

Offord Cluny & Offord Darcy Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr Liam Small

Jackie Stanbridge
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Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Offord Cluny on Thursday, December 4th, 2008 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Reece, James, Ridley, Small, Gimblett, Gatward, Young, District Cllr West, Richard Siwicki (Huntingdonshire District Council - Planning Enforcement) and Clerk

Before the meeting began Cllr Sim handed his resignation letter to the Clerk.

2008/140 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Harris & Boddington

Cllr Ridley had given notice of his late attendance and Cllr Small was also delayed.

In Cllr Small's absence Cllr Reece took the chair.

2008/141 Open Forum (max 10 minutes)

2008/142 Presentation by Richard Siwicki from Huntingdonshire District Council re Planning Enforcement

Mr Siwicki thanked Council for inviting him and confirmed he was happy to explain the workings of the Planning Enforcement section at Huntingdonshire District Council. He then proceeded to provide a PowerPoint presentation indicating the various stages of enforcement in the planning process. Cllr Gimblett as chairman of the Planning Committee thanked him for attending and agreed that the process was much clearer following the presentation.

2008/143 Declarations of Interest for Agenda items only - None

2008/144 To Approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on November 13, 2008

The Minutes were approved as an accurate record and signed

2008/145 Matters Arising from previous Minutes (for information only)

2008/146 Chairman's Report

As Cllr Reece was in the Chair there was no Chairman's report.

2008/147 District & County Councillor Reports

Dist.Cllr West confirmed that he had attended the A14 meeting at Buckden.

Cllr Gimblett thanked Cllr West for his diligence and support of the Parish Council at all District meetings.

2008/148 Leisure & Amenities Committee

146.1 Recreation Field – Update if available

The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted Edmund Thornhill regarding the specification for the access and the drainage ditch and was awaiting further information.

2008/149 Finance, Risk Assessment & General Purposes

147.1 To receive and approve the Clerk's Financial Reports

The financial report was received and approved. Cllr Reece Explained that the information provided to Council had changed as he wished to see some continuity for the remainder of the year and that this system was the one he had established to deal with the difficult period of the previous end of year and merging of Councils. He also felt that his system would be More useful for the internal auditor as it was one she was familiar with. He confirmed that after the year end he would be happy for the Clerk to install her own system.

147.2 To receive and sign the balance sheet

The balance sheet was received and signed.

2008/150 To approve the following payments and sign the cheques

The following payments were approved and cheques signed.

100042	Shaw & Sons Ltd	Attendance Register	£63.20
100043	Moore Stephens	External Audits	£1320.11
100044	Mrs J Stanbridge	Salary	£580.41
100045	Mrs J Stanbridge	Expenses	£67.89
100046	HMRC	National Insurance	£34.07
100047	Village Hall Committee	Hall Rental	£34.00

2008/151 Planning

To minute the receipt of the Gypsy & Traveller Sites Development Plan

Cllr Gimblett confirmed that he had read the plan and would work on the draft response.

151.1 Development Control Meeting December 15th, 2008

Cllr Gimblett confirmed that he would be attending this meeting and speak on behalf of Council.

2008/152 Cotton Farm – Proposed Wind Farm Development

Cllr Ridley raised the question of possible consultant funding. It was agreed that if this application went to appeal it would be better for Council to support the Action Group than employ its own consultants and to that end £1000 had been added to the budget under Section 137. The Clerk confirmed she had written to Nita Tinn re the return of the A14 monies which could also be used to support the villages' objections to the proposals but had not yet received a reply. Cllr Reece confirmed he would speak to Ms Tinn.

2008/153 A14 – Update if available

Several councilors had attended the exhibition in Huntingdon and were dismayed to find that The Offords had been omitted. There was also concern over the lack of any major incident management contingency and the Clerk was asked to write again to the Highways Agency reiterating earlier concerns and highlighting this point.

2008/154 Offord Darcy Village Sign - Update

The Clerk confirmed that she now had the measurements. As Roland Fletcher erected the Cluny sign it was agreed that he should be contacted re the Darcy installation and Cllr Reece agreed to mention this when he met up with him. A cheque for £500 from the estate of Graham Sherlock was passed to the clerk. This amount represented a contribution towards the costs of the work needed to construct the base/mounting for a sign.

2008/155 Councillor Reports

Cllr Small informed Council that he had been on the Council for 20 years.

Cllr Young informed Council that there were changes underway at St Neots railway station to improve access/parking.

Cllr Small noted the resignation, due to work commitments, of Cllr Sim.

2008/156 Notices & Correspondence

1. **HMRC Tax Form Information**
2. **Cambs CC Annual Report**
3. **Letter from Four Seasons re garden services**
4. **Development Control Agenda for Dec 15 Meeting**
5. **Letter from HDC re Gypsy & Traveller Sites Development Plan**
6. **Barclays Community Account Statement**
7. **Barclays Business Premium Account Statement**
8. **Cooperative Bank Account Opening Information**

2008/157 Closure of Meeting and Next Meeting Date

The meeting closed at 9.50pm and the next meeting date confirmed as January 8th, 2009.

Cllr Small invited everyone to stay for mince pies and sherry.