

Bitteswell with Bittesby Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

held on Thursday 17th December 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

There were no apologies.

2. Disclosure of Personal Interests.

No further disclosures, other than items relating to the School for Cllr Foster.

3. Minutes of the Last meeting, held on 19th November 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

Land to the rear of the Alms-houses

The Parish Council are still awaiting the final legal position from LCC regarding the proposed application from the Alm-shouses to Highways for vehicular access across the Village Green. CG asked the Clerk to clarify if Highways had confirmed in writing, if an application was made that the planning permission would pass through the proper channels.

Action: Clerk

Road Safety Analysis

PCSO Laura Bolton, following on from the last meeting obtained the analysis of the covert street survey, which the Parish Council is now in receipt of. The Clerk had also asked that we could be registered as a 'Community Concern Site', information from Leicestershire Police follows:-

'Any road where a survey shows that more than 20% of vehicles are travelling at 10% +2mph above the speed limit (35 in a 30 limit or 46 in a 40 limit) we deem to have a speeding problem. This was shown to be the case on Ashby Lane (30mph) -29.4%, Ullesthorpe Road – 47.6% (a previous County Council Survey) and Bitteswell Road – 28.6%. On Ashby Lane in the 40's the figure was just 11.1%.

We then look at the recent injury collision history. A road with at least one fatal or serious collision or one with 2 or more slight injury collisions would be visited by the Mobile Camera Vans. All the roads in Bitteswell, thankfully, have not had this level of collisions so we request that Police Officers visit the roads to undertake some enforcement. Police Officer visits are the responsibility of the local neighbourhood Inspector (Inspector Drummond at Market Harborough)'.

MF recalled that along Ashby Lane there have been several fatal collisions in the past, and to ask again why we cannot be deemed as a 'Community Concern Site'.

CG also commented that the visibility when at the junction of Valley Lane is very poor, this road is used by many parents and children during the School run.

Action: Clerk

Parish Strip

Further to the last correspondence with Land Registry, the Councillors asked that the Clerk speak with LRALC for advice and again speak with Land Registry for clarification.

Action: Clerk

Transparency Code

Circulated to all Councillors for further discussion.

Railings Manor Road

CF spoke with one of the builders that have volunteered to install the railings, he is very busy at the moment, CF will continue to arrange a meeting onsite but is waiting on the builder to come back to him.

Action: Clerk

Streetlight

The newly installed streetlight on Ullesthorpe is now connected. The Clerk was in receipt of an email from a resident stating that the streetlight outside the Old Vicarage, Lutterworth Road is obscured by trees which need to be cut back. The Clerk will contact LCC to report.

Action: Clerk

LRALC Sector Led Body for Audit

As of 1st April 2017 the audit regime is changing for Parish and Town Councils. Smaller authorities with a turnover of £25,000 or less, will be exempt from having to submit an annual financial return, but will still need to have an auditor appointed in case there are questions from electors to be resolved. There is no further action unless we wish to opt out, the Parish Council will automatically opt into the new body.

Action: No further action at present

HDC Parish Communication Survey

Completed and agreed unanimously by all Councillors, rating the performance of the departments within HDC.

Housing Needs Survey

The Clerk is still waiting for a response from Mr Pointer, CF advised asking Hayley Cawthorne, Parish Liaison Officer to follow this up.

Action: Clerk

Lutterworth Road

HDC carried out a sweep of the footpath last week, CG asked that we send a reminder to HDC to carry out another sweep in 3/4 months' time.

Action: Clerk

Severn Trent

There is still an outstanding issue that Severn Trent need to address, they have been in contact with the homeowner to gain access once again.

Magna Park Applications

The Parish Councils letters relating to both the Magna Park planning applications are now on the HDC website.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk contacted HDC to clarify the process of advertising a vacancy on the Parish Council. They have confirmed the following:-

'Publish a notice of casual vacancy for 14 working days in order that any persons who may wish to stand for election or to request that an election is held can do so.

Send a copy of the notice of casual vacancy to e.services@harborough.gov.uk or by post to HDC.

After the 14 days have passed the Elections Office will notify you if a request for an election is received. If no request is received we will send a letter notifying you that you may co-opt a person/s to the vacant seat/s'.

5.Matters Raised by Residents/Attendees

6.Matters Raised by District/County Councillor

All matters communicated by email.

7.Finance

Accounts for Payment:

It was proposed by MF, seconded by RF and agreed that the following accounts be paid:

Clerks Salary and Expenses November 2015 - £397.04

E.ON Streetlight Repairs - £10.20

E.ON Maintenance £174.84

Fresh Start Village Maintenance £545.00

HDC Surplus funds from War Memorial Grant £663.00

Precept 2016/17

It was proposed and unanimously agreed by all Councillors to set the Precept for 2016-17 at £9,905 and the Budget at £10,880. Despite constraints, BBPC, as a matter of policy and by careful management, has maintained the Precept at no-increase for the last five years. However, despite having tested the market, the PC is faced with a tariff increase of nearly 50% for electricity consumption. This is reflected in the adopted 2016 Precept.

Monthly Budget Report attached.

Total balance in the Current Account after cheques drawn is £3,379.75.

8.Correspondence

The Clerk produced various items of correspondence which were circulated.

9.Planning

New/Unresolved Applications:

15/01665/OUT – The Clerk is awaiting a response from the case officer Louise Finch regarding

the location of the proposed allotments within this application, and also for a paper copy of the application.

Action: Clerk

15/01757/FUL - Woodbury, Valley Lane - Loft conversion incorporating dormer windows. The Parish Council made no comments to this application.

15/00865/OUT – Db Symmetry Additional Details and Amended Plans. The Clerk circulated.

CF attended a Magna Park meeting led by the Action Group held at Ullesthorpe on Friday 11th December.

Ongoing/Other Planning Matters:

Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk suggested to arrange for Gary Kirk from Yourlocale to attend a future meeting to discuss the process of supporting the Parish Council. Yourlocale are currently working with a large number of Parishes to assist with the Neighbourhood Plan. All Councillors were in agreement for him to attend.

RF has researched the Localism act, in particular schedule 9 of the Localism Act 1990 Town & Country Planning, which concentrated on consideration in seeking to determine the local area. Localism Act does give the Parish Council planning power to a certain level.

Cllr Flint will draw and develop a draft proposal of the neighbourhood area to circulate all Councillors and be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: RF

Enforcement

CF proposed to speak informally with Elaine Bird, regarding the Parish Council's position and to discuss arranging a meeting with Mr Proudfoot; CG was supportive of this suggestion.

Action: CF

10. Any Other Business

Mark Osborne will move the current bin on Manor Road and re-site beside the bus shelter in due course.

CF asked MF when the new tree would be planted at the School, MF confirmed that the Governors had agreed to purchase a tree from the guidance of Mark & Margaret Osborne.

The bollards on the path across the Village Green, still have not been moved back to the correct position. The Clerk will chase the architect again.

Action: Clerk

A resident has spoken with CF regarding the footpath from Valley Lane to Brookfield Way, the stiles are difficult to cross over and a suggestion was made to replace and install kissing gates. The Clerk will contact LCC and Lutterworth Town Council as the other stile falls within their Parish.

Action: Clerk

11. Date of Next Meeting – 21st January 2016 – 7:00pm start

The meeting concluded at 9:55pm.