

Beckingham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 22nd February 2017

Present: Cllr L Tatton (LT), Cllr A Brewer (AB), Cllr P Wells (PW)

District Cllr Sue Howe and Cty Cllr Ray Phillips

Terry Brown/Parish Clerk

Minute	Action
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17/17 Chairman's Announcements:

"January and February are traditionally times when people settle down beside the fire of an evening and wait for spring to be heralded by the appearance of snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils.

However, that is not the case with the Parish Council, behind the scenes work has been underway on a variety of issues that may not be apparent to the casual observer but will bring forth results in the near future. What can be observed is another job taken up by the PC from other levels of local government, that of having the roadside gutters cleared to improve the appearance of the side of the footpaths and to eradicate weed growth and to prevent further deterioration of our infrastructure.

The website has again been updated and it's a valuable source of information regarding the activities of the Parish Council that is recommended reading."

The Chair then announced with much regret the resignation of Trish Thorpe as a Parish Councillor and he thanked her for her valued and wise support in many areas of village life.

The Clerk was instructed to contact NKDC to begin the process of finding a replacement Councillor.

AB was proposed and seconded as the new Vice Chair.

The Clerk is to arrange for changes to be made to the bank account mandate and for these to be signed at the next Parish Council meeting.

Action Clerk

17/18 Apologies for absence

District Cllr Pat Woodman MBE
Cllrs P Thorpe and Cllr G Else

17/19 Police Time

PCSO Sarah Lingard reported (by email) that there had been several instances reported recently of illegal hare coursing.

17/20 District and County Councillor Time

Sue Howe reported:

"Until 26.03.17 visitors can explore RAF Cranwell's aviation history as a training school and learn about aircraft flown from the base over the 100 years by visiting an exhibition at Heath Farm, Byard's Leap, Nth Rauceby.

An additional 22-hours public swimming has been created at OneNK, Nth Hykeham with an increase in early-bird swim sessions at varying times of the week.

Effective from 27.01.17, "Safe as Houses" drop in sessions for tenants having concerns about a private, rented home they live in are available from 9am-1pm on the last Friday of every month at the Info-Lincs Office, Nth Hykeham. The initiative aims to ensure that all properties in the District meet the standards set out in law, enabling everyone to live in a safe, warm, secure home.

TOTT - (The Terry O'Toole Theatre) has its usual social programme for the Spring/Summer 2017 season, including a performance from a jazz orchestra on 17.03.17. The NCCD (National Centre for Craft & Design, Sleaford) continues to host regular exhibitions and creative design courses. Little Darter's and Otter's Reach is open at Whisby Natural World for young children to enjoy indoor and outdoor play activity, together with a coffee shop and giftware display to purchase.

The Council has been shortlisted for a UK Housing Award in respect of its outstanding development programme and the successful delivery of 175 new-build council homes over the past seven years. Recently, 22 new homes were opened at Kyme Road, Heckington, with one of the street's named "Welchman Way", in honour of a local war hero.

Residents are able to join (or re-join) the NK Garden Waste Collection Scheme for 2017/18 at an annual charge of £30 for a single bin and £12 for additional bins, emptied every other week with a slight change in December/January when the frequency reduces. Please remember that since April 2015, there has been a ban on the disposal of garden waste in the residual, black waste bins."

Cllr Ray Phillips reported that he would be standing for re-election at the forthcoming elections on May 4th, having served 12 years to date as a County Councillor.

Also, that there now seemed to be no prospects for the Devolution proposals but for which he had been in favour since it would have brought money into the county. The 2017/18 budget is near to settlement but that a prudent outcome would probably involve using reserves. Therefore, it was likely that Council Tax would rise by 4%.

17/21 Members' Declarations of Interest.

None

17/22 Approval of the minutes of the meeting 11th January 2017.

These were approved and then signed by LT.

17/23 Matters arising from previous meetings

17/12/1 Possible use of the Playing Field.

The Council noted the latest email from Adam Cropper and that it now seemed unlikely to be able find ways both to maintain security of access to the site and yet ease of access for events. Therefore, the proposal was no longer viable.

17/12/4 Dog Waste

The Council noted the advice from NKDC (18/1/17) on the change of use with dog waste in ordinary and dog waste bins and the further advice (15/2/17) that the collection of dog waste would no longer be charged for.

LT asked for clarification from NKDC on the changes, if any, required by NKDC for this dual use of bins.

Action Clerk

17/12/5 Transparency Fund

The Clerk reported the successful outcome of funding from LALC for a new laptop.

17/24 Correspondence

Emails:

24/1/2017 Lincs Highways re Parking.

The Council noted the reply from Lincs Highways that parking issues were a matter for the Police.

However, their reply did offer a hotspot line (01522 511142) for members of the public to discuss such issues with the Enforcement Team.

Action Clerk

27/1/2017 NKDC re grass cutting

The Parish Council is in discussion with NKDC to assume responsibility for the maintenance of the small areas of grass in the village currently cut by NKDC in the same way that it has successfully managed areas for Lincs CC in the last three years.

The Parish Council noted the reply from NKDC received 22/2/17 that advised that the issue was still under active consideration by NKDC.

17/25 Planning

Councillors reviewed their current protocol for advising NKDC on planning applications and decided that no sensible alternative arrangements were possible but noted that any significant applications might necessitate an EGM to be called.

17/26 Committees

/1 Village Hall – Premises Licence Application.

AB reported on the continuing success with organising activities and events at the Village Hall.

Action Clerk

The meeting reviewed at length the results the meeting held on the 26th January 2017 in the Village Hall to gauge support for a Social Club in the Village. PW then reported on the first meeting of the BECKINGHAM VILLAGE HALL LICENSING GROUP held on 13 February 2017 (Draft notes for this can be found on the village website at <http://beckinghamvillage.co.uk/pdfs/vh/licensing1.pdf>)

LT asked for the BECKINGHAM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION to be placed on the village website (to be found at <http://beckinghamvillage.co.uk/pdfs/vh/constitution.pdf>) and outlined the steps needed to be taken to clarify membership and responsibilities of the three groups involved in this project i.e. the Parish Council, the BECKINGHAM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE and the BECKINGHAM VILLAGE HALL LICENSING GROUP.

Action LT

The meeting discussed potential problems for the project arising out of the original conveyance for the Village Hall and instructed the Clerk to contact the solicitors to seek clarification.

Action Clerk

The Clerk reported on a promising recent visit and discussion by Clarity as possible suppliers of AV equipment the Village Hall.

17/27 Matters for Discussion

/2 To discuss a Highways Weed Control strategy.

LT reported on the work done successfully by JJH Services in cleaning out the gutters and recommended that the Parish Council maintain the gutters to a high standard by following Lincs Highways recommendation to spray for weeds 3 times a year.

This was approved as a plan and the Clerk is to arrange.

Action Clerk

/3 To discuss the maintenance of trees on Sutton Road

AB outlined the extensive work that was involved here. It is seen as a necessary part of good husbandry contributing to keeping ditches clear and hedges tidy as well as providing safe access to the place of work for the Parish's Grass Cutting Contractor.

The Council accepted an estimate of the work to be done before the March 31st latest.

Action Clerk

17/28 Finance

The meeting approved the reported payments and confirmed the reported bank balances at 12/2/2017

The meeting closed at 8.50pm