

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bitteswell with Bittesby Parish Council  
Held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 7.00pm in Bitteswell Village Hall**

**Present:** Reg Flint (Chair), Cllr Grimwood, Cllr Foster, Clerk Cathy Walsh and 1 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 15.11.18**

**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 15.11.18**

**4.1. Bulb Planting on the verge by the church wall**

United Charities Bitteswell is seeking permission to plant bulbs in the verge next to the church. The Parish Council believe that Leicestershire County Council own the land.

**Action:** The clerk to confirm ownership.

**4.2. Community Concerns Meeting held on 01.11.18**

The PC asked the clerk for Ullesthorpe Parish Council if it could cover any costs associated with the work she had undertaken for the meeting and preparing the letter for Cllr Bannister. The PC did not receive a response. However, Cllr Page believes that the clerk's costs have been met.

**5. Community Concerns – To receive an update from Police Officers**

The Parish Council wrote to Chief Constable Cole in October 2018. The letter reported mainly on anti-social behaviour in the local area. Further to this letter, PC Andy Cooper and Sgt Gurpreet Mulley attended the meeting held on 15.11.18 to explain the measures the police are taking to tackle the situation. The officers advised that a further update would be available for the Parish Council's meeting in December. This was not been received.

The Parish Council initially reported mainly on anti-social behaviour, however, this is no longer the case. There is now a high order of criminality in the village. One example is an armed robbery that took place in December where a resident's car was stolen at knife point. The Parish Council understand that officers are under increasing pressure, but agreed to contact Chief Constable Cole again to request an update/report from the police on the situation.

**Action:** The Clerk to contact Chief Constable Cole.

**6. To note any comments or matters raised by residents, at Chairman's discretion**

None.

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

None.

## 8. Financial Matters

### 8.1. Accounts for payment

*Cheques signed prior to the meeting*

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Totals
144	John Booth (UCB)	Memorial bench purchase reimbursement	£464.99
Sub Total			£464.99

*Cheques signed at the meeting*

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Totals
145	E.On	Street lighting maintenance quarter end 31.12.18	£174.84
146	Cathy Walsh	December's salary and allowances	£446.69
147	National Association of Local Councils	Good Councillor's Guide 2018 x 5	£28.45
148	LRALC	Good Councillor's Guide to NP/Finance x 8	£26.95
149	E.On	Attend faulty street light on Ashby Lane	£48.00
150	Mark Osbourne	Grass cutting contract 24.10.18 and 14.11.18	£300.00
151	Bitteswell Village Hall	Neighbourhood Plan Meeting 07.12.18	£10.00
Total			£1,034.93
Total			£1,499.92

### 8.2. Bank Reconciliation and Receipts & Payments Summary to 10.12.18

Opening Balance	1-Apr-18	<b>£27,970.55</b>
Receipts to	10-Dec-18	£14,457.56
Payments to	10-Dec-18	-£13,107.26
Closing Balance	10-Dec-18	<b>£29,320.85</b>

**The balance carried forward is represented by these funds**

Current Account	£3,091.25
Business Reserve account	£27,004.53
Add income received but not yet cleared	£0.00
Less payments made but not yet presented	-£774.93
Bank Reconciliation to	<b>£29,320.85</b>

### 8.3. Motion to set and approve the Budget and Precept Requirement for 2019-2020

This has been moved to agenda item 14.

## 9. To receive and update on the progress of the Agreement for White Cottage

Cllr Foster agreed to take the lead on this and will do so in the New Year.

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

LCC has provided details of the process and the costs/savings involved. The Parish Council is keen to proceed with the incentive 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 spoke to LCC and received clarification on questions he had. The Parish Council need to specify which lanterns it wants to change. It is anticipated that this will be all throughout the village except for the lanterns in The Nook.

**Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to proceed with the incentive, subject to confirmation at its next meeting.

**Action:** To publish a notice in the newsletter to inform residents that the Parish Council has made a decision in favour of the incentive and would welcome any comments/questions from residents.

