

**Keswick and Intwood Parish Council Meeting on 21st October 2009.
Minutes of the meeting held at The Reading Rooms, Keswick at 19.00.**

Present: Alan Gelder (AG); Joe Loades (JL); Diana Bulman (DB); Ruth Ripman (RR) and Phillip Brooks (PB) (Clerk).

Also Present: Christopher Kemp (Councillor Cringleford Ward) (CK); and a member of the public, Mr. Kevin Hanner (KH). Apologies received from Garry Wheatley (Councillor Cringleford Ward) (GW) and Daniel Cox (Norfolk County Councillor) (DC).

1. *To consider apologies for absence:* Resolved to accept apologies from Lars Tibell and Hayley Spouge both away from Norwich on professional business matters. Linda Thursby also gave her apologies and at the same time tendered her resignation as a Parish Councillor. She explained that, due to personal circumstances and the business she was involved with, it had become increasingly difficult to devote proper time to Parish Council matters. She offered her continuing support and help to the Council especially regarding activities in Intwood. Her resignation was accepted by the Council.

2. *To receive declaration of interests in items on the Agenda:* No interests were declared.

3. *Public Participation. It was resolved to adjourn the meeting for public participation and any district councillor reports:* CK said that he would comment on Agenda items as they arose. KH explained that he had moved to the village a year or so ago and was interested in becoming involved with Parish Council activities. He said that he was an outreach worker for health dealing with travellers in the community and thought his expertise in this regard might be helpful to the Parish Council.

4. *To confirm minutes of the Annual General Parish Meeting and Parish Council meeting held on 27th May 2009:* it was resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meetings.

5. *To report matters arising from minutes not on the Agenda: for information only:* there were no matters arising.

6. *Finance:*

- *Parish Account and Budget Update:* LT had circulated figures in advance of the meeting showing a projected balance of £4,930 at the year end but, after allowing for quarter 3 and 4 costs including Clerk's expenses, audit fees and insurance payments, the final outturn figure was likely to be nearer to £2,500.
- *To agree invoices for payment in accordance with the budget:* it was resolved to agree the following invoices for payment: Clerk's expenses £522.92 (Cheque 100346).

7. *Parish Issues: To receive any updates relating to:*

- *Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan (Public Consultation)*: AG noted that the most recent Consultation Document (1st September – 27th October 2009) showed that the suggested sites at Ketteringham and Thickthorn (the transit site) were no longer being considered: the Council therefore had no objections to the revised proposals. CK explained that the latest Consultation Document related only to the “soundness and legal compliance” of the site selection process and that a further Consultation relating to the sites themselves would follow once the “soundness and compliance” had been established. He also told the Council that there were still some 24 pitches to find in the South Norfolk area and that sites already agreed within parishes (typically the Harford site) would not be counted against this requirement.
- *Progress with building etc. at the Harford Permanent Gypsy site*: AG said that DB and PB had visited the site with him (accompanied by Sarah Lovelock and Anthony Hedges from Broadland Housing Association) and had been impressed with the facilities being provided and the quality of the work undertaken there. CK said that officials from South Norfolk Council had also attended a site meeting and although he had not been part of the visit, he knew that a similarly impressed reaction to the buildings and services had been obtained. It was thought that the opening date was to be 6th November – PB said he would find out the detail of what was planned from Broadland Housing Association and let everyone know. **(Action PB)**.
- *Home watch*: AG said there was still no apparent enthusiasm for a scheme at Keswick New Hall although final comments from HS were awaited **(Action HS)**. Equally, there was no enthusiasm from residents at Eaton Gate – which was possibly surprising with local crime increasing. The residents at Dunston Cottages were still to be approached. PB said that although the Low Road coordinator had moved away from the village she was still doing the task from outside the Parish, which was less than satisfactory. Furthermore, he understood she was trying to find a replacement in Low Road and added that a notice about the vacancy was being published in the next edition of *The Newsletter*.
- *Highways*: DB said there was little to report other than litter picking and grass cutting was apparently taking place with reasonable frequency. AG had some reservations as to whether contractors were really doing what was expected of them and thought it prudent to be vigilant and keep up pressure on the Highways Authority to maintain a good service. PB confirmed a rumour picked up by DB that the Highway Rangers’ scheme had been temporarily suspended. He said he had been told that the future of the Rangers was being considered by the Norfolk County Council cabinet at the end of November. If it was decided to continue with the scheme, Keswick and Intwood would be one of the first parishes to benefit.
- *Reading Room*: AG summarised the position with regard to work needed in terms of roof repairs and car parking. He said it was proving difficult to obtain the necessary funding – around £20,000 (including VAT but excluding professional costs) was needed to cover both projects - and a particular problem, which precluded some sources of funding, was that the Council did not have legal title to the Reading Room. The cost of obtaining a lease to overcome this obstacle would

