

Minutes of the Meeting of Bitteswell with Bittesby Parish Council Held on Thursday 15th November 2018 at 7.00pm in Bitteswell Village Hall

Present: Reg Flint (Chair), Cllr Grimwood, Cllr Foster, Clerk Cathy Walsh, District/County Councillor Rosita Page, PC Andy Cooper, Sgt Gurpreet Mulley and 5 member(s) of the public.

1. To receive any apologies for absence

None.

2. To receive Declarations of Member's Interests

None.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24.10.18

Resolved: To approve the minutes as a true record of proceedings.

4. To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 24.10.18

4.1. Community Concerns – Gypsies and Travellers

At the meeting held on 24.10.18 reports were asserted of disturbing events in Ullesthorpe. What was reported included assertions of fighting, stone throwing at cars, brick throwing, the sounds of apparent gunshots, and villagers confined to their homes. As this meeting was public it is likely that the matters reported will be discussed more widely and likely with anxiety. The Parish Council wrote to Chief Constable Simon Cole requesting his assistance in mitigating this situation by having an authoritative statement placed within the public domain. It requested an appropriate officer, suitably briefed with any relevant facts, to attend its next parish council meeting.

Further to this letter PC Andy Cooper and Sgt Gurpreet Mulley attended the meeting to explain the measures the police are taking to tackle the situation at Mere Lane.

The police are undertaking a community consultation to determine how many Ullesthorpe residents have been impacted by such incidents. Findings so far, show that the majority of residents have not been affected. The police may expand the community consultation to neighbouring villages such as Bitteswell and Claybrooke Magna/Parva.

Police are working with residents on Mere Lane and reported that the majority live harmoniously with locals. The reports of gunshots were substantiated. This incident occurred due to family rivalry between residents on Mere Lane and outsiders. The incident is being dealt with by Leicestershire and Thames Valley Police forces.

Some of the reported incidents are being carried out by children who are attempting to achieve dominance hierarchy. The police force is working alongside Social Services to resolve this.

A joint agency approach is needed and the Police, Social Services, District Council (Enforcement and Planning), National Health Service and Children's Services all need to work together.

The police are working hard and the Parish Council is pleased the police attended the meeting, which has been encouraging and instils confidence. Officers will update at the next meeting.

5. To note any comments or matters raised by residents, at Chairman’s discretion

Planting bulbs in the verge by the church wall

United Charities Bitteswell asked who it needs to approach to gain permission to plants some bulbs in the verge by the church wall. The land does not belong to the church or the Parish Council, it is believed to belong to Leicestershire County Council Highways.

Action: The Parish Council will make enquiries.

6. To consider United Charities Bitteswell’s (UCB) request to purchase a WW1 memorial bench

Moved from agenda item 14.

Harborough District Council (HDC) will provide £500 funding towards a bench and £40 towards a plaque to be incorporated onto the bench. To receive the funding the Parish Council agreed to purchase the bench on behalf of UCB. UCB agreed to reimburse the Parish Council for any costs (including installation) over and above the funding from HDC.

Resolved: To order a wooden bench (as per the memorial bench ordered by Willoughby Waterleys Parish Council).

Resolved: The Parish Council will take ownership of the bench. This means it will be covered under its insurance policy, be included on its Asset Register and the PC will be responsible for maintenance costs.

Resolved: To agree that the bench will be located at The Pinfold.

7. To note any matters raised by the District/County Councillor

Cllr Page provided an update on current matters, including, the Harborough District News – Winter Edition publication and unitary council(s) for Leicestershire meeting date.

Earlier this year the District Council agreed to revise its planning procedures. This requires a revision of the HDC Constitution. The Parish Council asked Cllr Page to obtain a copy of the revisions of the Constitution.

Action: Cllr Page.

8. Financial Matters

8.1. Accounts for payment

Payee	Description	Totals
Cathy Walsh	Expenses November 2018	£86.99
E.On	Street light repair Ashby Lane	£48.00
Cathy Walsh	November's salary and allowances	£446.69
Bitteswell Village Hall	Hall hire: Oct, Nov and December 2018	£50.00
Total		£631.68

8.2. Bank Reconciliation and Receipts & Payments Summary to 09.11.18

Opening Balance	1-Apr-18	£27,970.55
Receipts to	9-Nov-18	£14,453.12
Payments to	9-Nov-18	-£11,917.34
Closing Balance	9-Nov-18	£30,506.33

The balance carried forward is represented by these funds

Current Account	£4,137.92
Business Reserve account	£27,000.09
Add income received but not yet cleared	£0.00
Less payments made but not yet presented	-£631.68
Bank Reconciliation to	£30,506.33

9. Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS): To receive an update on when it will become operational

The Parish Council confirmed that Chris Faircliffe and Mark Osborne are still happy to look after the MVAS.

