

Beckingham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 23rd November 2016

Present: Cllr L Tatton (LT), Cllr P Thorpe (PT), Cllr A Brewer, Cllr G Else (GE)
Terry Brown/Parish Clerk (TB).
District Cllr Sue Howe

Minute	Action
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16/106 Chairman's Announcements

LT reported:

"The wedding held on the 18th November had been a non-event. It was a pity that the Church failed in what could have been a simple PR exercise. The events had caused both considerable anxiety in the area and a lot of work for the Parish Council in trying to understand what could be done in conjunction with various authorities to minimise untoward activities.

Thanks go to local farmers who helped to safeguard field boundaries.

Thanks also go to the new occupier of the Packhorse who has donated various items to the Village Hall. Various Village Hall Management Committee documents and historical photos have been passed on from Graham Else and suitable pictures will be put onto the website in due course.

Lastly many thanks to Mikki for including an update on Parish Council activities in the latest issue of the Bugle."

16/107 Apologies for absence

Cllr P Wells (PW), District Cllr Pat Woodman MBE (PW)

16/108 Police Time

PCSO Donna Hill reported (by email) that there had been no crimes in Beckingham in the period 28/09/16 to 23/11/16. However there had been two motor vehicle thefts and lead stolen from the church roof in Brant Broughton in the last week. Therefore, everyone should remain vigilant.

16/109 District and County Councillor Time

Sue Howe reported:

"The Leader of the Council, Mrs Marion Brighton has recently been honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award recognizing more than 43 years' continuous service in Local Government, noting her relentless resolve and advocacy, delivered with grace and clarity.

The District's new build scheme of 22 properties at Kyme Road, Heckington is nearing completion, scheduled for January/February 2017.

An extra 22 hours of day-time swimming at OneNK, North Hykeham has been created, seeing Early Bird swim sessions and lunch-time swim sessions increased on Monday's, Wednesday's and Thursday's at varying times of the days.

Until 26.03.17, visitors can explore Cranwell's aviation history as a Training School and learn about aircraft that has flown from the base over the past 100 years."

16/111 Approval of the minutes of the meeting 28th September 2015.

Approved and signed by LT.

16/115 Committees

/1 Village Hall

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

The Councillors agreed to arrange a meeting in the New Year to gauge support amongst villagers to form a Committee to run a Social Club as a regular feature of the Village at the Village Hall.

The Councillors agreed to host the raising of the Village Christmas tree at the Village Hall on the 16th December.

16/116 Matters for Discussion

/1 Possible use of the Playing Field

Adam Cropper outlined the idea of hosting a series of Car Boot sales on the Playing Field in 2017 commencing in late February.

The meeting discussed the practical problems in arranging this. LT highlighted the problem of maintaining the security of access to the field when not in use by a Car Boot Sale. The Clerk queried the insurance provisions that would be necessary.

In general, the Councillors were supportive of the idea and discussed a possible three-year licence that might be used as a contract between the two parties. The Council agreed to investigate the idea further and instructed the Clerk to send a draft of the proposed licence to Adam Cropper.

The item would be placed on the agenda for further discussion at the next meeting.

Action Clerk

/2 2017-18 Precept

The Council reviewed the draft precept proposed by the Clerk.

The operating reserve held by the Council will be lower than usual at the end of this financial year i.e. March 31st 2017, because of the significant improvements that the Parish Council has carried out e.g. the defibrillator and the new notice board,

The Council has a program of further improvements planned for 2017/18 e.g. gutter cleaning but Council finances will be hard hit by the withdrawal of a significant grant from Lincs CC towards the village grass cutting, approximately £780. Therefore, and reluctantly, the Council is forced to ask for the precept to be increased by 7.5% to offset this loss of income and yet maintain and improve the character of the Village.

Action Clerk

/3 Amendment to Financial Regulations

The meeting agreed the Clerk's recommended amendment to the existing Financial Regulations.

The Parish Council now has access to HSBC Internet Banking but it is the expectation that payments will be authorised by cheque at Council meetings except where the timing of the payment would impose a charge on the Council if payment were delayed.

Action Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Date of next meeting Wednesday 11th January 2017