be another £3,500 - £4,000 comprising mainly legal fees incurred by Mills and Reeve (for the Trustees of the Reading Room) and Cadge and Gilbert (acting for the Parish Council). It was possible that a grant could be obtained from South Norfolk Council (via the Neighbourhood Fund) to meet this need. However, Mills and Reeve were presently unwilling to provide sufficient detail about their costs to enable the grant application to be submitted. AG told the Council that he hoped to resolve this stand-off with Mills and Reeve by meeting with one of the Trustees within the next few days. **(Action AG)**. CK declared his partnership in the firm of Cadge and Gilbert and explained that he was not remunerated by a share of the profits but paid by the hour for services actually performed. He therefore requested that it be recorded that he would not be profiting directly or indirectly by instructions issued by the Parish Council.

8. *Planning: PB provided the following information:*

- 2009/0973 The Old Rectory, Main Road, Swardeston: Proposal for a change of use to carry out bush and field activities on improved grassland and woodland. Outstanding. An ecological survey has been commissioned and no further consideration will be given to this application until the result of that survey is known. (Swardeston Parish Council is the lead Parish for this application.)
- 2009/1015 Keswick New Hall: To install ten 2.6 x 1.6m solar panels to south elevation of existing swimming pool including erection of a boundary fence. Approved.
- 2009/1131 The Old Telephone Exchange, Ipswich Road Keswick. Retrospective application for open store to the rear, summerhouse, garden shed and 2 containers. Approved.
- 2009/1145 Meadow Cottage, Intwood Lane, East Carleton. Demolition of 2 dwellings and detached garage and erection of new dwelling house, detached garage and ancillary work. Refused.
- 2009/1323 Land at Keswick Hill Meadow, Bridle Lane, Keswick. Proposed change of use from agricultural land to recreational land. Standing of a caravan, two shipping containers and a garden shed. Refused.

Additionally, PB reported an issue in relation to Abbots Wood brought to his attention by the new owner of adjacent land called Cringle Wood. He said that these are apparently both lots (from the previous Intwood Estate) sold by Woodlands.co.uk for leisure/amenity use/conservation. As wet woodland they are understood to have a diverse range of trees and wildlife including species of deer, owls, foxes, birds, rodents and fungi. There are apparently covenants in place aimed to preserve the nature of this valuable greenbelt and ensuring "the quiet and peaceful enjoyment of neighbouring fields and meadows". This includes covenants preventing building or commercial use. Seemingly, at Abbots Wood, recent activity includes a concrete road being laid, a portacabin being installed surrounded by concrete paving, a vehicle bridge over the stream and an industrial 8 foot builder's fence being put around a field area adjacent to the woodland. It is said (by the owner of the adjacent land) that the new owner intends to run a commercial dog training school there. The owner's concerns are:

- a commercial dog training centre will significantly detract from and change the nature of this green belt. The use of concrete, portacabins and builders' fencing are out of keeping for the area. The noise from dogs will impact on local wildlife which is often timid, restricting habitat still further;
- the access is across a meadow on a dirt track from 2 sets of locked gates. The track (approx 500m) is unsuitable for increased traffic. If used in wet weather it will quickly deteriorate into potholes which are currently filled in by hand. There are concerns about security as presumably the gates would be left unlocked for large periods of time inviting trespass, anti social behaviour and illegal encampments;
- there are significant health and safety risks. Trees grow and also fall down unexpectedly. Recently, a large 50 foot tree fell across the track in question missing a portacabin by only 1 metre. The woodland has not been actively managed for probably 100 years and there are many unsafe trees that will take years to rectify by the owners. This is the third known incidence in 2 years of a large tree fall. If the public are introduced to the area there are health and safety and insurance issues that have not been addressed.

PB said he had brought these concerns to the attention of the Planning Authorities at SNC and the Enforcement Officer has been asked to investigate what is going on at Abbots Wood. The Enforcement Officer's Report is due in a couple of weeks time.

9. Local Government Re-organization: CK said that the Suffolk appeal had taken place but the outcome seemed vague and contradictory. For Norfolk, the Boundary Committee is pushing for its appeal to be heard during November. At present it is scheduled to take place between January and March next year, making it unlikely that plans could be finalized before next year's elections.

10. Correspondence received: PB said that he had received two substantial consultation documents from Norfolk County Council relating to further issues and options connected with their *Minerals Site allocations Development Plan Document*. CK said that he understood that the Parish was not affected by the preferred options contained in the documents. It was resolved that the Parish Council would not respond to the consultation.

11. Items for the next meeting: there were none reported.

The meeting closed at 21.10

*Phillip Brooks
Parish Clerk
24th October 2009*