10. To discuss the progress of the Agreement for White Cottage

Cllr Foster agreed to take the lead on this. It is possible that the PC may be able to get free legal guidance. If not Cllr Foster will contact the recommended solicitor.

11. To consider Leicestershire County Council's incentive to convert to LED Street lighting

LCC has provided detail of the process and the costs/savings involved. The Parish Council is keen to explore the incentive further as the conversion will provide cheaper energy and maintenance costs and the savings should outweigh the conversion costs over a 5 year period. Cllr Flint will contact LCC to discuss the matter and clarify issues.

Action: Agenda for the next meeting.

12. To receive any updates on Lutterworth Road Footpath

This is a long standing problem which needs attention. LCC stated that it has no immediate plans to resurface the footpath, but it will keep it under review. Cllr Foster agreed to contact the owner of The Manor House to confirm the works Severn Trent Water has recently undertaken on their land.

The Parish Council believe that by working together with local schools and residents it may be able to agree on a strategy to get people galvanised into action.

Action: Agenda item for January's meeting.

13. Community Concerns Meeting update and to approve the draft letter to HDC

On 01.11.18 a meeting was held to address concerns raised by local residents and businesses regarding the local Gypsy and Traveller sites, in particular the Mere Lane site. Representatives from ten local councils, Cllr Page and PC Andy Cooper were in attendance. From this meeting the concerns and comments raised were drafted in a letter addressed to Cllr Bannister,

Harborough District Council Leader.

Along with many other concerns, frustrations lie with lack of planning enforcement action by Harborough District Council.

The police are dealing effectively with the majority of crimes. However there are many petty crimes committed by children which the police and Social Services are alert to.

Resolved: The Parish Council approved the draft letter.

Action: The Parish Council would like to express its gratitude to Katherine Clarke (the clerk to Ullesthorpe Parish Council) for her involvement in the meeting and composing the letter. The PC would also like to ask Katherine if there are any costs involved for her time that it may be able to meet.

Action: The clerk to contact.

14. LCC Snow Warden Scheme 2018/19: To consider participating in the scheme

Mark Osborne volunteered for the post of Snow Warden. He will attend a training session run by LCC and be provided with the equipment he needs for the role. LCC will make a contribution payment toward the cost of hours worked. This payment is a contribution to the parish, not the individual. Remuneration to snow wardens is at the discretion of the Parish Council. This will be considered when setting the budget for 2019/20 at the next meeting.

Action: The clerk to write to Mark Osborne to thank him for volunteering for the role.

15. Planning Matters

15.1. To note any planning matters – new and unresolved applications

15.1.1. 18/01819/TCA | Works to trees | The Moors, Valley Lane

Resolved: To support the application.

15.1.2. 18/01849/FUL | Development of a pumping station from Magna Park's services farm and rising main link to public sewer | Land adjacent sewage works, Mere Lane

Resolved: To make no comment on the application.

15.1.3. 18/01602/FUL | Alterations to fenestration of outbuilding and change of use from agricultural to residential use | Sunnyside, Ashby Lane

The applicant of the planning application asked the Parish Council when and how a decision was reached to object to this application. The Parish Council explained its procedures when dealing with planning applications and making its representations to HDC. The Parish Council objected as it believes the application is contrary to the Development Plan.

15.2. To consider which trees to put forward for a Tree Preservation Order Request

The PC identified potential trees that may be suitable for a TPO and asked Bitteswell's Tree Wardens for their advice on its recommendations. This is ongoing.

15.3. To note/discuss any enforcement cases

None.

15.4. Other Planning Matters

None.

15.5. Neighbourhood Plan – Next Steps

A Neighbourhood Plan meeting held on 27.10.18 was well attended. John Allsopp agreed to take up the role of Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee.

The next meeting will be held on 21.11.18 and Gary Kirk from YourLocale will be in attendance. This is a change to the date published in the newsletter, a flyer advertising the new date is to be delivered to each house in the village.

16. Any other business**Councillor Vacancy Leaflet**

A leaflet drop was undertaken to all residents advertising the Parish Councillor vacancies. A couple of interested parties attended the meeting and the clerk agreed to forward some information about Parish Councils/Parish Councillors to them.

Letter to Chief Constable Simon Cole (Agenda item 4.1.)

The Parish Council would like to send a note of thanks to Chief Constable Simon Cole for sending his officers to the meeting and look forward to the review they have offered for the next meeting of BBPC.

West End – overhanging greenery

It was reported that some of the greenery at the West End is overhanging onto the Village Green. The Parish Council will inspect and ask Mark Osborne to remove if necessary.

Grass Contractor

The Parish Council would like to express its thanks to Mark Osborne for clearing the leaves at The Nook. It looked immaculate for the Remembrance parade. It was also noted that Mark always keeps the Village Greens looking impeccable and the Parish Council is grateful for all Mark's efforts and hard work.

Action: Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Mark Osborne.

17. To confirm the date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 20th December 2018 at 7.00pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 08.35pm.