

## HYDE LEA PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007 at Hyde Lea Village Hall. Meeting started at 19.30 hrs.**

**Those Present;**

Parish Councillors;	Mr J Eaves [Chair]	Mr D Allan [Vice-chair]	Mr W Mason
	Mr C Bayford	Ms A Makin	
Mr D Jones [Clerk]	Mr R Sutherland [Borough Councillor]		
	Mr M Winnington [Borough/County Councillor]		

**1/ The chairman welcomed** those present and the meeting started at 19.30 hrs.

**2/ Apologies;** There were no apologies received.

**3/ Matters raised by the general public;** There were no members of the public present.

**4/ Confirmation of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

The minutes, having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a true record subject to the following amendment.

Paragraph 10 Annual footpath review; the item referring to “kissing gates” should have read –all styles be looked at with a view to replacing them with “kissing gates” which are more user friendly especially for the disabled .

**5/Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda;**

No matters were raised

**6/Financial matters;**

**1. Authority was given to pay the following invoices;**

Clerks salary & expenses	£375.46
Community Council	£3.64
Hyde Lea Village hall	£42.00

2. Precept for 2007/8; the amount of precept to be set for the next financial year and the councils projected spend was discussed at some length. The District Auditor had commented on the high level of reserves held by the council and pointed out that a council cannot hold this amount and must therefore take steps to reduce it. The meeting therefore decided unanimously to –
- Set the precept for 2007/8 at £3600, this equals a reduction of 5.9%.
  - Allow £6600 for capital projects, including a Website, Vehicle Activated Signs and work on the footpaths.
  - Allow £2000 for grants and donations to local groups.
  - Set aside £1000 for a contested election in May.
3. Future grants to St Lawrence Church were discussed, in view of the letter sent on 23<sup>rd</sup> September pointing out that they should try other avenues of funding including the County Councillors. Councillor Winnington told the meeting that no contact had been made with him as yet. It was suggested that an informal reminder be made to the Parochial Church Council

4. Insurance policy; the clerk confirmed that the policy now held covered the activities of a Parish Council including fixed assets and an increase in the fidelity bond as requested by the District auditor. There will be an increase in premium.

#### **7 Website;**

The meeting agreed that the council should approach Eric Roy Consulting to progress the website. Clerk to contact Peter Bickerstaffe and advise him of the decision.

#### **8/ Planning matters;**

A list of current planning applications was produced at the meeting.

The following were discussed in detail;

- 06/06635-outline permission for construction of a dwelling to the front of Thaxted has been refused by the Borough Council
- 06/06170- construction of a property on land adjacent to Branston House. It had been decided by the Development Control Committee to take no further action on the construction of this property in the alleged wrong position.
- Barn Bank Manor ; comments were made about the various developments on this site , but as it is subject of appeal to the Planning Inspector no further action can be taken at this stage.

#### **9/ Civic amenity visits for 2007/8;**

It was agreed to request the same scale of visits on similar dates to 2006.

#### **10/Correspondence received;**

A list of all correspondence received since the last meeting was circulated to those present. If any councillor wants to see any of the correspondence they are to contact the clerk.

A letter from BTCV was read to the meeting offering trees to be provided and planted for local communities. Although the Parish Council does not have open space for trees it was suggested that the Village Hall may be interested, Councillor Eaves to be given a copy of the letter to forward at the Village Hall Committee.

Councillor Eaves had received a communication from the Village Hall Committee asking for financial support from the Parish Council towards the ground maintenance costs. It was agreed that the Parish Council would contribute 50% of the cost up to a maximum of £350. The clerk was asked to advise the Village Hall Committee of this decision and ask to be advised when the new price had been agreed. The meeting also requested that Hyde Lea Council be advised of the amount contributed by Dunstan & Coppenhall Parish Council.

#### **11/ Road, Highway & Footpath matters;**

Vehicle Activated Signs; a response had finally been received from the County Council relating to this question. Mr Edwards, to whom previous correspondence had been addressed, has left the Council; the new contact is David Steptoe. The clerk will contact him and ask for details of the traffic surveys that have been taken in Hyde Lea and also attempt to progress the question of the VAS for the village. It was suggested that copies of the letters be sent to Mark Winnington and Andrew Knowles , County Council.

Advice has been received about road works on Barn Bank Lane [between 7<sup>th</sup> February and 16<sup>th</sup> February ] and Ashflats Lane and Chase View Road [between 19<sup>th</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> march ] . The roads will be closed for periods between these dates.

Highway maintenance agreement; the completed agreement has finally been received. It was decided that the immediate projects are;

- Repositioning of the horse riding sign outside the Village Hall, to be done as a matter of urgency
- Cleaning of road signs

Hyde Lea Bank-Clearance of encroaching weeds and other debris from the footpath.

Mud on road; was raised by Councillor Eaves who explained that a major problem had occurred in November with a farmer leaving a trail of mud when exiting his land adjacent to Hyde Lea Bank. He had called the police because it was a traffic hazard and the road was eventually cleared. His concern was that the farmer should pay for this and not as it appears the taxpayer. The clerk had written to John Sly to clarify the position but nothing has yet been heard.

Annual footpath Survey; has been completed and a copy of the final report was distributed at the meeting. Footpath 11 & 14- the problems with these are to be brought to the attention of the Footpath Officer at the County Council and his advice sought. It was agreed that work on the other sites be progressed and contracted to Jo & Co for action.

**12/ Items for consideration at the next meeting;**

Elections May 2007 – the clerk attends a seminar on 24<sup>th</sup> January at which procedures will be discussed. He will report to the March meeting.

**13/ Next meeting is on March 14th**