

Beckingham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 23rd February 2022

Present: Cllrs Lawrence Tatton (as Chair), Phil Wells, Angela Smith, Scott Toomer & Andy Brewer
District Cllr Mary Green
County Councillor Marianne Overton
Terry Brown/Parish Clerk
15 members of the public

Minute	Action
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22/015 Public Time

In a wide-ranging discussion parishioners raised various points and questions.

Has the closing date for submission been moved to 19th March? Cllr Green agreed to seek confirmation from NKDC on this.

Had there been any contact with the MOD? Cllr Tatton replied that despite all efforts, meaningful contact had not been established.

Has ownership of the site been fully established? However Cllr Green reminded the meeting that ownership of the site is not taken into account in the determination of a planning application.

Is there a need for an action group?

Do we need to respond to all 17 applications? The advice given is to do so. A parishioner commented that such multiple applications is not valid (and the Parish Council had received similar advice from its solicitor).

Also a parishioner suggested that a road survey be carried out with an emphasis on safety rather than a pure count of vehicles passing. He offered to arrange help in this.

Cllr Overton alerted the meeting to changes in the composition of the Planning Committee such that membership for all District Councillors would be withdrawn to be replaced with a panel of 15 Councillors with 3 reserves. Both herself and Cllr Green were very concerned at this proposed change.

The meeting at several points agreed that all in the Parish were pulling together very well to meet the challenges of the situation.

22/016 Chairman's Announcements

None

22/017 Apologies for absence

None

22/018 Members' Declarations of Interest.

Cllrs Tatton, Wells, Smith, Toomer & Brewer declared an interest in 22/023/1

22/019 District and County Councillor Time

Cllrs Mary Green and Overton had previously submitted their February newsletters.

Councillor Overton explained at length recent developments with funding for roads in Lincolnshire and that a planned £12m shortfall in the Highways budget had been reversed.

In response to advice from Screveton Parish Council (see attached) Cllr Tatton asked Cllr Green to monitor NKDC's response to this application such that it did not fail to take all the necessary actions for reasons of budget constraint.

Following on from the discussion in Public Time and in response to questions from Cllr Tatton, Cllr Overton agreed to pursue the concerns about a lack of visible policing in village as a consequence of recent changes in the organisation of rural policing in the County.

She noted the Parish Council's concern about safety with the use by Travellers of the passage underneath the A17 and that she would approach the relevant Lincs CC officers to take immediate action.

The Clerk was asked to write separately on this same concern.

Action Clerk

Finally Cllr Overton noted Cllr Tatton's frustration that any changes to the road layout to accommodate this planning application would be totally inequitable when set against the Parish Council's long-established request for similar changes to the south side of the A17.

22/020 To accept the draft minutes of the meeting of the 12th January 2022.

These were accepted by the meeting.

22/021 Matters arising

/1 to consider responses to village grass cutting tender

Councillors agreed that two Councillors should liaise with the new contractor to fine tune the procedures and that progress would be discussed quarterly at Parish Council meetings.

/2 to give an update on progress with item 21/053/1 re definitive footpaths

The Clerk reported that this is still work in progress.

Action Clerk

/3 to receive a report on 2022 Hill Holt arrangements

See 22/024/5

22/022 Correspondence

Emails:

17/1/2022	Marianne Overton re budget cuts
18/1/2022	HM Lord-Lieutenant of Lincolnshire re Platinum Jubilee
4/2/2021	Marianne Overton re February news
6/2/2022	Cllr Mary Green re February update

22/023 Planning

/1 Planning Applications 22/0081/FUL Plot 1 to 22/0099 Plot 17/FUL Land off A17 Adjacent to the River Witham Beckingham.

The Parish Council approved the adoption of the draft response received from its solicitor and for it to be lodged with NKDC subject to minor amendments to be communicated by Cllr Wells to the solicitor.

/2 21/1375/FUL : 3 Poplar Meadow Sleaford Road Beckingham Replacement of amenity block (part retrospective).

Refused

Noted.

22/024 Committees

/1 Village Hall

Cllr Tatton reported on the need to repair recent storm damage to one of the flag poles. Cllr Toomer is to investigate possible improvements to the safe and controlled access to the Village Hall. Action Cllr Toomer

/2 Village Hall Improvements Working Group

No report.

/3 Play Park:

See 22/025/3

/4 Village fete:

Cllr Brewer reported that arrangements were in hand for a ticketed celebration of the Jubilee, to be held on 3rd June.

/5 Woodland

The Clerk is to write to confirm the new bimonthly inspection arrangements.

Action Clerk

22/025 Matters for Discussion

/1 to note changed banking charges.

The Clerk's reported that he had found no practical alternative to the current banking arrangements (with HSBC) and therefore that the Parish Council should expect an annual charge of approximately £100.

/2 to consider a grant to All Saints Beckingham for grass cutting

The Meeting resolved to make a grant of £315 to All Saints PCC for its 2022 grass cutting.

Action Clerk

/3 to consider responses to the Play Park fencing tender

The meeting noted the two quotes received so far and asked the Clerk to seek amendments to the quotes so that the two were similar and comparable. Action Clerk

/4 to consider Future Bugle issues

It was agreed that an April Bugle should be prepared for discussion at the next meeting 30th March 2022.

Action Clerk

/5 to confirm solicitor support for 8/1

This was agreed and Cllr Wells is to confirm the costs of any further instructions.

Action Cllr Wells

22/026 Finance

/1 Payments approved:

Bank charges		16/01/2022	8.00
N Gration re inv 695	49	01/02/2022	88.00
LALC re 2022 subs	50	05/02/2022	143.33
Hill Holt re inv 2715	51	05/02/2022	192.00
T Brown re March Bugle	52	11/02/2022	97.02

/2 Bank balances at 15/2/2022

Money Manager (Deposit)	£4045.50
Community Account (Current)	£10811.87

- /3** The meeting noted the Clerk's advice on the receipt of KNOT funds of £1803 on 26/2/19 and its subsequent use for the Woodland development (minuted as 20/011/3)

22/027 To receive items for the next agenda

None

22/028 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 30th March 2022

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

From Screveton Parish Council

Good evening, Lawrence

We feel for you and yes, the system appears to be very heavily weighted against the residents and in favour of the traveller's site.

To stop this you'll need to:

- 1. counter the human rights claims and so will (probably) need to employ the services of suitably experienced legal professionals **from the outset**. All of the issues you rightly raise within the Bugle will be duly noted but given less weight than the travellers human rights.*
- 2. ensure the council has made more suitable provision elsewhere.*

The council will do what they need to do to show they are trying to stop the site and may frustrate the process but, in the end, will shrug their shoulders and say, "we tried". Sadly you won't be able to rely on the council, you will have to do it yourselves. If the council has done its job and have made suitable provision elsewhere, provision which is more suitable than your site, then that weakens the no-where else to go argument of the travellers. Establish what alternatives the council has made, and if it hasn't made any scream at it to do so before the hearing.

Sadly, it is now an established modus operandi to set up camp and then apply for planning permission after the establishment of the camp rather than obey the planning rules by applying first.

Without prejudice you should ask for:

- 1. all work and deliveries to be constrained within reasonable hours eg 7.30am to 5pm (normal for construction work)*
- 2. proper safety provision to be made:*
 - a. proper access to site established (it's on the busy A17 and slow-moving caravans and trailers entering or leaving the site will be a hazard. This will cost someone a whole load of money from their budget so no doubt they will be onboard)*
 - b. proper pedestrian access to the site. No doubt the children will need to attend school and so a secure pedestrian walkway from the site to the village will need to be established. Again council budgets under stress providing this facility*
 - c. proper river safety. The site is next to a river (safety issue for young children, will be council be sued in years to come if there is a tragic accident and the council hadn't ensured the site was safe)*

- d. proper infrastructure safety. The site is next to critical infrastructure – the sewage treatment site. Needs increased security.*
- 3. active monitoring by the council to ensure the site is only occupied by 17 families and there is no further subdivision of the plots (as has occurred on our site)*
 - 4. active monitoring by the council to ensure that any requirements laid down by the inspector are adhered to (within days it appears that our travellers broke the conditions laid down and have still not adhered to most)*

Screveton Clerk