

Minutes of the meeting of Bitteswell with Bittesby Parish Council Held on Thursday 21st April 2016 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Chris Faircliffe (Chair), Cllr Reg Flint, Cllr Clive Grimwood, Cllr Margaret Foster

Cllr Rosita Page (District Councillor), Peter Willson (PCSO) Cathy Walsh (Clerk to the Parish Council) and 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

None

The Chair welcomed the new clerk, Cathy Walsh and extended his thanks on behalf of the Parish Council to Sophie Wetton the previous clerk.

The Parish Council were all in agreement for the clerk to purchase a mobile phone for Parish Council use. Contact details will be then be issued in the newsletter.

Action: Clerk

2. Declarations Of Interest from Councillors

None

3. To approve the minutes from the meeting held on 17.03.16

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting were approved as a true record of proceedings.

4. Matters Arising

4.1. 2 commune Website Host

The Parish Council's website is currently hosted on a server provided by LCC. This provision will end on 01st September 2016.

Resolved: To enter into a contract with 2commune. At a cost of £250 (+ VAT) set up fee and £250 (+VAT) annual cost for a 3 year contract.

2commune also provide the domain name hosting and management for the Parish Council's website which is due for renewal.

Resolved: The Parish Council approved the renewal cost of £50 (+ VAT) for the period 30.04.16 to 29.04.18.

4.2. Freedom of Information Act Request

A request under the FOI Act has been received to provide a copy of a letter sent in 1993. The document has taken a long time to locate and the estimated time in man-hours is very close to the threshold where the Parish Council can implement a charge.

Action: To consider at the next meeting

4.3. Magna Park Community Liaison Group

The Community Liaison Group invited a representative from the Parish Council to be become involved. The PC felt they could not make a decision without first knowing what the Terms of Reference would be.

Action: The clerk was asked to contact IDI Gazeley for more information.

4.4. Bitteswell with Bittesby Parish Council Policy in respect of Village Green byelaws

Resolved: To adopt the policy

4.5. Land to the rear of the Almshouses

The clerk was asked to chase up correspondence from a solicitor at LCC. The initial correspondence acknowledged that the land is Village Green with BBPC as the registered owner. However, the response was inconclusive and the PC had asked for clarification.

Action: Clerk

4.6. Village Furniture

A replacement bench has been purchased at a cost £601.49 (including VAT). This will be funded by donations from the WI and the family of Mrs Joan Mattock.

4.7. Gate on Public Right of Way

The clerk was asked to chase up an action from the meeting held on 17.03.16 which was to forward a copy of the correspondence from Nigel Dunmore, Public Rights of Way Inspector to the resident who raised the matter.

Action: Clerk

4.8. Litter Pick – Clean for the Queen Campaign

The head teacher at St Mary's Primary School had proposed two dates, either 08.06.16 or 09.06.16. The PC is happy to fit in with whichever date the school decides upon. The equipment has been received. MF will liaise with the grass cutter to ensure that the grass is cut to fit in with the plans.

Action: MF

5. Matters raised by residents, at Chairman's discretion

5.1. Overhanging trees obscuring signage/Signage dirty and obscuring

The school children sign on the Lutterworth Road is obscured by overhanging trees. Also the 'Bitteswell' entrance sign is dirty/obscured.

Action: The clerk to report the matter to Leicestershire Highways.

5.2. Re-Tarmac Village Green Path

A resident referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 15.10.15 which read 'The Diocese and architect have been in contact with one another to discuss reinstatement of the bollards and tarmac...' As this is still outstanding MF agreed to try and resolve the issue.

Action: MF

5.3. Directional finger posts on the Village Green

The directional finger posts have been damaged and require straightening/repairing. This has previously been reported to Highways.

Action: The clerk was asked to report the matter again.

Action: The clerk was also asked to issue the reporting process to Leicestershire County Council Highways in the newsletter.

5.4. Railings – Manor Road

The railings purchased in April 2014 at a cost of £539.59 are still waiting to be installed. A resident questioned whether this was good use of public money and asked when they were likely to be installed. The Parish Council explained that they were still pursuing the installation as there had been a number of problems, beyond their control, to be resolved first. The Parish Council still believe that purchasing the railings is beneficial to the community.

