A Meeting of Whaplode Parish Council was held on Thursday 24th July 2008 at Whaplode St. Catherines Village Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: as per register.

Sgt Duncan Ashwell and PCSO Bev Robinson were also in attendance.

Apologies were presented on behalf of Cllrs. Creese Mackman and Stimson.

The Clerk reported resignations from Mr. RW Bell and Mr. Vic Wright: agreed the Clerk inform SHDC and to write letters of thanks to Messrs. Bell & Wright.

  Cllr. Merchant – planning applications.

Police matters: the Clerk reported that Sgt Ashwell had done speed checks along Roman Bank Washway Road and Saracens Head. Sgt Ashwell reported on the police funding and hoped to recruit some more PCSOs and was sorry there was no Community Beat Officer. He reported that crime was on the decrease and would do what he could regarding speeding. He was asked to concentrate on Cranesgate North and it was also reported that children were coming into the cemetery from Wesley Road: the Police undertook to monitor.

The Minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Treasurers accounts and accounts for payment:

High interest £12196.00

C.A. 3196.00

Resolved that the following cheques be signed:

LR Signs £29.38.
R.Pollard 500.00
Mrs.J.Harrington 675.00
Postages 27.46
North Level IDB 437.71
Mark Seymour 240.00
K.Harris 161.00

Audit: the Clerk reported that the internal auditor was still in the process of completing this years audit: agreed the Chairman be given executive powers to sign the Annual Return which had been agreed by Members.
Standing Orders and Financial Regulations: the Clerk reported that there was no need for financial regulations as the parish councils income was under £200,000. Standing Orders were handed to Members for approval and adopting at the October meeting.

Allotments (a) Report on inspections:
  Whaplode – mostly O.K.
  Saracens Head – Crawleys reasonably tidy: Members agreed that the Clerk write to Mr. Smith asking him if he needed all his allotment land.
  Whaplode St. Catherines – there were no problems.
  Whaplode Drove – mostly good.
(b) Clerks report: the Clerk reported one outstanding rent.
(c) Crawleys allotment roadway: the Clerk reported that she had written to the tenants: Mr. Munton was reluctant to pay a contribution as he felt the roadway was not too bad and he had erected the sign saying Allotment Tenants only: also Mr. Watson had done some levelling work: after discussion Members agreed to leave the matter for the time being as the expense could not be justified.
(d) Whaplode Drove allotments: Notices to quit as at 11th Oct.2008 were reported from Messrs. SV Wright WK Wright SP Wright and G.Wright: agreed they be advertised with a closing date for applications of 1st September

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 27th October at Whaplode Methodist Hall subject to it being available commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Highway matters (a) Village
(i) Bypass and speed restrictions etc. No report awaiting LCC speeding policy.
(ii) Loose inspection cover – a letter was reported from LCC saying they were pursuing the matter with A.W.
(b) Saracens Head
(i) A letter was reported from LCC who had instructed their Contractors.
(ii) A17 Pipwell Gate filter lane: a letter was reported from LCC who were investigating: also the road from Pipwell Gate to Saltney Gate and the Stockwell Gate junction was being resurfaced during August – overnight.
(iii) Footpath repairs: the Clerk reported that she was informing LCC of the problems.
(c) Whaplode St. Catherines – no problems
(d) Whaplode Drove
(i) Dowsdale Bank – Coxs Drove trees: LCC were inspecting.
(ii) Shepeau Stow dislodged sign: - LCC are dealing with the matter.
(iii) Peartree Hill and Green Bank – request for Give Way sign – LCC are investigating.
(iii) B1166 Hulls Drove Shepeau Stow traffic survey: a letter was
Affordable Housing – Cllr. Merchant reported that the matter was proceeding.

Best Kept Village Competition – the Clerk reported that Whaplode and Whaplode Drove had gone through to the second round judging.

Whaplode – reinstatement of bus stop: after discussion Members agreed that the Clerk write to LCC asking for the stop sign to be reinstated between Ayres corner and the cattery on the Spalding side.

Whaplode St. Catherines Notice Board – Cllr. Carter undertook to liaise with the Committee.

Free Trees: a letter was reported from LCC: Members agreed they be ordered for Whaplode St. Catherines playing field: Ward Members to notify the Clerk which variety to order.

Planning applications: the actions of the Sub-Committee as annexed were approved.

Glass and Bottle application: the Clerk informed Members no reply had been received from SHDC. Cllr. Chandler undertook to follow the matter up.

Whaplode Playing Field – Cllr. Merchant undertook to refer a complaint to the Committee.

Whaplode St. Catherines Playing Field: A request was received from Mr. Murphy asking if the Parish Council would contribute towards servicing his mover: agreed he be offered £200. Cllr. Bown undertook to speak with Mr. Graham Sculthorne at SHDC regarding the Youth Garden and to place the item on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Street Parade Whaplode 12th October: a letter was circulated from Royal British Legion as per annexed and agreed by Members.

Whaplode Drove and Holbeach Drove Playing Fields Association. A letter was reported asking for a donation towards three external litter bins and a litter picker: Agreed the Clerk ask for costings and they would then consider a donation.

General correspondence and general business by leave of the Chairman.

A letter was reported from the Chairman of WHEAT as per annexed: Members agreed the Clerk send them a letter congratulating the Committee on very successful event.

A letter was circulated from LCC regarding final review of Post Offices in Lincolnshire.
A complaint had been received regarding noise from the grass track racing at Hurdletree Bank. Members considered it was a well run event which had been there for many years and the complainant be asked to refer the matter to SHDC.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed.

Chairman