

Bitteswell with Bittesby Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

held on Thursday 15th January 2015
at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Mr C Faircliffe	Chairman
Mr R Flint	Vice Chairman
Mrs M Foster	Councillor
Mr C Grimwood	Councillor
Mr Malcom Stringer	Resident
Mrs S Wetton	Clerk to the Parish Council

1. Apologies for Absence Cllr Chris Sanderock.

2. Disclosure of Personal Interests.

There were no disclosures.

3. Minutes of the Last meeting, held on 18th December 2014 to be signed off at the following meeting.

4. Matters Arising

Defibrillator

Funding options have been reviewed by the Clerk, we could apply through the Shire, Vulnerable Adults grant but this is a lengthy process and the Defibrillator cannot be purchased until the grant is secured and there is no assurances that we would be successful. Cllr Foster proposed not to delay the process and the remainder of the funds can be used from the sale of the pump house. We have already received a generous donation of £1,000 from United Charities, the total cost of the Defibrillator without fitting is £2,130.

Gazeley

The Community Forum Application form has now been completed and sent off to Gazeley to review and decide whether we would be successful in receiving £4,500 towards our Neighbourhood Plan.

Grass cutting

A letter has been sent to CGD Contractors informing them that we will terminate our contract. Clerk to chase response, before we commit to the new contractor.

Some reservations due to cost implications and performance of the new contractor as to whether we sign up to take on the LCC grass cutting. Cllr Foster discussed the strip of grass along Ashby Lane beside the field is rough grass and may require larger equipment. The Clerk will speak with the proposed new contractor regarding price and if it is more than LCC are willing to pay we will not proceed.

Ullesthorpe Road – Streetlight

Cllr Foster and the Clerk met on site with an engineer from LCC on 7th January to discuss the potential position of the re-instated streetlight. The Councillors unanimously agreed to proceed with the installation on the edge of Deacon Close to illuminate both the footpath and Close. The Clerk will proceed and confirm with LCC that the quoted price of £1,376.59 will not alter dependant on the location of the underground cables. A letter will also be sent to the Trustee of the Powell and Welch Charity updating them on progress.

Lutterworth Road Footpath

A site meeting took place on 12th January 2015 with Cllr Grimwood, Cllr Flint, Cllr Foster and the Clerk with Mr Mike Sheldrake, Highways Team Manager and his Clerk of Works Andy Hunt.

There is still no update from Severn Trent since they carried out another jetting works on 22nd December 2014. The Cllrs onsite expressed their disappointment with LCC and their duty of care as the footpath at many times is impassable and used by many residents including parents with children.

Mr Sheldrake explained that due to LCC budget cuts they have to prioritise. The sweeping of the path is done by HDC Cleansing Team, Cllr Grimwood asked for support from LCC to ensure that the pathway is kept clean and swept more frequently. Mr Sheldrake confirmed that he would write a letter to the Senior Cleansing Officer asking them to do so, and would copy that letter to BBPC.

Mr Sheldrake advised that if we would consider planting vegetation this would alleviate a lot of the silt and leaves that tend to build up. The Councillors discussed and agreed that as long as the costs are reasonable this would be beneficial.

Cllr Foster is pursuing a contact at Severn Trent that we have had correspondence with in the past to try and escalate the matter with them directly.

Parish Strip

Documentation has been received from Land Registry confirming ownership of land are registered. The Clerk will look through the files for any documents of claims to ownership that we have.

Highways Ownership of Land

Deferred to next meeting.

Draft Settlement Profiles

As part of the evidence for the new Local Plan, a settlement profile has been drafted for Bitteswell with Bittesby. Within the profile it states that an additional allocation of 129 houses can be built within the Parish. We question whether the amount of houses is led by need or opportunity? Any comments to be submitted to HDC before 27th February, to be discussed further at the next meeting.

Bittesby House

The Parish Council wish to complete the relevant application forms to enable them to list the building with English Heritage. We believe it is in imminent danger and also lies within the historic village.

Snow Warden

A resident has expressed interest in becoming a Snow Warden, the Clerk will source further

information regarding the areas that the Snow Warden would be required to cover.

Post Office

The Post Office have replied on the 22nd December, stating that due to the length of time the branch has been closed, they would need to satisfy themselves that any new opportunity would be sustainable for them and the operator.

Powell and Welch Almshouse Plaque

The Clerk had looked into using the remainder of the War Memorial Grant towards the restoration of the plaque, but HDC confirmed that the money could not be contributed towards this project. The initial quote and pictures will be circulated and marked as an agenda item for the following meeting.

5.Matters Raised by Residents/Attendees

Mr Stringer, a resident within Bittesby attended the meeting to discuss the proposed extension of Magna Park. The North development would come right up to the edge of the boundary of his house, therefore he would object to this proposal not least from a personal situation but also would completely dominate visually and amenity wise.

He asked for the PC thoughts and comments towards the expansion, the Chairman expressed his concerns over the impending application and that the PC had already submitted a letter to HDC. Once a formal planning application has been submitted, we will make our decision.

6.Matters Raised by District/County Councillor

7.Finance

Accounts for Payment:

It was proposed by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Grimwood and agreed that the following accounts be paid:

Clerks Salary and Expenses December 2014 - £417.40

E-ON Consumption - £379.76

Village Hall Hire £30.00

Precept 2015-16

No further amendments to the Precept.

Monthly Budget Report attached.

Total balance in the Current Account after cheques drawn is £2,999.09

8.Correspondence

The Clerk produced various items of correspondence which were circulated.

9.Planning

New/Unresolved Applications:

Ongoing/Other Planning Matters:

The Clerk will look into the Ashby Lane development, Lutterworth Soccer Centre and Mere Lane

for an update

Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk has submitted the designated areas to HDC, this will then be publicised and consulted for a minimum of six weeks. HDC will then designate a Neighbourhood Area.

Enforcement

No further update received from Mrs Zacharia, Ms Elaine Bird, Regulatory Services Manager has informed the Clerk that they are potentially looking to review 4-5 cases covering different range of complaints and asked whether there were any specific cases the PC would choose.

The Chairman discussed the fact that it is not necessarily the cases, but the system that needs to be analysed. The information from the Local Government Ombudsman takes into account some of the issues that we have raised, and we can look at pursuing this further.

The Clerk and Cllr Grimwood will send a letter to HDC.

Magna Park – Gazeley and Barwood Exhibitions

This weekend and next there will be exhibitions taking place at the Town Hall in Lutterworth regarding the proposed expansion to Magna Park.

10. Any Other Business

Still no response to the letters sent to Cllr King and Mr Stephen Pointer in November, Cllr Flint to draft further letters to chase them directly.

The Chairman discussed the grass verges towards Ullesthorpe Garden Centre are covered with litter. The Clerk will follow up with HDC/LCC.

The Recycling and Refuse lorries have again cut the corner at the top of West End opposite the Man at Arms, leaving deep tyre tracks in the Village Green. The Clerk will inform HDC.

11. Date of Next Meeting – 19th February 2015 – 7:00pm start

The meeting concluded at 9:55pm.