

Minutes of the Cowbit Parish Council meeting held on July 11 2016.

Attending; Cllrs Kendall, Sharman, Simpson & Tyrell.

County Cllr Fairman, District Cllr Casson plus five members of the public.

Apologies received from; Darren Harper (village hall committee)

Due to temporary absence of a Parish Clerk, Cllr Simpson agreed to take the minutes.

2. Cllr Simpson updated the meeting on the current situation regarding the clerk and Cllr vacancies.

The background to the lack of clerk at the present time is that a new clerk had been appointed and accepted the position, all paperwork etc., had been delivered to him, and the previous clerk had stood down. However one week later, and before he had actually done anything, the new clerk advised us that he no longer wished to take the job. Most parish paperwork appears to have been returned, however the minutes from the previous meeting are missing. These are being chased as without them minutes cannot be prepared.

The clerk vacancy has been advertised locally and in the Spalding Voice newspaper (cost £72 compared to £632 in the Spalding Guardian) and seven applications have been received. Interviews will be held week commencing July 18.

South Holland District Council were notified of the vacancy resulting from Andrew Back's resignation on June 16 but have only just actioned it. However the necessary letters have now been produced and will be displayed this week. If ten or more village electors call for an election one will be had, but if that does not happen the existing parish councillors will co-opt a new member.

Cllr Simpson also reported that he had agreed to undertake some clerk duties pending appointment of a replacement. However he stressed that he was neither qualified nor experienced in what was required and could therefore offer only a basic service and while he would do his best, he couldn't guarantee that mistakes would not be made. He has also since stated that he will not be able to continue doing this after the end of July.

Public forum. Val Day reported that the church had received planning permission for their new gate and requested payment of the £500 grant that had been agreed at a previous meeting. A cheque was handed over.

Chris Elliott reported that there were still problems with emptying litter and dog poo bins within the village. Cllr Casson agreed to investigate. Chris Elliott also asked about progress with installing the mirror at the junction of Mill Drove and Stonegate.

3. Representatives of Spalding Wanderers FC attended the meeting. They have asked to use the playing field for training and home matches – they play in the Sunday League – and in return are carrying out some painting/renovation work on the pavilion. It was agreed to give them £40 to repay cost of materials. A key will be provided for the storage area, and the parish Council agreed to pay for new padlocks and keys for the shutters. A new control system is needed for the floodlighting as the current card system is obsolete; Cllr Tyrell agreed to investigate.

Correspondence. Letter received from Cllr Gary Porter regarding a mayor for Lincolnshire. General feeling of the meeting was that this was not a good idea but a formal response would not be made.

Lincs County Council confirmed that planning consent had been granted for a new porch on Cowbit School.

Police. A new PCSO – Naomi Newell – has been appointed following Bev's retirement. Her area also includes Crowland, however she is also part-time and does not work Mondays, meaning attendance at future Parish Council meetings is unlikely.

Reported crimes 1.6.16 to 1.7.16 were: Anti-social behaviour 0, Criminal Damage 1, Road Traffic Collision 1, Theft 2, Violence 0, Burglery 1. It was also reported that a number of speed checks have been carried out, however it was noted that these were carried out at inappropriate times for our reported needs – one was at 4.00pm on a weekday, the other on a Sunday afternoon.

Highway Matters; As agreed at the last meeting, Cllr Tyrell has made some informal approaches to Crowland Parish about the possibility of working together regarding speed and other road safety issues on the new A16, however Crowland seem uninterested in co-operation with Cowbit at this time.

Planning; Ashley King Developments have asked for a reduction in the Affordable Housing content of the Backgate development from 15 to 7. Cllr Tyrell declared an interest as he owns land adjoining the site, but it was agreed that he could remain and take part in discussions as it was only a detail consideration. It was agreed that no formal comment would be made, but Cllr Tyrell will approach Kings about possible Community Enhancement money.

Any other business: None

The meeting closed to the public at 8.20pm, however councillors remained for a confidential discussion/perusal of the applications for the clerk vacancy.