

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 18th May 2023 at the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr P Smith (Chair), Mr B McClymont, Mr A Leary, Mr B Wright, Mr M Kneen, Miss A George, Mr B Allen and Mr P Farmer

Clerk: Mrs S Sillery

District Councillors: Mr P Farmer

Visitors: Mr M Brown and Mrs S Conning

46/23 Apologies for absence: Mrs Linda Dales

47/23 Declarations of Interest: Mr Farmer in relation to his planning application

48/23 To Receive and Accept the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 20th April 2023

No comments had been received in relation to the minutes when previously circulated, so they were posted on the website. Proposed as a true copy by Mr Wright and seconded by Mr Leary.

49/23: Matters Arising from the Minutes

Mr Smith wanted to comment on his first year as Chairman. He has thoroughly enjoyed it and thrown himself into the role, however it had taken much more of his time than he anticipated. He felt that at the next meeting, we need to discuss the spreading of the workload more within the Parish Councillors. For example, Mr Cammack is stepping away from the Parish Council, and he used to maintain the defibrillators and be in charge of the flagpole. These jobs and others need to be taken on by other members and Mr Smith asked for everyone to give this matter some thought before the next meeting.

There has been more use made of the Village Hall since the installation of the television and broadband which is great. Mr Kneen has created a guest ID with no password. Mrs Conning said that they needed to keep control of who was using it. It was suggested removing the sticker from the back of the router as this has all the relevant information on it.

There is some confusion as to what happened to the wooden clock which is shown on a photo on the wall of the village hall. Mr McClymont confirmed that there was a free-standing wooden clock at one time, but it had never been wall mounted.

Miss George confirmed that Steven Jackson's new plaque is now on his bench.

Cricket Club – still no planning application on the N&S system. However, the Cricket Club have informed the Parish Council of their plans, and the proposals all look sensible.

Warm Space – there were three people in attendance at this week's meeting. As discussed before, the idea of changing the name to Coffee and Chat is great but as Mrs Conning pointed out the funding that they have applied for to cover the cost of the television and broadband has not been received yet. The Village Hall have covered the cost at the present time until the funding comes through. Mrs Conning does not want to change the name until the funding is received. Mrs Conning also confirmed that she had purchased an A Board for outside.

Additional groups are now using the Village Hall. The latest one is the Winthorpe Amateur Wine Appreciation Club. They will meet on the first Wednesday of each month. Mr McClymont suggested that small businesses might like to use the Village Hall now the facilities are in place. It could save them money on more expensive venues.

Mr Smith confirmed that he had received some dates from Councillor Darby to have a meeting. It was suggested that just a small group of Councillors should attend, namely Mr Smith, Mr Kneen and Miss George. A date will be confirmed that all parties can attend. We will need to compile a list of matters to raise with Councillor Darby and then the discussions at the meeting will be fed back to the PC accordingly.

Defibrillator for Pocklington Crescent – the money is all in now and the Clerk will order the Defibrillator as chosen by Mrs Lockwood. Mr McClymont suggested putting something in Focal Point on how to use the defibrillator, however Mrs Lockwood is arranging some training in the Village Hall for parish residents which will be an excellent idea.

Mr Allen confirmed that the area around the Esso garage on the A46 is being kept much cleaner and that some of the trees have been felled too. This is after the Clerk wrote to the garage and asked them to keep the area clear of rubbish as it was spreading to surrounding areas.

Mrs Dales is still waiting for feedback into the signs for The Spinney.

We now have a new District Councillor in Mr Farmer.

King's Coronation Celebrations – the event went very well. There was a concern when someone felt unwell and the medical help available from the first aider present was not ideal. However, there was a doctor present who was able to assist. Clerk to sort out payments to Mrs Denise Day and a refund to Thomas Brewer for money not used. A great effort once again by Mrs Day and her team. Mr Farmer said he had received feedback from residents about the lack of bunting in the village. We need to be more organised at the next event. It was agreed that it would be good to get residents involved with these types of jobs.

