

# AILSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

## DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2008

**Present:** Mrs J Pickett, Mr G Rideout, Mrs E Stalley, Mrs J Steward.

**Clerk:** Mrs M Brown.

**Members of the public:** Councillor J Holdich, Mr J & Mrs S Hodder, Mr S Damani , Mrs A Ribbons, Ms C Sharpin, James & Mathew Poulton, also Mrs C Reece-Hamshere & Ben, Mrs C Castle & Ben, Mrs K Manning Jack & Liam from Castor.

**Apologies:** Councillor D Lamb

The meeting was chaired by Mrs J Pickett (Vice Chair)

### **1 Presentation by Louise Wilcox, from Peterborough City Council, on proposed play facilities for the Recreation Ground.**

Peterborough City Council has still not received the section 106 money from Redrow. It was pointed out that the City Council is responsible for administering the funding and is responsible for maintaining and inspecting any play equipment. It was proposed to upgrade the existing play equipment and to add facilities for older children. Louise outlined ideas for different facilities pointing out the pros and cons, especially the high maintenance costs of some equipment. A frank exchange of views and ideas followed. The aim is to install facilities to cover a wide age range taking into account the views of all members of the community as well as maintenance costs etc. As the Parish Council intends to hold a public consultation before any decision is made Louise was asked to draw up several sets of plans to include a variety of equipment, with costing. The clerk will arrange a further meeting with Louise Wilcox.

Louise was thanked for attending the meeting and members of the public were thanked for their input.

**2 Minutes from 2007 Annual Parish Meeting:** The Minutes were proposed by Mrs E Stalley, seconded by Mrs J Steward and signed as correct by the Chair.

### **3 Review of the year.**

Mrs J Pickett gave the Annual report.

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting.

We have had quite a busy year with ten regular meetings most of which were well attended both by councillors and on a number of occasions by members of the public. In addition we had several meetings with the managing director of Redrow and planning officers from the City Council, as well as attending Liaison and briefing meetings at the Town Hall. There have been 21 new planning applications this year to look at and report on, some of which required quite careful consideration to make sure that they fitted in as well as possible so as not to be detrimental to the surrounding area.

The Station Road site is still ongoing; the developers are expecting to complete the site during the summer. We have had many occasions when we have needed to voice our concerns, both with the developers and the planning department, over the site but we have now got a better working understanding and much more co-operation. There are at least 18 houses now occupied, (11+7) with 2 more sold and several reserved.

We did quite a lot of work and lobbying with Castor Parish Council about the Pharmacy applications and we are also trying to help with the Clay Lane site.

Councillors took part in the opening of the new school hall and the welcoming service for the new headteacher, Mrs Nicola Wynne.

We have had several jobs done this year to enhance and improve our surroundings. In the spring we installed a new seat and replaced the gates at the Recreation Ground and renewed the gates on the Allotments. In the autumn we had new fencing erected around the Donkey Paddock.

The allotments are fully occupied and generally well tended; there is also a waiting list.

The grass in the Recreation Ground has been kept well cut which is good because not only does it look nice it makes the area more usable. During the year the Council has been investigating new play facilities and their costs in preparation for when we want to improve the area. The money is not yet available but we hope it will soon be paid to the City Council to enable us to proceed with the project.

Over the year we have supported local groups, Evergreens, Chapel, Preschool, School and St John Ambulance with small grants to enable them to provide activities and enrich village life.

In addition to all the work the councillors have put in this year we would like to add that we could not function without all the work that is done by our clerk. We are extremely lucky to have such an efficient and conscientious clerk to help the Council and we do thank her for all her time and help. Unfortunately in March Mr John Allsopp resigned from the Council due to work commitments but I do thank him, the clerk and all the councillors for all they have done this year.

#### **4 Finance Report as at 31.3.08**

Total Income                    £16310.65 (including precept)

##### **Assets**

Payments                        £12969.08

Precept                         £12757.00

Deposit account               £15405.48

Current account               £ 2991.91

Cheques not cleared        £ 536.25

Bus shelter                     £8750.00

Computer                       £ 300.00

Information Board            £1000.00

Seat                              £ 660.00

A total of £10,000 has previously been allocated in our reserve for improvements to the Village Hall and regeneration of the Recreation Ground. This year a £500 donation has been set aside towards a flower planter.

#### **5 Election of Responsible Financial Officer.**

It was proposed by Mrs J Pickett seconded by Mrs E Stalley and agreed that Mrs M Brown retain this position.

#### **6 Officers Reports.**

None.

#### **7 Questions from the floor.**

No further questions.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.