

Beckingham Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Wednesday 5th July 2023

Present: Cllrs Lawrence Tatton (as Chair), , Phil Wells & Andy Brewer
District Councillor Lucille Hagues
Terry Brown/Parish Clerk
No members of the public

Minute	Action
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23/029 Public Time

None

23/030 Chair's Announcements

The Chair thanked Cllr Wells for his representation of the Parish Council at the ongoing Planning Inquiry at Sleaford.

The Chair thanked Cllr Toomer for his participation in the Kings Coronation.

The Chair announced the appointment of the Revd Sara Davies as Interim Priest in Charge of Brant Broughton and Beckingham

23/031 Apologies for absence

Cllrs Scott Toomer & Angela Smith

23/032 To receive declarations of interest and consider any requests for dispensations

None

23/033 District and County Councillor Time

Cllr Hagues had previously submitted her July newsletter (see attached).

Cllr Hagues noted the Chairs complaint about a lack of response by Lincs CC to a long standing fly tipping problem. action Cllr Hagues

23/034 To approve the draft minutes of the meeting of the 11th May 2023

These were accepted by the meeting and signed by the Chair.

23/035 Matters arising

/1 to discuss recent developments in local planning issues

Cllr Tatton gave a full report on the Planning Inquiry (see attached)

/2 to confirm the current defibrillator condition.

The Clerk reported that www.thecircuit.uk stated that did not need servicing but rather required regular checks to check that the emergency ready signal was showing.

In addition:

/3 Cllr Brewer announced imminent works to underground power cables in various parts of the Village.

23/036 Correspondence:

Emails:

4/6/2023	Marianne Overton re June news
12/6/2023	Planning Inspectorate re impending Inquiry
20/6/2023	Planning Inspectorate re impending Inquiry
22/6/2023	Planning Inspectorate re impending Inquiry
11/7/2023	Lincs CC re litter picking kits
11/7/2023	Marianne Overton re Solar Panels Fosse Green

Noted.

In addition:

The Parish Council had received a request from Earley Town Council Mayor for permission to wear their Chain of Office at a forthcoming event at Beckingham Training Camp. Permission was granted. action Clerk

23/037 Planning:

See 23/035/1

23/038 Committees

/1 Village Hall

Cllr Brewer reported that another quote had been received for the Village Hall redecoration.

/2 Play Park

Cllr Brewer reported that that the scheduled works for the Park were expected to start in the immediate future.

/3 Woodland

Cllr Tatton conformed that the scheduled drone photo would soon take place.

23/039 Matters for Agreement

- /1 to consider a public seat related issue (Cllr Wells)
The meeting noted the Clerk's advice that they did not have the Power to make such a purchase as presently suggested.

23/040 Finance

/1 The following payments were approved:

Glasdon	8	02/05/2023	346.91
Fenton Timber		11/05/2023	809.82
J Keane 2022 litter	9	12/05/2023	125.00
J Keane 2023 litter	10	12/05/2023	125.00
Bank charges		17/05/2023	8.00
T Brown re 2023 Zoom subs	11	18/05/2023	8.72
AJG re 2023 insurance	12	22/05/2023	464.10
Allied Westminster re VH insurance	13	22/05/2023	756.27
All Saints re 2023 grant	14	22/05/2023	350.00
T Brown re 1st qtr salary	15	08/06/2023	460.05
T Brown re 1st qtr paye	16	08/06/2023	115.00
T Brown re June Bugle	17	08/06/2023	92.86
Bank charges		16/06/2023	11.00

/2 Bank balances at 17/6/2023 were reconciled to:

Money Manager (Deposit)	£3350.67
Community Account (Current)	£20929.58

23/027 To receive items for the next agenda

None.

23/028 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 23rd August 2023

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Clr Hagues wrote:

"COUNCIL COLLEAGUE PARTICIPATES IN THE BATON OF HOPE INITIATIVE

Support North Kesteven Council colleague Jenni Swift as she takes part in a Baton of Hope initiative which aims to raise awareness and prevent suicide.

Baton of Hope is designed to be the biggest suicide awareness and prevention initiative the UK has ever seen, opening necessary conversations, and prompting appropriate actions.

The specially designed baton will tour UK towns and cities for two weeks in summer 2023, setting off towards the end of June, raising the profile of this issue like never before. Suicide is the biggest killer of men and women under 35 in the UK. The initiative brings people together to raise awareness, reduce the stigma, and get better at asking questions, listening, and directing people to the right help.

Jenni Swift has been selected as a Baton Holder for a London leg of the tour which will take place on Thursday July 6th. Jenni and her family set up EVELYNS BUTTERFLY EFFECT after their daughter Evelyn Gibson lost her battle with mental illness on April 15th 2022. EVELYNS BUTTERFLY EFFECT lets Evelyn's legacy shine bright , through encouraging others to carry out random acts of kindness in her name. To learn more about Evelyn's Butterfly Effect you can Google and visit a Facebook page.

Evelyn's mum Jenni said " I really feel honoured to have been selected as one of the Baton Holders for the London leg of the tour. I will be carrying the Baton of Hope in Coal Drops Yard near King's Cross and will pass a board promoting Random Acts of Kindness – how apt considering we set up Evelyn's Butterfly Effect in her memory, to promote random acts of kindness". They expected to be represented on this tour.

AN EVENING OF EXPECTATION AT THE NORTH KESTEVEN BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Some of the best examples of Building Excellence were championed at the annual awards for clients of NKDC's building control service.

The 2023 NKDC Building Excellence Awards was an opportunity to bring together construction professionals, clients and Building Control experts demonstrating that the District of North Kesteven excels in creating new homes and buildings that are equal to – or in fact better than other builds in the country.

NKDC has an emphasis on building for the future, building for climate resilience and building to a Net Zero standard for improved lives and environmental wellbeing. This is carried through to the new Local Plan which informs building standards and principles for not only North Kesteven but also Central Lincolnshire partners and neighbours in West Lindsey and the City of Lincoln.

COUNCIL AIR QUALITY PROJECT EXTENDS TO SCHOOL BUSES AND TAXI HIRE

Drivers of school buses and taxi operators are being reminded to stop idling in their vehicles in a bid to boost public health and protect the environment, as NKDC extends its "Be Smart, Stop – Start project.

As part of the clean air initiative, the Council has written to the District's two school bus contract-holders and 52 taxi and private hire operators, providing information and leaflets asking them to ensure drivers turn off their engines when waiting in their vehicles.

The campaign aims to raise the awareness of the dangers of idling on public health and the environment, with children being disproportionately affected by vehicles pollutants such as oxides of nitrogen, carbon dioxide and particulate matter.

The Council Campaign began through work with the William Alvey Primary School in Sleaford to stop parents from idling in their cars at school pickup times.

The project attracted national attention, even being featured on BBC Look North and BBC Breakfast News earlier in the year.

NKDC plan to roll out this work to other schools and communities in a bid to improve air quality for all young people in the District.

Exposure to these emissions can cause wide-ranging health issues such as breathing problems (including provoking asthma attacks), COPD, coronary heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, low birth weight, diabetes, and diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

NORTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NKDC works with partners such as Police, Fire and Rescue and Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) at times of emergency to ensure our communities receive the support and response they require.

Flooding as a result of heavy rain is typically one of the emergencies our communities face and NKDC have effective plans in place to deal with this.

If a community is affected by flooding, residents should:-

Dial 999 if life is at risk or the 112 non-emergency number if life is not at risk. This call will go to the joint Fire, Police and Ambulance Control. Lincolnshire County CCL Highways as lead Local Flood Authority will be contacted to respond and the LCC Emergency Planning Duty Officer will also get a call and will use their rota to contact NKDC on-call officer.

The public will also report the flooding to LCC as follows:-

Customer Service Centre – 01522 782082

Flood and Water Teams

Fix my Street

Alternatively, flooding can be reported through the Environment Agency:-

Telephone 0345 9881188

Textphone 0345 6026340

A small supply of unfilled sandbags are held by NKDC. They make these available for partners such as Fire and Rescue or NKDC repairs contractors to support their response.

It is important to note that sandbags are not an effective method of flood defence and should not be used on their own unless absolutely necessary. Eight bags are required for a single door, and they do not protect ingress via air bricks etc.

NORTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL SALUTES OUR ARMED FORCES

More than 300 years of combined service to Armed Forces has been honoured through the presentation of Veteran's Badges, in a constitution of long held custom to the council.

The 13 veterans of the British Armed Forces present at a celebratory lunch for Armed Forces Day had put in a collective 180 years of service between them, with individual contributions of between two and more than 37 years. Their badges were presented by NKDC Leader Richard Wright who, as a veteran himself, said it was a deep pleasure to say, "thank you for everything you have done"

Additionally, badges have been sent to a further nine veterans who were unable to attend. Their collective service represents contributions in theatres of war, in peacekeeping, community resilience, civil contingencies and countless other duties.

Engaged in the British Army, Royal Air Force, Royal Navy and Merchant Navy, through longstanding careers and stints in National Service, veteran and civic representatives plus school children and the wider community gathered at Sleaford Market Place."

Cllr Tatton reported:

"The Public Enquiry for the Appeal hearing against the refusal of 17 Planning Applications to site 17 caravans on land bordered by the A17 commenced on Tuesday the 4th of July in the New Life Conference Centre in Sleaford.

Present in a 200 seater room were a Barrister and one or two expert witnesses for the appellants and a Barrister and up a total of 6 witnesses for NKDC. Also present, as requested by NKDC were two members of Beckingham Parish Council.

The Planning Inspector was sat at one of four tables that made up a widely spaced rectangle, facing the other three and any members of the public. The members of the public totalled on average around 18 to 20 persons. The Inspector spoke at length on how the Enquiry was to be carried out, in an open and somewhat informal way, described as "Round table", whereby anyone with her permission could speak. The remaining day's timetable, as were the rest of the sitting days was arranged so that pertinent witnesses were able to be present on required days and times.

The inspector explained that she had visited the village and walked around, along the public footpaths and under the A17 and onto the riverbank. She departed the village on a service bus that enabled her to view the size and impact of the 17 sites.

She was dissatisfied with the submission by the Appellants of site plans and drawings that were contradictory and late. She stated that the application ought to have been submitted as one application for 17 sites rather than 17 Applications for one site each, therefore there will be 17 decisions.

She requested further plans showing exactly where each of the 17 plots were "exactly". Four plots appear to have encroached on Highways land and plots 1 and 13 are not as submitted. The land in question was stated to have been of Equestrian use but she determined that it was not Equestrian in a legal sense. The size, location and previous usage of the access point to the land was discussed at length, LCC Highways had requested certain information at the planning application stage that had not been forthcoming.

After a break opening submissions were submitted by both sides, the Appellants stating that it was vital to have this development as the families concerned had nowhere else to live and facing having to camp on roadsides to the detriment of their safety and the health of the seriously ill adults and the children with special needs.

NKDC countered with a very strong case to dismiss the now 21 caravans under planning guidelines. The respective barristers and expert witnesses by now have revealed their competency levels and delivery skills that were obvious even to an uninformed spectator. The appellants appear to resort to any specific point by stating that this can be resolved by granting permission under a "condition" that will be adhered to in the future.

The first of the statutory objectors was the Ministry of Defence. From the time and effort that the PC had invested in contacting and seeking support from the MoD, the resulting position was a surprise. The witness for the MoD outlined the history of the Firing Range and its current strategic importance to the Armed Forces and stated that noise issues and a swathe of technical regulations meant that "The Secretary of Defence is against this appeal"

Councillor Philip Wells was invited by the Inspector to make a statement on behalf of the Parish Council. He outlined the history of the village, its rural small village nature, the lack of social amenities in the form of shops etc., the necessity of the need to rely on private car ownership considering the level of public transport and the need to travel for shopping, medical, schooling needs. The A17 traffic levels, volumes, HGVs, holiday traffic, speeds, the bunching effect caused by slow agricultural vehicles all contribute to making the A road unsuitable for easy access/egress to the carriageway and obviously unsuitable for cycling etc. He made reference to the PC's discussions with the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership that occurred prior to Covid. He also mentioned the number of unoccupied traveller sites that are currently unoccupied in Newark. He was thanked by the Inspector and she brought up the Road Traffic Survey that the PC had arranged as part of the original submission and appeared satisfied with it.

After a lunch break the afternoon was Round table discussions on landscape character, visual effects and design. This followed by Ecology.

NKDC outlined the Green Field development, the A17 the position and importance of a national river, NK being a district of a generally green aspect and the immediate landscape surrounding the village. The appellants dismissed this as the site is remote from the village cut off by the A17 and has no visual impact on the village. A technical discussion followed around the level Landscape Sensitivity, NK indicating a "medium" level, the appellants stating it was lower due to the position of the firing range.

The Inspector asked what was the reasoning behind the design of the site's layout, the appellant's barrister stated that they had no idea as they had only recently been appointed and the original submission was made by an unqualified agent! She asked a specific questions "Are all the sites the same size?" "Yes" "The submitted plans show that the 4 sites adjacent to the river are smaller?" "Yes"

The installation and positioning of an Acoustic Bund alongside the A17 as well as the provision of an 8mtr wide maintenance/clearance strip alongside the river was discussed and both issues were in her opinion the submitted plans and strategy document were inadequate.

Ecology. LCC's Wildlife Diversity Policy reveals that the proposed site encroaches by a 20mtr x 20mtr patch into an area not available for development. There followed a complicated discussion relating to the fact that there was no Wildlife Biodiversity Study undertaken before works started. The appellants countered by saying that the Inspector was wrong and that as retrospective planning are allowed there is no need for such a study. However they could achieve a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain by means of a "condition".

The second day was for Highway Safety, location and Access to Services.

Requested plans for plots 1 and 13 were delivered and were different from the appeal plans.

The Inspector started with the PC's Road Traffic Survey in regard to the accessibility of the entrance to the site from the A17. The appellants countered saying that their own traffic survey did not support our findings, the Inspector dismissed this as their survey had not been submitted. Cllr wells was again invited to speak on traffic. The appellants stated that his words were not supported by facts. She then criticises their criticism of Cllr wells. They further argued that as the current entrance to the site has been used on a regular basis by large slow moving farm vehicles, tractors as well as large horseboxes without any recorded accidents or incidents there is no reason to refuse planning on the grounds of an unsafe access point. The adjacent entrance to the sewage works was also stated by one of the appellants to be used every other day by 30/40 tonne lorries, he further provided a phone picture as evidence, evidence that the Inspector was not interested in. The appellants should have submitted a Transport Strategy to LCC, which has not been received. They countered that they always obey the Highway Code and would not undertake unsafe vehicle movements to access/egress the site, they always shared transport to services, schools etc.

Drainage: The Environment Agency.

As mentioned earlier with the MoD, contact and engagement with the Environment Agency was similarly difficult. Again the objection from them was another surprise. Briefly, the EA supports connection to Mains Drainage in all regards. Discussion followed around the merits of Septic tanks, Cess Pits, and a new dedicated Sewage Farm purely for the site. The EA have apparently spoken with Anglian Water who stated that the current Village Sewage Facility is at capacity, old and is not subject to any plans in the future for upgrading. The EA finally stated that the only solution to the situation on the site is mains connection and that the EA would not issue a Licence for any another system, therefore the EA is firmly against the appeal.

The appellants argued that it is apparently OK for the Village to build new houses connected to the mains drainage, but not for gypsies, are we different are we not entitled to being treated the same as villager who live in houses? Cllr Wells stated that there are at least two houses in the village that have a septic tank. NKDC stated that in the central Lincolnshire Plan there are no new developments due in Beckingham in the lifetime of the current plan.

Surface Water:

The Inspector asked that in the submitted documents there is no reference to surface finish on sites or roadways. The appellants answered that this could be resolved by a "condition". The Inspector replied that she will see the condition of the site during the site visits to the Firing Range and to the proposed site.

The above concludes the report of matters pertinent to the PC. The Inspector, is totally in command of her role and has an extremely deep knowledge of legal, planning and other pertinent planning matters. On more than one occasion the appellants stated that in a certain successful appeal by the gypsie community at another locations certain matters were granted in their favour. The Inspector replied that she is making a decision on these 17 Appeals on the A17 site and the matters you have just referred to are totally irrelevant to matters here.

Form this point in proceedings over the rest of the appeal days are not within the remit of the PC and therefore the PC will not be represented."