

# *Bitteswell with Bittesby Parish Council*

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

### **Present:**

Mr C Faircliffe	Chairman
Mr R Flint	Vice Chairman
Mrs M Foster	Councillor
Mr P Hurst	Councillor
Mrs P Booth	Councillor
Mrs S Wetton	Clerk to the Parish Council
Ms Laura Botlon	PCSO
Ms Jackie Green	Multi Agency Travelers Unit

**1. Apologies for Absence** Cllr Grimwood.

### **2. Disclosure of Personal Interests.**

Cllr Booth declared an interest in the land to the rear of the Alms-houses.

**3. Minutes of the Last meeting**, held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **4. Matters Arising**

#### Defibrillator

The Clerk informed the Councillors that the cabinet for the defibrillator was installed on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June and is now in use. The Clerk will continue to carry out the weekly maintenance checks, but hopefully the original volunteers can co-ordinate to carry out these checks in the future. An awareness session will take place on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July 7:00pm at the Village Hall** for residents to attend, this will be advertised through the Newsletter.

#### Parish Strip

A separate meeting is to be arranged with all Councillors present to discuss the Parish Strip and Neighbourhood Plan.

#### Land to the rear of the Alms-houses

The area of land to the rear of the Alms-houses has been investigated by a solicitor that LCC have approached. LCC confirmed the following on 22<sup>nd</sup> May:-

*“The land in question is a Village Green (VG60) which is registered to the Bitteswell Parish Council but also carries highway rights. Ownership and highway rights are independent of each other – the County Council do not own (i.e. do not have registered title to), but are still responsible for maintaining as the highway authority the vast majority of highways within Leicestershire.*

*It is an offence to park on a village green even if that village green carries highway rights. The highway rights, even if they took supremacy over the village green would be to pass and re-pass. Parking on the village green/highway goes beyond this and it is an offence to prevent access to a village green which would occur if cars were parked upon it. Therefore the advice from our solicitor is that while a permit for a vehicular access could legally be issued from a highway perspective, it would be of little use as parking on the village green would constitute an offence in itself.*

*In summary it is the view of Leicestershire County Council that parking on the Village Green should not be permitted and would constitute an offence”*

LCC have received correspondence from the Alms-House Committee disputing the decision and it has again been referred to a Solicitor, but LCC believe the final decision will not change. The Clerk will follow this up further.

#### E.ON Unmetered supply increase

Cllr Flint is in the process of reviewing the annual usage and breakdown of cost for the streetlights.

#### HDC Assets of Community Value Listings

Paperwork circulated relating to this, there is nothing that the Councillors would like to take action on at the moment.

#### Railings Manor Road

Two builders within the village have agreed to undertake the work, we firstly need a quote for the work and to arrange for the posts to be collected from Graham Sutton. Cllr Booth will action.

#### Bittesby House

We have unfortunately been unsuccessful with our application to Historic England to list Bittesby House. The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has asked HE to consider our application in their role as the Government's statutory adviser on the historic environment with responsibility for listing. A brief section of the report's findings are outlined below:-

\* *Lack of architectural interest: the house is of modest architectural quality and lacks both external and internal detailing of special interest;*

\* *Comparative significance: mid-late C19 houses of this type survive in very considerable quantities in both urban and rural contexts throughout England, and only examples of architectural distinction merit designation.*

\* *Conclusion*

*Although Bittesby House has strong associations with a person of high reputation in the medical profession, and is a well-preserved example of its type and period, thus possessing some claims to interest, Bittesby House does not merit designation in a national context.*

The Clerk will look further into the appeals procedure.

#### Tree Inspection

The Clerk will continue to try and contact Stuart Freeman regarding the written report following the Tree Inspection that took place in March 2015.

#### War Memorial

Cllr Booth asked when the repainting of the letters will be done, all Councillors agreed that now the better weather is upon us to proceed with the work and use the surplus funds from the grant

received by HDC for the War Memorial.

#### Litter Picker

The current litter picker is in a bad state of repair, the Clerk will contact HDC for a replacement.

#### Tree replacement for St Mary's School

Cllr Booth asked when a decision would be made on the replacement tree to replant outside the School after the Ash Tree was removed. Cllr Foster explained that as this is still under HDC's jurisdiction, they will have to take an interest on what chosen species is planted. The PC proposal was to plant a Christmas tree, however HDC's planning condition involves planting another Copper Beech to pre-empt the eventual demise of the current Copper Beech. This would not be advisable as the tree will grow far too big.