Mr Smith has purchased a new Union flag. Mr Smith asked when the flag should be taken down? Mr Leary asked if we were going to purchase a new Nottinghamshire flag, however Mr Smith said it was very difficult to get one and the previous one was such poor quality, it was not worth buying again. Mr Allen made the point that we don't need to have a flag flying all the time and that it made it more special when we did fly a flag. Mr Farmer also made the point that we should not fly flags during the harsh winter months at this is the time that the damage is done to them.

Mr Leary and Mr Kneen attended the Quarry Liaison meeting. It was a good meeting, and it was confirmed that the quarry is up to full production. Land is given to the RSPB and the nature reserve is well visited by people. The Langford Community Fund is open for applications for funding for projects. It was suggested that the work on the village green might be ideal for this. The northern extension of the quarry has been agreed and the planning permission confirmed. Mrs Dales chaired the meeting, and it was agreed that the quarry worked well and gave a lot back to the community.

Mr Kneen organised a Safer Neighbourhood meeting at the Community Centre which attracted 17 people. Mrs Linda Dales chaired the meeting and PC Gareth Nicholls was in attendance. No new crimes reported recently. A Neighbourhood Watch letter will go out shortly and this will mention the previous surge in crime in the area. Mr Kneen has window stickers enough for two per property which he will hand out.

As the current Clerk has confirmed her decision to leave her role within the next year, Mr Smith will be contacting a potential candidate in the next few days to see if she is interested in the role. Mrs Dales also has someone in mind who might be interested.

50/23 A46 Update

A meeting has been held with National Highways which was positive and encouraging. We were able to respond to the recent consultation from a Parish Council and Property Trust perspective. There will be an additional new footpath which has been requested by rambler and cycling groups. There was a mock-up of the traffic flow round the new roundabout which was a good explanation and helped visualise how the roundabout would work. In the current plans there seems to be no real plan in place to cope with large numbers of vehicles coming from the Showground, although the traffic lights can be changed to accommodate traffic flow and it is hoped that all interested parties can work together to achieve an access from the A17. It is anticipated that the speed limit round the Friendly Farmer bend to Winthorpe roundabout will be 50 mph. Through discussion it was considered that the speed limit from the roundabout to Langford village should be limited to 40 mph and we should petition Notts County Council via Councillor Darby to achieve this. This will be picked up during discussions with Councillor Darby

51/23 Neighbourhood Plan Update

We now have a final version which is ready to go out to the village. Mr Smith has sent a timeline out via email of how we proceed going forward. It has been suggested that a leaflet drop be done in the whole parish. We still have £6k of grant funding available to access, however we won't need that much, but we do need to cover all expenses getting the plan finalised and out as a published document. There will be a consultation period of 6 weeks from the 5th of June for any comments. Following that, it goes to Newark and Sherwood District Council and a subsequent referendum will be held. We need 50% plus one person for it to be agreed. There will be two village meetings in late June to present the key aspects of the plan.

52/23 Invoices for approval and any other financial matters

FINANCE REPORT – MAY 2023

Balances

Current Account - £1716.73

Income

Pauline Lockwood Defib Monies £1518.30

Focal Point deposit Ward £15.00

Expenditure

Willsons for May printing £256.00

Bank Charges £5.00

Union Jack Flag £166.13

Clerk's Wages £184.00

Donation to Community Centre for use of toilets on Drone Day £10.00

Community Centre hire for Safer Neighbourhood Meeting £30.00

Holding Account - £17,748.19

Income

Precept £4725

The Clerk has received a remittance advice for the Lengthsman Scheme for £1150, so this should hit the account any day.

Mr Allen has spoken to Nat West, and we can open accounts with them. Clerk to apply online.

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The Clerk has received payment of the Lengthsman Scheme in the sum of £1150.

