

Bitteswell with Bittesby Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

held on Thursday 17th September 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
Mr P Hurst	Councillor
Mrs P Booth	Councillor
Mrs S Wetton	Clerk to the Parish Council
Mark Osborn	Resident
Margaret Osborn	Resident

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Disclosure of Personal Interests.

Cllr Booth declared an interest in any discussions relating to the Alms-houses, and Cllr Foster declared an interest in discussions relating to the School.

3. Minutes of the Last meeting, held on 20th August 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

Parish Strip

Cllr Booth has completed the application form and sent onto Land Registry. The Clerk received a letter of acknowledgement from Land Registry on 7th September 2015.

**Action: PB, PH &
Clerk**

Land to the rear of the Alms-houses

We are still awaiting the final decision on the application from the Legal Team at LCC.

Cllr Booth had asked the Chairman of the Alms-Houses to forward to the Clerk, the proposed plans that had been submitted to gain some clarity on what the application was for. Council was reminded that it still awaits reply from Highways about the status of the land and re-iterated that it was part of the Village Green.

Action: Clerk

Traffic Concerns

The Clerk has been in contact with the Road Safety Analyst at Leicestershire Police to arrange for a covert survey to take place on Ashby Lane. We have received correspondence from concerned residents regarding the speed of cars travelling down this stretch of road. They have confirmed that a covert survey will take place on the 30mph stretch within the next 4-6 weeks, to give an accurate picture of the speed and volume of traffic. The Clerk will also ask for Ullesthorpe and Lutterworth Road to be included.

Action: Clerk

WI Bench on the Village Green

Cllr Foster discussed with the WI committee a replacement bench for the Village Green, the WI committee thought that it may be possible to contribute £100 towards this and also asked if the existing plaque could be used on the new wooden bench.

Action: PB

United Charities

The United Charities have kindly offered a donation of £500 to match fund the items that the Parish Council have discussed need replacing from the village walkabout. These include, the WI Bench and Bin on the Village Green, the Bench and Noticeboard in the Pinfold and the noticeboard within the Bus Shelter. Cllr Booth will proceed with the Community Grant Application through HDC and return to the Councillors for their approval before submitting.

More information on the design of their proposal for a Village Sign has been received from the United Charities. Cllr Booth will apply for a Community Grant Fund at HDC and a decision can then be made whether the Parish Council wish to proceed to purchase another sign. The previous sign and location had mixed views, suggestions were made to place it at one of the gateways to the village on the roads from Lutterworth, Ullesthorpe or Ashby Lane.

Action: PB

Priorities

The Chairman wants each Councillor to look at the resources and understand what the priorities of the Parish Council are.

Cllr Grimwood, responding to the weight of issues presently facing the Council, resurrected his proposal of some years ago to delegate lead responsibility with terms of reference and staged briefing reporting of progress. Cllr Grimwood offered his lead on Magna Park extension and Enforcement issues as his contribution.

The Neighbourhood Plan is high priority, but we need people to lead this and work alongside the Parish Council within a sub-committee. The Chairman asked that Councillors refresh their memory on the Neighbourhood Plan and one take a lead role on this project. The Clerk will arrange another meeting with all Councillors present to discuss the designated area and begin to move the application further forward.

The Local Plan Options consultation is open for comment from **Friday 18 September until Friday 30 October 2015**. This is a very important document and will have a significant impact to the number of houses that the Village will receive. There is a **drop-in “surgery” at the Wycliffe Rooms on 7th October 2015 between 12 noon to 7pm.**

Magna Park Planning Applications

The Parish Council are yet to submit comments to HDC on the two applications from IDI Gazeley and Barwood. Cllr Flint has begun to draft a letter, many of the grounds for objection are common on both applications. It is an evolving situation, archaeological surveys are being carried out, and pollution levels will also be assessed.

Traffic Signage – 20mph for the School

The Councillors didn't feel that we would benefit from more signs and don't want urbanisation in the village, and also questioned whether they would be adhered to.

Grasscutting

Our contractor Mark Wilkes has re-seeded Lutterworth Road verge using a shade resistant mixture. The Clerk had requested to LCC for the overhanging branches along this verge to be cut back, this will be raised this with an inspector but normally highways will only cut back if they are causing obstruction to passing vehicles or pedestrians.

The Chairman discussed the contractor's performance, and all were in agreement that the Village Green looks the best it has done for a long time and he is doing a great job. The Clerk will send a letter of appreciation to Mark Wilkes to acknowledge his work.

Action: Clerk

It was noted that the car parked under the Chestnut Tree has been there for some time now, and the grass is now dying. A member of the council will discuss this with the owners of the vehicle.

Action: BBPC

Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

Cllr Hurst had been approached by a resident asking for the support of BBPC to commemorate the celebration of the Queen's 90th Birthday. The ideas for the event were picnics on the Village Green, fancy dress competition, races and maybe a scarecrow competition. In principle, the Parish Council agree that the Village Green may be used, as long as relevant Liability Insurance is in place. The Chairman would ask that a costed proposal is prepared for the Council so it may consider making a financial contribution towards the cost, the United Charities would also be prepared to help.