The Chairman also discussed the posts on the Village Green outside of the School, they had been removed and have been put back in too far out from the pavement. Cllr Foster will forward the contractors details onto the Clerk to write to them directly.

#### Noticeboards

Cllr Booth discussed both the noticeboard in the Pinfold and at the Village Hall which have now been cleared. They are in need of some repair and a coat of paint, this will be discussed further at the next meeting.

#### Parking under the Chestnut Tree

Cllr Booth asked what the current situation is with the parking, as it seems to be getting worse. The Chairman agreed that the posts are not positioned on the boundary of the Village Green, and asked for Cllr Booth to bring forward any ideas for further action we could take.

#### Streetlight Ullesthorpe Road

The streetlight is currently on order and will take 6-12 weeks.

#### Community Speedwatch

The Chairman asked for thoughts on being trained to undertake responsibility to use the speed gun, the general consensus was that we should not be responsible for this. The Clerk will look into whether the village can be listed as a 'Community Concern Site'.

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

The Councillors expressed their concern in the upsurge of antisocial behavior, and the points that were relayed included the concerns that had been raised at the last meeting. With regards to the abusive language from a passing van to a young girl in the village, PCSO will check on the system that this had been reported and follow up.

Speeding along Ullesthorpe Road and Lutterworth Road, seems to be a concern again the PCSO will request to have a Police Officer with the speed gun. The Chairman also asked that following a few incidents, residents would feel happier if the patrol cars drove around the village rather than just passing through.

Jackie Green has been involved with many of the residents that live on the Mere Farm site and agreed that at times when the behavior can be antisocial that some residents of the surrounding villages can feel threatened. There is a dedicated Police Office, Adam Wardle, they also work closely with HDC to reassure the Parish Council that issues can be resolved and advised to contact her directly if there are any issues.

## 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:

Clerk's Salary and Expenses May 2015 - £401.67  
Mark Wilkes Grass cutting 11th & 26th May - £200.00  
E.ON Maintenance - £174.84  
Julie Morris Internal Audit - £60.00

#### Annual Audit

The Clerk presented the Annual Governance Statement contained in the Annual Return for 2014/15. The Statement was completed and signed by the Chairman and Clerk. The Internal Auditor had examined and reported on the Accounts.

*Monthly Budget Report attached.*

*Total balance in the Current Account after cheques drawn is £5,415.92*

### 8. Correspondence

The Clerk produced various items of correspondence which were circulated.

### 9. Planning

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

**15/00637/TCA** – 1 Powell Row, The Green – Works to trees. **Circulated**

**15/00865/OUT** – Db Symmetry, Outline application for the erection of up to 278,709sqm of Storage, Distribution buildings (B8) with ancillary B1(a) offices, creation of access onto A4303 and emergency services only access onto A5, formation of a Lorry Park, creation of SuDS facilities and other associated infrastructure and the demolition of Glebe Farmhouse (Means of access only to be considered). **Circulated.** The application is outside of the Parish boundary and we do not have access to the documents. The Clerk will ask the case officer if there is a general place that the application can be viewed i.e. the Library.

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

##### Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman asked both Cllr Hurst and Cllr Booth their understanding and views on a Neighbourhood Plan, both agreed that they had some knowledge on this. We need to again, try to generate some interest in this with the residents.

##### Enforcement

The offer of an independent review by Mr Proudfoot is still being looked into and costing proposals are being discussed. The Chairman, again reported that the Ombudsman would not consider taking on cases with Town or Parish Councils. We could write to our new MP or Secretary of State further down the line. The Clerk will chase again with HDC.

##### Magna Park

Cllr Flint discussed the revised draft letter to be sent to Mr Pointer, the Chairman agreed with Cllr Flint and was happy to take his judgement and proceed to question Mr Pointer on the particular matters that need addressing.

5 Year Housing Supply

Cllr Flint requested that we obtain hard copies of the document, to allow consideration by Councillors.

**10. Any Other Business**

The WI had approached Cllr Foster to ask if it would be possible to plant some bulbs in the verge to the front of the Alms-houses. All Councillors in agreement.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that her printer has not been working correctly and the quote to fix it was around £30 plus VAT, and asked that we look at purchasing another and split the cost with SKPC(South Kilworth Parish Council). All were in agreement for the Clerk to proceed.

**11. Date of Next Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015 – 7:00pm start**

**The meeting concluded at 9:40pm.**