Mr Allen has spoken to Nat West and we can open accounts with them. Clerk to apply online. UPDATE – Nat West no longer taking applications for Community Accounts. Clerk to now look at Lloyds. Clerk also raised the question whether it would be better to wait for the new clerk to be appointed if this was going to be sooner rather than later?

Clerk to download the Toolbox on the HMRC Gateway site.

It was suggested that the Clerk contact NALC in relation to the difficulty in finding a new bank and see if they had any advice to offer.

53/23 Planning Applications/updates (if any)

23/00540/HOUSE 2 Speight Close - new revised plans (17th May) show the new perimeter fence to be the same height as the adjacent existing wall with a 300 mm trellis on top of this. This contravenes the 1m height restriction in a conservation area and would present a danger to visibility for traffic entering and leaving Speight Close. Clerk to object on these grounds

23/00715FUL Annexe, The Cottage, Gainsborough Road – Change of use and external alterations to create one independent dwelling including sub division of residential land associated with The Cottage.

PC is concerned at how much change to the site has already been implemented. This application is retrospective, in that the subdivision of land appears to have already been made in terms of fencing off the area in front of and alongside the main house.

There is also a pair of tall pillars and wrought iron gates installed in front of the main house, clearly visible from the main road above the solid 2m boundary fence, with no evidence of permission being granted for this.

It is noted that the aforementioned 2m solid boundary fence, installed without permission and the “wrong way round” (prettier side facing inwards, not outwards) has to date not been determined to have permission, and also partially hides the more recent development activity on the site in front of the main house.

The plan submitted implies that the boundary division between the two dwellings, to the rear of the main house, is already present and agreed. This is not the case. There is no detail of what type of boundary would be installed.

The change of use request to create an independent dwelling is one step further than the current use of the converted garage as a short-term rental facility.

The plans also indicate major internal alterations to provide a second bedroom and conversion of the ground floor garage space into a living area with large floor to ceiling glass frontage.

We believe access from Gainsborough Road to the site may already be inadequate, given that this access is shared with the property next door (43A), who are also applying for their garage to be used as a separate dwelling place (22/02273/FUL), which this PC has also objected to. If both applications were approved, this would result in 4 separate dwellings sharing the same access onto the narrowest part of Gainsborough Road.

All of this appears to be a rather intense development within the Conservation Area and contrary to planning guidelines. Decision to object to the application.

54/23 Parish Maintenance and General Works:

Road markers are still to be painted.

We have managed to find a contractor who has his own insurance. He does work for Collingham Parish Council, so this looks positive. The first two items of work we are going to ask him to carry out are to tidy up the green space at the end of Hargon Lane as previously discussed. The second job is the sighting of the new litter and dog bins in both Winthorpe and Langford. When these two jobs are completed, we can gauge how happy we are with the workmanship and go from there. Mr Kneen will ask the contractor to go ahead with the works.

55/23 Correspondence:

The Clerk confirmed that she had received a letter from Robert Jenrick MP, congratulating all new Parish and District Councillors on their new positions and wishing them well. He asked that all elected officials work together for the common aim of helping the constituents and the local area.

56/23 AOB:

Mr McClymont raised the issue of the removal of the lower tree branches at the Cricket Club. He suggested that we ask NSDC for their advice before we do anything with the trees. Mr Farmer said he would talk to NSDC.

Mr Leary suggested the idea of framing the Heritage Trail leaflet and putting it up in the Village Hall and Community Centre. This was agreed.

So far there are three people interested in becoming Parish Councillors. The vacancy will be advertised in Focal Point and on Twitter in the next few days. Anyone interested, should write to either the Clerk or the Chair saying why they wanted to join the Parish Council and what they can bring to the role.

Mr Allen asked who was responsible for the ancient monument at Langford as it is looking in a bad way and needs some attention. It was thought that Heritage England is responsible. Mr Leary will find out the exact details of the monument and let the Clerk know so that she can write.

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm