

# *Bitteswell with Bittesby Parish Council*

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015  
at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

### **Present:**

Mr C Faircliffe	Chairman
Mrs M Foster	Councillor
Mr C Grimwood	Councillor
Mr C Sandercock	Councillor
Mrs R Page	District and County Councillor
Mrs S Wetton	Clerk to the Parish Council
Mrs Path Booth	Resident
Mrs Shiela Carlton	Resident

**1.Apologies for Absence** Cllr Reg Flint.

**2.Disclosure of Personal Interests.**

There were no disclosures.

**3.Minutes of the Last meeting**, held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4.Matters Arising**

#### Grass cutting

The new contractor, Mark Wilkes carried out the first cut of the season on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March and did a good job. A couple of additions from the original plan, the Nook and section of grass outside Turnpike Lodge are also to be cut.

#### Lutterworth Road Footpath

No further update received from Severn Trent, they had arrived for a second time, but made no attempt to gain access and have made no contact since. Cllr Foster will chase Sarah Stevens at Severn Trent again.

The Clerk has also chased Mr Sheldrake at LCC for some guidance on what species of plant would grow well in this shaded area.

#### Parish Strip

It appears that a padlock has been put on both gates on the Parish Strip, stopping the PC from gaining entry. The Clerk had looked into putting a caution under the section of land that is not freehold and they confirmed that as the land is unregistered, and has a caution against the first registration title to look into the guidance notes from them before doing so. The Clerk will get back in touch land registry to proceed.

A letter will be sent to the person who is working on the land regarding the padlocks, once the Chairman confirms whether they are locked.

#### Highways Ownership of Land

The Chairman had drafted a letter to LCC regarding the issues of ownership of the strips of land, to the North, South and East of the Alms Houses. The Clerk will circulate the letter for Councillors approval and further comments before sending.

#### Bitteswell Christmas tree lights

All Councillors were unanimous to make a contribution towards the lights, but would like to ask that with good pre-planning and discussion, to coordinate within the village the PC can continue to help and work alongside. A gesture of £100 will be given from the PC. Cllr Foster to discuss further with appropriate people.

#### HDC Open Spaces Strategy Consultation

The Clerk had requested hard copies of this document, however HDC could not supply us with any. However, as we are currently in the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan, within this we can specify what the PC want to register as Green Space.

#### Annual Tree Inspection

The next inspection is due to take place next week w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the Clerk asked the Councillors whether any additional trees required assessing, Cllr Foster asked for the Jubilee tree to be looked at again after initial growing problems.

### **5.Matters Raised by Residents/Attendees**

Mrs Booth discussed the proposed installation of the replacement streetlight along Ullesthorpe Road. The Clerk confirmed that she had received the quote and had been continually chasing LCC to agree a start date. She has arranged to meet with the engineer again onsite, and confirm the location with him to begin the process, Mrs Booth will also attend this site visit.

Mrs Booth asked whether the PC had received any correspondence from LCC regarding a new legislation that is due to be issued in 2015 in association with de-registering the Green/Highways. The Chairman confirmed that the PC have never made a claim to the gardens of the Alms Houses, and suggested that any further correspondence should be dealt with directly from the Powell & Welch Almshouse Charity.

The Powell and Welch Charity wanted to express their disappointment that the PC could not donate funds towards the restoration of the Alms Houses foundation plaque. The Chairman explained that the Clerk had asked for the surplus of the War Memorial grant to be donated, but HDC would not allow this. The repairs are revenue and the pump house funds are capital.

Mrs Booth felt that the hedges along Ashby Lane had been cut too short, and asked that the PC let them grow. No further counter views from the Councillors.

Mrs Carlton discussed as a member of the United Charities, the tenures that are due to expire for both Mr Peter Osborn in November and Mr John Booth in July. The Councillors agreed with Mrs Carlton, that John Booth, as Treasurer of the UC should be reappointed but as there is still a considerable amount of time, would request more guidance regarding Mr Osborn.

The United Charities rejected publishing the article informing residents of upcoming Midlands Rural Housing survey, which will be distributed to all households. They felt that the survey was not supported by the PC and did not wish to support this commercial enterprise.

## **6. Matters Raised by District/County Councillor**

All correspondence received by email.

## **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 February 2015 - £393.82

Mr Grahame Sutton – Cutting hedges on Ashby Lane Parish Strip - £80.00

*Monthly Budget Report attached.*

*Total balance in the Current Account after cheques drawn is £3,447.03*

## **8. Correspondence**

The Clerk produced various items of correspondence which were circulated.

## **9. Planning**

### **New/Unresolved Applications:**

15/00228/FUL The Old Bakery, Manor Road - Erection of single storey summer house - **No comments.**

15/00298/TCA Delamere, Valley Lane - Works to trees – **Circulated.**

### **Ongoing/Other Planning Matters:**

#### Neighbourhood Plan

After the Chairman and Clerk met with Mr Pointer in February, he has sent a new formation of wording from our previous discussions outlining the area the PC want to include within the Neighbourhood Plan. We have proposed to exclude Magna Park commercial area, and not to include Bittesby at this stage.

The revised wording will be circulated to all Councillors and discussed further at the next meeting.

#### Enforcement

A letter has been sent to Mr Proudfoot concerning the Manor Court case on 3<sup>rd</sup> March asking for a response in time for this meeting, but no acknowledgment or reply received.

We also still have received no reply from Mr Proudfoot or Ms Bird, since we sent the letter on 21<sup>st</sup> January, outlining our chosen cases to be independently reviewed.

The Clerk and Cllr Grimwood will collate information on previous dates we have continued to chase for a response from HDC and send another letter asking why we are not receiving any communication from them.

The Chairman researched the Local Ombudsman, and was told by a member of staff in the first instance that they cannot assist or take on any cases in relation to a Parish Council. They were due to call back after speaking with their Manager. The Chairman will look into this further, if we cannot refer to the Ombudsman the matter will have to be referred elsewhere as appropriate.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

Cllr Sandercock asked who else to contact to remove the rubbish that had been left on the top of Woodby Lane, he had rang Litter Line but to no avail. Also, the electricity contractors have left installation debris on site for over six months and it needs to be removed. He asked whether Mr Butcher had left a litter picker, which the Chairman confirmed he had not. The Clerk will chase all these matters with the Street Cleansing Officer at HDC, Mr Kemp.

Cllr Foster informed the Councillors that the front piece of the bench in the Pinfold had been badly damaged and was in need of urgent repair. Cllr Sandercock will take a look at it.

The Head teacher at the School, Mrs Maher asked if the PC had any views on a replacement tree and its position. The Chairman asked that we look at it once the building works complete on the School, but preferably one good substantial tree would suffice.

A note will go into the Newsletter with guidance regarding the Pump House funds that can be spent on capital and ask if anyone has ideas to please come forward. Also, a congenial reminder note regarding works to trees within a conservation area.

**11. Date of Next Meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015 – 7:00pm start**

**The meeting concluded at 9:45pm.**