5.5. Painting the Telephone Kiosk

A quote to repaint the exterior of the telephone kiosk was presented to the Parish Council.

Action: For consideration at the next meeting

5.6. Updates from PCSO Willson - Speed Cameras, Speeding and Crime

PCSO Willson contacted the Road Safety Unit who confirmed a speed van would not be deployed as no accidents involving physical injuries had occurred. The PCSO attended two non-injury accidents in Bitteswell since the last meeting. The police also carried out speed checks on Ashby Road and spoke to/advised a number of drivers. Crime is stable, however there has been a number of burglaries in South Leicestershire.

Action: The clerk to submit an article in the newsletter about burglary prevention advice.

5.6.1. Designated Public Place Orders - Churchyard

There has been instances whereby a couple of men have been drinking alcohol in the churchyard. The Parish Council asked PCSO Willson if this was against the law who confirmed that it was not.

6. Matters Raised by District Councillor**6.1. Lych Gate**

The amendment has not been received and there are concerns the 14 day notification period has passed.

Action: Clerk to request a copy of the amended plans

6.2. Speed Humps

The speed humps in the village are beginning to deteriorate.

6.3. Green Plaque Award

The recent Green Plaque Award application was refused.

6.4. Speeding on Ullesthorpe Road and Ashby Lane

Cllr Page will submit a request for a speed gun to be used on these roads where speeding is most prolific.

6.5. Elms Industrial Estate – litter and problems

The problems of litter and waste created at Elms Farm Industrial Estate was discussed.

7. Finance**7.1. Accounts for payment**

7.1.1. LCR - Subscription Renewal | £17.00

7.1.2. Mark Wilkes Grass cutting 14th & 28th March - £200.00

7.1.3. NALC & LRALC - Membership 2016-2017 Renewal | £178.52

7.1.4. E.ON – Electricity Consumption April 2016 | £559.26

7.1.5. Zurich Municipal – Insurance Policy 2016-2017 | £619.71

7.1.6. Jati Ltd – bench and ground anchor kit | £601.49

7.2. Banking Arrangements

The Parish Council would like to change their current bank to one that is in Lutterworth. They would also like to include the full title of the Parish Council on the accounts.

Action: Clerk

7.3. Monthly Budget Report

The Monthly Budget Report was noted.

8. Correspondence

The Clerk produced various items of correspondence for circulation.

9. Planning

9.1. New/Unresolved Applications

9.1.1. 16/002765A/FUL – The amended plans will be circulated for comments.

9.2. Ongoing/Other Planning Matters

9.2.1. Neighbourhood Plan

The presentation from Your Locale was well received. The Parish Council are happy to proceed.

Action: To be formally agreed at the next meeting.

9.3. Enforcement

The Parish Council discussed the planning enforcement cases that are being dealt with in the village. They had queries relating to how enforcement cases were chosen to be opened

Action: Clerk

CF has asked for a meeting with David Atkinson, the new Head of Planning at Harborough District Council to discuss the methodology and process of enforcement.

9.4. Planning Meeting Held on 28.01.16

RF has completed an analysis on the meeting transcript. He will draft a letter and once the Parish Council are in agreement this will be sent to Cllr King, Deputy Leader at Harborough District Council and those on the circulation list.

9.5. Magna Park is Big Enough Action Group

The group are looking to secure funding from the Parish Council. It was felt that any grant funding requests needed to be made formally by the group before they could be considered.

10. Any Other Business

10.1. Footpath outside The Manor

This needs resurfacing. Cllr Page confirmed that Bitteswell are not on the maintenance list for this financial year. It was questioned whether Highways needed to complete the work or whether the Parish Council could obtain a quote.

Action: To be included on the agenda for the next meeting

10.2. Lutterworth Road – Footpath sweep

The footpath has been in a better condition recently because of the good weather. It has been swept twice recently. The schedule can be found on Harborough District Council's website.

10.3. Condition of Drainage

The work to clean the drains has not been completed. This is to be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: To be included on the agenda for the next meeting

8. To confirm the date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Council on Thursday 19th May 2016 at 7.00pm.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.15pm.