

Minutes of the meeting of Bitteswell with Bittesby Parish Council Held on Thursday 16th March 2017 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Chris Faircliffe (Chair), Cllr Reg Flint, Cllr Clive Grimwood, Cllr Margaret Foster, Cathy Walsh (Clerk), and 5 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

None.

2. To receive Declarations of Member's Interests

None.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16.02.17

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

4. Matters Arising - To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16.02.17

4.1. Magna Park Liaison Group – Lighting at Magna Park

Cllr Faircliffe provided an update on the new LED lighting at Magna Park. While this is energy efficient, the light can be quite harsh. This is particularly true of the old George warehouse, Unit 2110.

Action: The clerk was asked to contact Harborough District Council (HDC) to request sight of the lighting conditions which were applied when planning permission was granted for Unit 2110.

4.2. Damaged Street Light on Lutterworth Road

The two quotes and photos of the damaged light had been submitted to the Parish Council's insurance company. As there was still no progress with this Cllr Foster agreed to chase this up.

Action: Cllr Foster.

5. To note any comments or matters raised by residents

5.1. Precept for 2017-2018

A resident queried the reasoning for the precept increase for 2017-2018. The Parish Council (PC) explained that historically they had tried to keep the precept increase very low or at zero. However, the obligations on Parish Councils have changed, that and the potential precept capping in the future means that the PC must be able to cover their costs. Much of the additional spend during 2016-2017 was on the clerk's salary. The appointment of a new clerk and the training and handover period plus the set up time of the new website which the PC are obliged to have resulted in an increased work load. It is anticipated that the number of hours the clerk will be required to work will increase and the PC are obliged to budget for this expenditure.

The PC are mindful to keep expenditure to a minimum and if they find they have over-estimated in their budget/precept requirement for 2017-2018 they will have the opportunity to reduce this the following year.

It was noted that despite the Parish Council having funds in their Capital Account revenue expenditure, like salaries, can not be paid from capital funds.

5.2. Corner Cottage Improvements

The owner of Corner Cottage attended the meeting to provide information on the improvements currently being undertaken on their property. As Bitteswell is in a conservation area they are keen to ensure that the improvements are sympathetic to this. The original concrete rendering has been removed and will be replaced with lime based render. The UPVC windows will be replaced with painted wood. The scaffolding is expected to be removed in approximately 2 weeks.

The 'Ashby Lane' road sign which used to be attached to the rendering on the side of the property has been removed. The owners do not want the sign to go back on the side of their house, but are happy for it to be placed on the grass outside their house.

The PC thanked the resident for attending the meeting and for their aesthetic taste in the improvements.

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

None.

7. Financial Matters

7.1. Accounts for Payment

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Totals
37	Cathy Walsh	Clerk's salary and allowances - March	£446.09
38	Cathy Walsh	Clerk's expenses - February & March	£12.94
Total			£459.03

7.2. Financial Statement – Bank Reconciliation to 10th March 2017

Opening Balance	1-Apr-16	<u>£33,717.79</u>
Receipts to	10-Mar-17	£14,512.81
Payments to	10-Mar-17	-£17,435.79
Closing Balance	10-Mar-17	<u><u>£30,794.81</u></u>

The balance carried forward is represented by these funds

	£
Current Account	£1,542.44
Business Reserve account	£29,711.40
Add income received but not yet cleared	£0.00
Less payments made but not yet presented	-£459.03
Bank Reconciliation to	<u><u>£30,794.81</u></u>
10-Mar-17	

Cllr Grimwood had some enquires regarding clerk's salary payments and how these are verified.

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

8. To review the Parish Council's street lighting policy

The Parish Council were interested to know what options were available to them if they wanted to upgrade their street lighting to LED lights. The clerk had made enquiries with Leicestershire County Council (LCC) and was asked to contact e.On for information too.

9. Traffic Calming**9.1. To receive an update on the purchase of a Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS)**

The Parish Council had considered sharing the cost of a MVAS with Misterton with Walcote Parish Council (MWPC). However, Walcote has been selected by LCC as one of seven trial sites across the county to receive a speed camera. Therefore MWPC has deferred making any decision on purchasing a MVAS until after the trial.

The PC are still keen on the idea of purchasing a MVAS and will make a decision on purchasing one of their own at the next meeting.

Action: Agenda item for the next meeting.

9.2. To receive the results from the recent community speed monitoring

The results were noted and the information reinforces that there is a speeding problem in the village.

10. To consider the Powell and Welch Almshouse Charity's plans for the Queen's Gateway

The Parish Council are agreed that the plans will not set a precedent or compromise the Village Green Policy. They will inspect the area on their Village Walkabout.

11. To receive an update on the following**11.1. The condition of drainage in the village**

The PC were still chasing an update from Severn Trent Water.

Action: The clerk to escalate the situation to senior management in STW and to copy Alberto Costa MP in the correspondence.

Since Mark Osborne has cleaned the footpath the situation has improved significantly. The Parish Council wanted to formally thank Mark for his help and hard work.

11.2. White Cottage – agreement regarding the gardens and the Village Green

A copy of the agreement has been emailed to the owner of White Cottage. The PC has not received a response.

Action: Clerk to send a reminder and a hard copy in the post.

12. Planning Matters**12.1. To note any planning matters – new and unresolved applications****12.1. DB Symmetry – Judicial review**

The Judicial Review is expected to take place during the May 2017. This means that a High Court will decide if HDC acted properly when they granted planning permission.

12.2. To note/discuss any Enforcement cases

None discussed.

12.3. To progress the Neighbourhood Plan

The PC are concerned that the Designated Area does not include Bittesby.

The PC were all in agreement that the Designated Area should exclude the industrial area of Magna Park.

However with the industrial area of Magna Park excluded this means that Bittesby and Bitteswell form two separate parcels of land. The Neighbourhood Area must consist of adjoining land.

It is possible to have two Neighbourhood Areas and the PC were in agreement that they would like to try and register Bittesby as a separate Neighbourhood Area that is not encumbered by Magna Park. (This will include Bittesby up to the bunding around Magna Park, but not the industrial area).

Action: The clerk to contact Gary Kirk from YourLocale.

Cllr Flint draft letter about the Neighbourhood Plan: Designation of The Neighbourhood Area to the Senior Planning Policy Officer at HDC. It was agreed that this should be sent at a later date.

12.4. GL Hearn - Housing & Economic Development Needs Assessment Report

The PC have challenged the mechanism of how HDC get to their numbers for the 5 year housing land supply for Harborough District. Cllr Flint requested that the PC look at the report and forward any comments to him.

13. Any other business**13.1. United Charities Nominee**

The PC formally nominated Julia Pearson as a trustee to the United Charities.

14. To confirm the date of the next meeting

The next meeting date was confirmed for 18th May 2017 at 7.00pm. This is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. The Parish Council are **not** holding a meeting in April.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.