Action: PH

Website

Cllr Hurst had taken some time reviewing other Parish Councils websites, he will put together a proposal to add new pages to target younger age-groups where websites are their first port of call when seeking information. At the moment the Clerk is the only person who can upload, and create new webpages.

Action: PH

Publication of Draft Minutes of Parish Council Meetings

Cllr Hurst had undergone some research into the publication of draft minutes, the Transparency Code for Local Councils requires that they are published on a website within 30 days of the meeting. The new regime would mean that after the Clerk has wrote the minutes of the meeting and circulated to the Councillors for amendments, this would then be published as a draft copy. Councillors had very mixed feelings towards this, Cllr Hurst suggested that the Parish Council trial the new procedure to see how it goes. The majority of Councillors were in favour to go ahead with the trial and review at the next meeting.

Cllr Hurst also circulated two options of alterations to the minutes to include action points, no countermeasures on this were made and in principle all were in agreement to begin.

Action: Clerk

Re-Tarmac Village Green Path

The Diocese and architect has been in contact with the Headteacher of the School, and the posts have also been looked at by the architect who thought that they had been replaced in the original position.

Action: Keep under review

Tree Preservation Order

It was suggested that a resident in the village who has the relevant knowledge and qualifications in this sector could be asked to impartially advise what trees they felt would benefit from a TPO.

Action: MF

Village Improvements

Cllr Booth informed the Councillors that the painting that had been arranged for items in the village will be done in the next 4-6 weeks.

The grinding of the tree stump on the Village Green will also be carried out w/c 21st September.

Action: PB

5.Matters Raised by Residents/Attendees

Mark & Margaret Osborn commented that the drains by the Church are blocked, and after the heavy rain over the weekend the water was flooding out. The Clerk was also in receipt of an email from another concerned resident regarding the blocked drains, who had been in contact with both LCC and Severn Trent. The Clerk will look into this further

Cllr Grimwood also discussed the agreement that we had with Mr Sheldrake from LCC to support our representation to HDC for three sweeps a year to the Lutterworth Road footpath as the mud is heavily embedded into the path. He requested that timings be calendared in advance.

Action: Clerk

6.Matters Raised by District/County Councillor

7.Finance

Accounts for Payment:

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

Parish Strip Land Registry Documents £130.00
Clerks Salary and Expenses August 2015 - £398.40
Mark Wilkes Grasscutting 3rd & 17th August - £200.00
Grant Thornton Annual Return - £120.00
Cllr Hurst Mileage to Training Course - £19.50
Ladywell Accountancy Services - £37.00
E.ON Maintenance - £174.84
LRALC Cllr Training - £70.00
Cllr Booth Reimbursement for Postage Costs - £7.25
Multi Choice CopyShop £28.00

Monthly Budget Report attached.

Total balance in the Current Account after cheques drawn is £1,803.74

8.Correspondence

The Clerk produced various items of correspondence which were circulated.

We received a correspondence from a resident regarding our letter to HDC relating to the IDI Gazeley and Barwood applications, asking when we would be submitting our comments.

9.Planning

New/Unresolved Applications:

15/01233/FUL - Bitteswell Farm, Ashby Lane. Change of use of two agricultural barns to general industrial (B2) and storage or distribution (B8) use - The conditions of previous applications need to be reviewed, the Clerk will liaise with Rosita and draft a letter.

Action: Clerk

15/01275/TCA - Dan Y Deri, The Green. Works to trees (fell) - Comments to be submitted to HDC.

Action: Clerk

15/01332/TCA – Orchard House, The Nook. Works to trees (fell) - Comments to be submitted to HDC.

Action: Clerk

15/01339/TCA – Porganna house, The Nook. Works to trees – No comments.

Action: Clerk

Ongoing/Other Planning Matters:

15/00919/FUL & 15/00865/OUT

Cllr Grimwood and Sheila Carlton asked if the Village Green could be used to erect a gazebo and display information relating to the applications, the Chairman agreed this could go ahead.

An update from the planning officer at HDC, the number of objections has declined in the last month, however Bitteswell was well represented in this amount.

Action: CG

Neighbourhood Plan

A separate meeting to be arranged by the Clerk to discuss further.

Action: Clerk

Enforcement

A review has been carried out by the Barrister regarding the five chosen enforcement cases, this was received on the 28th August 2015.

HDC have requested a meeting to discuss the outcome of the review and to develop a way forward. Cllr Grimwood asked the Clerk to request copies of the full documentation on Manor Court which was sent by HDC to the Barrister whom they commissioned, together with the precise briefing he was given. We want to be in receipt of this before a meeting is arranged.

Action: Clerk

5 Year Housing Land Supply

Cllr King is in receipt of our letter sent by the Clerk, an email has been received acknowledging that he would respond in 2-3 weeks.

Action: RF

10. Any Other Business

Cllr Flint has looked into alternative energy suppliers to bring the costs down from the current tariff supplied through E.ON, he will continue to pursue.

Action: RF

Cllr Foster discussed a potential development of houses off Brookfield Way, houses within

Lutterworth have already been leafleted.

The refuse collectors have again been cutting the corner at the entrance to West End, the Clerk will contact HDC.

Action: Clerk

11. Date of Next Meeting – 15th October 2015 – 7:00pm start

The meeting concluded at 9:35pm.