**Action:** Cllr Flint will write to Ernie Roberts at LCC to inform him of the Parish Council's decision.

**Action:** Agenda for the next meeting.

#### 11. To consider Citizens Advice LeicesterShire's request for grant funding

**Resolved:** To provide £50.00 grant funding.

#### 12. To consider purchasing a salt grit bin

The salt grit bin in the village is located on Woodby Lane. As this is too far out of the village for the Snow Warden to use, the Parish Council agreed to purchase an additional salt grit bin to be located in a more convenient location.

**Resolved:** To purchase a salt grit bin from Tudor Environmental.

#### 13. Planning Matters

##### 13.1. To note any planning matters – new and unresolved applications

13.1.1. **18/02035/NMA** | Addition of 35 dock doors to north east elevation (proposed non material amendment to 15/00919/FUL) | Unit G, Argosy Way, Magna Park.

**Resolved:** To make no comment on the application.

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

This was deferred until spring, as the assessment will need to be made when the trees are in leaf.

**Action:** Agenda for March's meeting.

##### 13.3. To note/discuss any enforcement cases

None.

##### 13.4. Other Planning Matters

##### 13.4.1. To consider the proposal to name a new road at Magna Park, 'Victor Road'.

**Resolved:** To object to the proposal to name the road Victor Road. The Parish Council would like the name to remain as Mere Lane to maintain the heritage of the existing road.

##### 13.5. To provide an update on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan

Two meetings have been held to date, on 27.10.18 and 21.11.18. The first meeting of the advisory committee is booked for 16.01.19.

The Parish Council was under the impression that all costs associated with the

preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan are met by grant funding. However, it has recently been informed that charges for administrative and clerical tasks that the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan will entail are not included in the grant funding.

**Action:** The Parish Council will write to Matthew Bills at HDC seeking an authoritative statement.

**13.6. To consider appointing a clerk to provide clerical support in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan**

The Parish Council has approached a candidate who is happy to take on the role and is experienced in the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans.

**Resolved:** To appoint the candidate as clerk for the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan subject to agreement on salary, contract and terms and conditions.

**14. Motion to set and approve the Budget and Precept Requirement for 2019-2020**

**Resolved:** To approve the Precept and Budget Requirement of £13,749.32 for 2019-2020.

This is a 20.8% or £10.09 increase in Council Tax per Band D property.

When setting the budget and precept, the Parish Council was mindful to hold steady all other costs except for those associated with the Parish Elections in 2019 and the Neighbourhood Plan.

The costs for election expenses are set by HDC and are unavoidable and out of the Parish Council's control.

The costs associated with the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan that may not be covered by grant funding need to be provided in the budget. The Neighbourhood Plan is well supported by residents and other funding options are being sought.

The Parish Council is always seeking ways to run more efficiently and it has decided that going forward in 2019, the number of meetings it holds will be reduced from monthly to bi-monthly. It is proposed that meetings will be held on the following months: January, March, May (for the Annual Meeting), July, September and November.

**15. Any Other Business**

**15.1. Christmas Lights at the Almshouses**

The Parish Council would like to express its appreciation for the wonderful Christmas lights displayed at the Almshouses.

**Action:** The clerk to contact the Powell & Welch Almshouse Charity.

**15.2. Village Green Damage**

A vehicle making deliveries to the school has driven on the Village Green and churned up the grass near the school. This has happened on 3 or 4 occasions. The clerk was

asked to contact the delivery company on behalf of the Parish Council to seek some money for restitution.

**Action:** The clerk.

**15.3. Parish Councillor Vacancies**

Three residents have expressed an interest in the vacancies and been provided with further information about becoming a Parish Councillor.

**15.4. Newsletter**

United Charities Bitteswell is seeking a new editor for the village newsletter as the current editor has announced that he will soon be stepping down from the role.

**16. To confirm the date of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Thursday 17.01.19

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm