

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bitteswell with Bittesby Parish Council
Held at Bitteswell Village Hall on Thursday 16 November 2023 at 7.00pm**

Present: Councillor John Allsopp (Chairman)
Councillor Iain Millington
Councillor Nigel Chapman
Councillor Pippa Clarkson
Clerk Cathy Walsh
District/County Councillor Rosita Page
1 member(s) of the public

1. To receive any apologies for absence

None.

2. To receive disclosures of interests from members and requests for dispensations

None.

3. To approve the minutes from the meeting on 07 September 2023

RESOLVED To approve the minutes as a true record of proceedings.

4. To review any matters raised from the minutes of the meeting on 07 September 2023

4.1. Harborough District Council Website

The clerk wrote to Harborough District Council to state that Parish Council's Councillor vacancies had been omitted from their website. No response was received.

5. To note any matters raised by the District/County Councillor

5.1. Harborough District Council Local Plan Consultation

Consultation on the Issues and Options/Regulation 18 is expected to be undertaken during January to February 2024. The Issues and Options consultation is an important first public stage in preparing the new local plan. It seeks feedback on significant issues, which will inform future stages of preparation of the local plan.

AGENDA item for the next meeting.

5.2. Fielding Palmer Hospital Consultation

The NHS in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) is inviting people to have their say on proposals to improve healthcare services in Lutterworth. The public consultation responds to the changing needs of people in Lutterworth by significantly expanding the number of health services available in Feilding Palmer Hospital on Gilmorton Road, increasing the number of appointments to approximately 17,000 every year. The consultation runs until 14 January 2024.

5.3. Gartree Prison

The Government has ignored the advice of its own planning inspector and ruled in favour of a huge new prison next to the existing HMP Gartree. The controversial Government bid to create the 1,700 place prison was unanimously rejected by Harborough District Council's planning committee in April last year.

Approved & Signed:

The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has ruled the prison can be built in Harborough's countryside after the Ministry of Justice appealed against the refusal. The decision comes despite the planning inspector overseeing the appeal recommending Harborough District Council's original rejection be upheld.

6. To note any comments or matters from residents

None.

7. To receive the annual report form United Charities Bitteswell (UCB)

John Booth on behalf of UCB provided a report on the activities of the charity during 2022. He also provided an update on the grants awarded during 2023. These include funding towards; education, local Foodbank, St Mary's School, the Coronation, The Cricket Club, Produce Show and taxis for those who need transport for hospital appointments etc.

The charity currently has a trustee vacancy.

8. Finance and Audit

8.1. To approve the accounts for payment

RESOLVED To approve the payments listed below:

Ref No.	Method	Payee	Description	Total
E24-48	DD	ICO	GDPR Data Protection Fee to 23.09.24	£35.00
E24-49	SO	Cathy Walsh	Salary - Sep 2023	X
E24-50	SO	DCK Payroll Solutions	Payroll - Sep 2023	£36.00
E24-51	DD	NEST	Pension - Sep 2023	X
E24-52	DD	Tesco Mobile	Mobile phone contract - Oct 2023	£6.00
E24-53	BACS	LRALC Limited	Village Greens training course 04.09.23	£25.00
E24-54	BACS	Bitteswell Village Hall	Hall hire 26.06.23 and 07.09.23	£24.00
E24-55	BACS	Leicestershire County Council	LED Conversion 5th Installment	£2,381.06
E24-56	CHQ	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Q2	X
E24-57	CHQ	Mark Osborne	Village Green grass cutting 15.09.23 and 28.09.23	£500.00
E24-58	CHQ	Mark Osborne	Churchyard Extension grass cutting 30.05.23	£330.00
E24-59	SO	Cathy Walsh	Salary - Oct 2023	X
E24-60	SO	DCK Payroll Solutions	Payroll - Oct 2023	£36.00
E24-61	DD	NEST	Pension - Oct 2023	X
E24-62	DD	Tesco Mobile	Mobile phone contract - Nov 2023	£6.00
E24-63	CHQ	Cathy Walsh	Clerk's expenses	£316.27
E24-64	BACS	SLCC	Annual membership	£91.50

8.2. To note the Bank Reconciliation

Approved & Signed:

NOTED To note the Bank Reconciliation at 09 November 2023

Bank Reconciliation for year ending 31 March 2024

Opening Balance	1-Apr-23	£27,514.68
Receipts to	9-Nov-23	£33,992.95
Payments to	9-Nov-23	-£15,134.32
Cash in hand at	9-Nov-23	£46,373.31
<i>(as per Cash Book)</i>		

Cash in hand per Bank Statements

Current Account	£21,287.18
Business Reserve Account	£24,962.45
Pre-paid Debit Card	£123.68
Plus unrepresented receipts	£0.00
Less unrepresented payments	£0.00
Bank Reconciliation at	£46,373.31
9-Nov-23	

8.3. To note the Receipts & Payments Summary

NOTED To note the Receipts & Payments Summary to 09 November 2023. This monitors the council's income and expenditure against the agreed budget.

8.4. To approve the clerk's expenses claim

Approved.

8.5. To note the Neighbourhood Plan expenditure

Noted.

8.6. To approve the Neighbourhood Plan clerk's expenses claim

None.

9. Planning Matters

9.1. To review and comment on any new planning applications

The Council **RESOLVED** to make no comment on the applications below:

9.2. 23/01544/TCA | Works to trees | 23 Valley Lane, Bitteswell

9.3. 23/01556/FUL | Erection of a steel framed tent hall | Vow Europe Ltd, Magna Park

9.4. 23/01561/FUL | Installation of 10 solar photovoltaic panels to the south facing roof of a rear outbuilding | Newstead, The Green, Bitteswell

Approved & Signed:

9.5. To note/consider any other planning matters or unresolved applications

None.

9.6. To note any enforcement cases

None.

9.7. To receive an update on the Bitteswell with Bittesby Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Allsopp has been unable to prepare the revised document due to work commitments, but will aim to do so by the end of November. He will also consider the proposals of the new local plan (as per item 5.1).

10. To review issues arising from the Village Walkabout**10.1. Pinfold**

The wall needs some remedial work as a number of bricks have become loose.

ACTION clerk to ask Newdigate Builders for a quote to repair.

10.2. Blocked Drains

Leicestershire County Council has attended to the blocked drains.

10.3. Exposed Utility Cover on the Village Green

The council has not received a response from CASS who is responsible for leaving the cover exposed, causing a potential safety issue.

10.4. The Olde Royal Oak

A wall light at the front of the building is damaged and looks unstable. The council informed the landlord of the problem by email, but did not receive a reply.

10.5. AED Kiosk

The AED kiosk needs repainting. This will be scheduled for the spring time.

11. To receive an update on proposals to repair the lychgate at St Mary's Church

The Parish Council has made contact with a number of architectural practices that undertake various projects with churches. It is anticipated that when in receipt of quotes, the Parish Council and Parochial Church Council will meet together to prepare a joint bid for funding from the Magna Park Community Fund.

ACTION Agenda for the next meeting.

12. To schedule an arboricultural survey and review

RESOLVED to ask Symbiosis to undertake a survey and review.

13. To receive an update from the last Magna Park Community Liaison Group meeting

Councillor Millington attended the last meeting and provided an update on discussion points:

Footpath: the footpath re-opened at the end of October

Saplings: a number of saplings that had been planted as part of the landscaping have died. It is expected that re-planting will commence soon.

HGV park: the tender process has begun to find a suitable operator.

Magna Park North: Magna Park North will remain as it is until the completion of Magna Park South.

14. To receive an update on Lutterworth Road Footpath

United Charities Bitteswell is considering whether to donate funds to clearing the footpath instead of towards the urban grass cutting. The Parish Council agreed to contact Harborough District Council to ask for a cost analysis to see how much it would cost to sweep the footpath outside its normal road sweeping schedule.

ACTION Agenda for the next meeting.

15. Any other business

15.1. Local Wildlife Site Schedule - Ashwell Farm, Bitteswell

The owner of Ashwell Farm is proposing to designate parts of his land as a Local Wildlife Site. He invited the Parish Council to visit the site to view the proposals.

ACTION Agenda for the next meeting.

15.2. Councillor Millington

Councillor Millington informed the Council that he was moving out of the area and the next Parish Council is likely to be his last before his resignation.

16. To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting and budget working party meeting

Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 10 January 2024 at 7pm.

Budget Working Party Meeting: Wednesday 06 December 2024 at 7pm. (Not a public meeting)

The meeting was closed at 8.20pm.