the present level with the exception of Fittleworth PCC. This would rise to £300 with £50 reserved for the Village Magazine and the remainder to be used for the maintenance of the grave yard.
- The Precept for 2010/2011 to be set at £16000.

165/9. Items for Inclusion on the Next Agenda:

1. Tidiness of the Village
2. Sand Quarry at Horncroft
3. Sports Association Lease
4. Drainage of Eastern Ditch
5. Parish Website

166/9. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on 18th January 2010 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

P Henderson 22-12-09