

Bitteswell with Bittesby Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

held on Thursday 19th February 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
Mrs S Wetton	Clerk to the Parish Council

1. Apologies for Absence Cllr Chris Sandercock

2. Disclosure of Personal Interests.

Cllr Foster and Cllr Grimwood declared an interest in the St Mary's School alterations. There were no further disclosures.

3. Minutes of the Last meeting, held on 18th December 2014 and 15th January 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. There was one amendment from the meeting held in January where Cllr Sandercock's name appeared on the list, but he was not present at the meeting.

4. Matters Arising

Defibrillator

The Defibrillator has now been delivered to the Clerk, one quote has already been obtained from an electrician and the Clerk will also look into retrieving two further quotes to compare. Cllr Foster suggested speaking with Lutterworth Town Council to see whom they had contracted the work out to.

Grass cutting

A confirmation letter received from the current contractors CGD had been received on 23rd January 2015, the Clerk has drafted an acceptance letter to Mr Mark Wilkes for the Councillors approval, to undertake the grass cutting for the 2015 season. All Councillors unanimously agreed for this to be sent.

The Clerk also enquired with Mr Wilkes whether he would consider cutting the verges that are currently maintained by LCC, he confirmed he would do so at a cost of £50 per cut, this is due to the uneven growth and wear and tear to the machinery.

The question still stands whether we should continue with LCC, the Chairman's instincts are for the Parish to carry out the work, as the Lutterworth Road verge is inclusive. The question was raised whether this decision be reversible, the Councillors agreed that subject to arrangement the additional cuts to be carried out by Mr Wilkes. The Clerk will ask for a copy of the contract

from LCC before we proceed.

Lutterworth Road Footpath.

Mr Sheldrake, Highways Team Manager has since replied regarding the planting along the verge. He confirmed that any planting would be funded by the Parish Council and would take on the ongoing maintenance responsibility.

Cllr Foster brought forward her concerns on what type of plants grow well within a shaded and damp area. The other concern would be any contractors requiring access to the services beneath would have to turf up the plants. The Clerk will therefore question Mr Sheldrake, as to what species of vegetation his Forestry and Environmental team advise.

Further to this, Mr Sheldrake is yet to forward us a copy of the letter he agreed would be sent to the Senior Cleansing Officer at HDC, the Clerk will continue to chase.

There had been a burst drain on Ashby Lane recently which also created flooding in the usual spot on Lutterworth Road, Cllr Foster contacted Severn Trent who came out onto site. A subsequent visit confirmed that the drain had collapsed and was blocked with tree roots and silt and requires attention. Another team is due to come out and clear out the drain, but still the problem lies with the water main that needs to be replaced as the current one has collapsed.

Parish Strip

The Clerk searched through the file, for any further documentation to state the PC had marked an interest on this land. The last correspondence from the Solicitor in 2004, stated that the PC could prove by way of Statutory Declaration that during the last 20 years we have maintained the land. We could take a caution against the area of land that is not registered and also the two other sections. The Clerk will speak with Land Registry.

Highways Ownership of Land

Deferred to next meeting.

Draft Settlement Profiles

A reply from Mr Pointer, HDC has been received on 5th February 2015, Cllr Flint will write an acknowledgement letter.

Bittesby House

There is yet to be a formal application for the demolition of the house, the Clerk has completed all the relevant paperwork and supporting documents to list the building with English Heritage. Cllr Foster wondered whether any of the surrounding villages had also taken an interest in the house.

Powell and Welch Almshouse Plaque

The contractors that had sent the quote were the same company that had restored the Church ceiling. The PC concluded that if the surplus money that we had received from HDC for the War Memorial could have been used then they would have given a contribution, but as the money could not come from the pump house funds due to the project not being capital we reluctantly are unable to help.

Parish Council Web Support 2015-16

All Councillors in agreement to continue with the website support.

HDC Call for Sites

Submissions to be made by 25th February, three potential development sites have been reviewed by HDC for Bitteswell so far.

Bitteswell Christmas tree lights

Letter received concerning the outsourcing cost of the erection and removal of the Christmas lights, the PC are in favour of provision and donation, but felt that the cost was excessive. The Clerk will mark as an agenda item for the following meeting to discuss further.

Midland Rural Housing Survey

Within the letter received from Mr Pointer his response generally concentrates on need, the PC will look at the outcome of the survey once processed.

Clerks Pension

Clerk to be the nominated contact, and will register to begin the process.

Mobile Library

The Council are proposing to reduce the frequency of visits and update the stops to take into account new developments and service usage. Consultation documents are available online at www.leics.gov.uk/haveyoursay/mobilelibraries. The consultation closes on 8th April 2015.

Railings Manor Road

Mr Sutton visited the site, but unfortunately when he came to dig the foundation he came across pre-existing services in the places that the rails needed to be situated. If we were to move the railing further towards the wall, the cobbles disappear and if we installed onto the left hand side it would encroach onto the Green and there may also be further services beneath. We also cannot identify how far the cobbles run along the left hand side.

United Charities Grass cutting Contribution

The Clerk will write to the United Charities asking if they would kindly consider giving the PC a donation towards the grass cutting as they have done in previous years, and inform them of the new contractor.

Elections

Nomination packs will be distributed to the Clerk on 13th March for all sitting Councillors and any member of the public who would like to stand. Further information has gone into the newsletter.

Bitteswell Montessori

The Manager from the pre-school had asked the Clerk whether they could advertise events through the PC website, the Chairman confirmed that we cannot be seen to support commercial enterprise.

5.Matters Raised by Residents/Attendees

6.Matters Raised by District/County Councillor

7.Finance

Accounts for Payment:

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

Clerks Salary and Expenses January 2015 - £418.24

Defibrillator - £2,130.00

St Marys School Electricity Christmas Light Donation £30.00

Monthly Budget Report attached.

Total balance in the Current Account after cheques drawn is £3,920.85

8. Correspondence

The Clerk produced various items of correspondence which were circulated.

9. Planning

New/Unresolved Applications:

Ongoing/Other Planning Matters:

15/00079/TCA Oak House, 2 Yeomans Keep, Valley Lane - Works to Trees – **No Comments**
15/00074/FUL Land off Ashby Lane - Erection of a two storey detached dwelling and separate garage building – **Objection letter to be sent, including our concerns with the dangerous road and previous fatalities.**

15/00091/REM (Partial amendments to 13/01282/REM), Land North of Bill Crane Way, Lutterworth - Amendments to 42 dwellings and associated garages, hardstanding, private driveways and open space – **Awaiting further details of the proposed amendments from the Planning Officer.**

Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman and Clerk met with Mr Pointer at the Council Office on 3rd February to discuss the designated area and whether Magna Park should become included within the plan. If the PC were to take on Magna Park it would need to include the full area, which if PC were to include the whole area of Magna Park, this would mean the boundary would have to be extended into Lutterworth and Ullesthorpe which could prove problematic.

Mr Pointer advised that we look to agree a boundary to include area of separation in Bitteswell, but excludes the area of Magna Park making it a more meaningful boundary. The plan could consider including the screening, lighting and bunding around Magna Park.

The Clerk will re-submit the designated areas, including an explanation regarding rational revised boundaries. These include, excluding Magna Park from the plan, and not incorporation Bittesby at this stage.

The Clerk and Chairman also have a meeting with Mr Stubbing's from Gazeley on the 24th February.

Enforcement

Letter received from Ms Zacharia today, referring to the Manor Court case. Again, there are more flaws in the response, Cllr Grimwood wants to ask firstly why the development was approved in the limits of development and secondly the area in question is also within the separation area and the application for the garage was outside the limits of development.

Cllr Grimwood will write a letter addressed to Mr Proudfoot and the portfolio holder Cllr King to ask for a decision on the evidence based from them.

We have received no reply from Mr Proudfoot or Ms Bird, since we sent the letter outlining our chosen cases to be independently reviewed.

The Clerk and Chairman will research the Local Ombudsman.

10. Any Other Business

The Chairman discussed the copy of a Land Capacity map he had in his possession and asked the Clerk to write to Mr Pointer to ask what its status is and whether HDC will use it.

The Clerk was asked to find out when the next annual Tree Inspection is due to take place.

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

The meeting concluded at 9:50pm.