

Mawsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th November 2005

Present: Cllr R. Littler (Chairman); Cllr C. Winter (Deputy Chair); Cllr R. Holland; Cllr R. Barnwell; Cllr F. Quinn; Cllr G. Somerville; Cllr. C. Moreton (Part Time); R. Meredith (Clerk); Borough Cllr J. Hakewill (Part Time).

11.05.1 Apologies for Absence

Collette Lilley, work commitments.

11.05.2 Allotted time for members of the public.

No requests received.

11.05.3 Declaration of Interests

Cllrs Littler and Winter declared their positions as Honorary Officers of the Mawsley Villagers Association (MVA).

11.05.4 Minutes of Meeting

Deferred to December meeting.

11.05.5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Deferred to December Meeting.

11.05.6 Police Matters

The meeting was advised of a change to police attendance at Parish Council meetings such that a senior officer will attend every six months. Concern was expressed by Cllr. Barnwell that this was yet another change in policy only a few months after the previous change which place PCSO' s with Parish Councils. Comments raised at the recent Rural Forum were also reported where concern was expressed that Councils require presence on the street not senior officer attendance at meetings. The Clerk was asked to respond to the letter with dates of Parish Council meetings. **Action 11.05.6.1**

11.05.7 Messer's George Wimpey

It was noted that advice had been received that the land for the commercial area within Mawsley had been sold to a developer – City and County Development of Bedford. Cllr Barnwell raised the issue that, in the last plans produced to the Parish Council for this area, there was an indication that living accommodation was being included. He commented that this had not been a part of the original concept for the area and that the matter should be highlighted to the Planning Authority such that some recompense could be obtained if such plans were allowed. Clerk to notify the Borough Council of the concerns. **Action 11.05.7.1**

It was noted that the Centre at Mawsley had now been transferred from the builders to Wimpey but that further transfer could not take place until the stamp duty issue was resolved. Discussion ensued on whether Wimpey were performing to the S106 agreement and, if not, why were the Borough Council not enforcing obligations. It was noted that there was nothing in the S106 with regard to provision of a playing field, however, Cllr Barnwell advised that before development commenced such a provision had been fully costed by the developers. Cllr Barnwell to check old papers on this matter. **Action 11.05.7.2**

11.05.8 Mawsley interface to Kettering Borough Council

In the absence of Collette Lilley there was no discussion.

11.05.9 Accounts and Budgets

The meeting was advised that the only expenditure in October had been on the Clerk's Salary and the External Audit fee. The Parish Council unanimously **approved and accepted** the Annual Return following completion of the external audit by BDO Stoy Hayward LLP. The meeting was further advised that following the submission of annual tax returns "on line" a £250 tax rebate was available from HMC&R.

A brief summary of the presentation with regard to the possible change in grant provision from the Borough Council was given. It was noted that most Parish Councils in the Borough seemed to be against the concept of precepting and appeared to be in favour of retaining the status quo. The consultation process would not be complete by the time Mawsley Parish Council is required to set its budget and determine if it needs to set a precept.

11.05.10 Correspondence and Clerk's Update

The meeting confirmed that Parish Council meetings in 2006 would be held on the first Monday in each month, commencing on 9th January 2006 and at 7.30pm. The venue would continue to be the Surgery until further notice.

The meeting was advised of an application from the Women's Institute for a grant from the Community Fund. The application to be considered further at the next Parish Council meeting.

A request to complete and submit a performance assessment on the County Council was noted, Clerk to complete and return. **Action 11.05.10.1**

11.05.11 Planning Matters

Discussion was held with regard to alternative proposals for the arrangement of the pub site in Mawsley that had been received from Peter Harris of KBC. By a majority vote, one abstention, it was **agreed** that the alternative offered was not acceptable as further land was lost from the playing field. The Clerk was asked to advise the Borough Council of this rejection and that the original site plan should be implemented. **Action 11.05.11.1** It was also noted that the layout of grasscrete in the playing field area did not match the requirements of the MVA, this issue would need to be raised at the next meeting with the Borough to discuss the Centre at Mawsley.

Cllr Littler enquired as to whether there was any further information on the issue of compensation for the additional land transferred to the pub site or what was happening on S106 payments for additional houses. Cllr Hakewill undertook to establish the current status. **Action 11.05.11.2.**

11.05.12 The Centre at Mawsley

Cllr Winter left the Parish Council meeting in order that he could represent the Community Centre Steering Group of the MVA for the ensuing discussion. Cllr Winter presented a Budget Outline for operation of the Centre at Mawsley by the MVA through its Community Interest Company. The Budget Outline raised three options for the Parish Council to consider and it was felt appropriate that a Special Meeting of the Parish Council should be arranged with the sole purpose of discussing issues relating to the Centre.

The following key comments and issues were raised during the discussion:

- It was important to get a legal opinion on how the Parish Council should proceed prior to the Special Meeting.
- The consideration of the precept was important and its application should be fair to the whole village. The Parish Council would also need to consider that a precept would seem to benefit users of the facility from outside of the Parish.

The Parish Council should also consider using the Community Fund as a way of offsetting the level of any precept.

- A full time manager, as set out in the Budget Outline, would be essential to the success of the facility.
- The Parish Council has yet to accept the freehold and it should be satisfied with a number of issues before it does this. Amongst these issues are clarity of the footprint and boundaries; clarity on responsibilities for insurance and maintenance; clarity of responsibilities for the playing field and any necessary rights of way; the MVA will need a comprehensive usage policy such that clashes can be avoided over bookings.

Following the discussion, Cllr Winter returned to the meeting.

11.05.13 Any Other Business

Cllr Quinn advised that local authorities were looking at “Emergency Planning” the meeting was advised that notification had already been received from the Borough Council that this activity was in hand.

Cllr Moreton raised concerns that the cyclepath around the village remains incomplete. It was noted that Messer’s George Wimpey have an existing action to resolve this. He further raised the issue of the shop in the village and information to the effect that sums sought by the developers appeared to be pricing potential occupiers out of Mawsley. It was noted that advice had been received that the commercial area had been sold and that the Parish Council should await developments.

Cllr Littler advised that Dr Oliver would like to be present at the January meeting to advise on the development of the new Surgery. Clerk to arrange an invite. **Action 11.05.13.1.**

Cllr Moreton raised the issue that there is a lack of facilities for youth in the village. Cllr Littler advised that the MVA had a very active youth group with events being held outside of the village but, until the centre was in full operation it is difficult to do anything within the Parish. Cllr Moreton further queried the catchment area for senior schools in Kettering, after discussion it was noted that this is not something the Parish Council can take action upon.

Cllr Winter advised the meeting that the Mawsley Village website was now fully operational and thanked those involved in its development, principally Duncan Webster and Graham Leah.

11.05.14 Date of Next Meeting

A Special Meeting will be held on Monday, 21st November, 2005 commencing at 7.30pm, venue to be advised.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 10:07 pm.

Signed: **Date:**