

Minutes of the
Beckingham Annual Parish Meeting

On Monday 19th May 2014, 7pm at the Village Hall

Present:

Meeting Chaired by Cllr. Lawrence Tatton – Chair of Beckingham Parish Council.
Minutes taken by Diana Johnson – Clerk to Beckingham Parish Council.

District Cllr. Sue Howe, Parish Cllr. Graham Else, Parish Cllr. Trish Thorpe & Parish Cllr. Andy Brewer
22 members of the public (including representatives from community groups and local businesses).

Apologies:

District Cllr Pat Woodman MBE & Mr Leggott for the Highway Trust.

Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting:

13th May 2013 – signed and agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising:

None

Report from the Chair of the Parish Council:

Beckingham Parish Council Report for the year ending 2014

What is a Parish Council?

It consists ordinary members of the electoral role that have been elected or co-opted onto the Council to serve and promote the best interests of the Parish.

They are, in no particular order, Trish Thorpe, Vice Chair, Andy Brewer, and Treasurer Graham Else.

There is vacant position on the Council there is always a need for a viable, dynamic PC if the needs of the parish are to be satisfied. If interested speak to one of us later.

Final member of the team is the Parish Clerk, she intends to pursue a different career in her private life and as such has given 6 months notice. This position carries a small salary and we are seeking to recruit a suitable replacement, again if interested, speak to one of us later.

What has your Parish Council achieved in the last 12 months?

At last year's meeting the first questions were about the dangerous state of the A17 in heavy rain. We have stood in the rain at the side of the road and gathered photographic evidence of the excess water on the south, this side of the carriageway that is enough to cause light cars to aquaplane and HGVs to pull to the centre of the carriageway. The far side of the road (north) has blocked drains. These facts were passed to LCC Highways and through our efforts and those of our County Councillor resulted in remedial works taking place.

In June works were carried out to alleviate the situation, we were frankly sceptical when that appeared to consist of cutting gaps in the verge to allow the water to run off into the grass. However almost immediately after the works heavy rain again ensued and the previous excess of water has been remedied and to date, following inspections in periods of heavy rain has continued to be a success. It will continue to be monitored, to ensure the safety of residents that use the road on a daily basis as well as the general road using public.

However, the drains on the north side were blocked again. Highways denied responsibility as the adjacent dyke belonged to the MoD. Eventually it was resolved that it was their dyke and in February the dyke was cleared along with the associated pipe runs and to date that has remained in good order.

Work was also carried out in June by Highways to improve and rectify the long standing drainage issues on Hillside.

We have a good working relationship with Highways to the extent that we have escorted a senior engineer around the Parish and pointed out our concerns and works that we would like carrying out to improve the area. Such was the success of this visit that a repeat tour occurred with more senior official, who admitted that the Parish has been neglected in recent years.

We would like to see a further improvement on Hillside, along with repairs to carriageway tarmac, footpaths, drainage at the A17 junction, the safety of the junction in icy conditions.

This has been taken on board by Highways and of course is subject to finance and their priorities.

As the PC is made up of amateurs, ordinary people we are pleased to learn.

Grass grows of it's own accord but needs intervention for it to be cut. So whilst we waited for the Contractor responsible for cutting grassed areas that are under our control, they waited for us to make contact with them.

The result was very long grass, almost waist high, especially if you are a child, the first cut not occurring until the first week in June, followed by a second a week later. The service that we received and the quality of the work has resulted in the work being awarded to a more local Contractor.

The resulting performance, along with cost considerations has enabled us to award the contract to the same contractor again this year.

In an effort to improve the appearance of the Village we have taken over responsibility for mowing verges from the boundary of the village as indicated by the Beckingham signs on Sleaford and Sutton Roads. This was done by Highways and we recoup the cost that they would have expended and we will have more cuts taken in order to be in line with existing maintenance.

We would in due course like to be responsible for all grassed areas in the Parish, but at the moment the Village Green and associated verge are in the domain of NKDC.

Planning.

NKDC issues all planning applications that are applicable to the Parish, along with the posting of notices adjacent to the respective locations, to the PC. These are full details of the application including plans, maps, design details etc. These are circulated to all the councillors for individual comment, and subsequently, joint discussion and comment. Own views are then returned to NKDC. It is gratifying to note that our responses are noted and as appropriate acted upon.

Some are simple and straightforward others more complex, requiring site visits and often a depth of local knowledge.

This year they have arrived at the rate of almost one a fortnight and have consisted of extensions to homes, repairs and alterations to listed buildings, TPOs, provision of notice boards outside properties, erection of solar panels, and the erection of wind farms.

We were pleased to be able to make our views regarding an application for the erection of a Wind Farm at Temple Hill, known at a full meeting of the NKDC Planning Committee.

Other miscellaneous works have included the removal of a derelict asbestos roofed building from the Playing Field and the area made good, finally achieving the cutting of the hedge alongside the field, once we managed to understand that we needed to comply with the 1981 Countryside and Wildlife Act, don't do work in the nesting season.

Lessons such as this and the timing of when grass grows are being incorporated into handbooks that are in the possession of each councillor and subject to constant review.

We have reported to NKDC that street signs are showing signs of neglect and as a result name plates are being removed for refurbishment and we have re-erected those stands that were misaligned, a small but visible enhancement to the appearance of the Parish.

Almost the final act of the year is to set the precept or rates for the year. This involves estimating or planning the needs for the coming 12 months along with known commitments. For 2014/5 there has been an increase due to 2 unplanned unavoidable expenditures on Council property.

However be assured that at all times efforts are made to secure value for money along with securing a quality that reflects the needs of the Parish.

So basically that is what the or rather your Parish Council has achieved in the last 12 months and I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their trust in electing me as Chairman.

Also I speak for all of us in thanking Diana for her work as Clerk to the Council and we wish her well in her new career.

Finally to anyone who thinks that they could have done a better job than us, may I remind you that there is a vacant chair here.

Thank you for your attention and if there are any questions now is the time.

End of Chairs report.

Reports and Accounts presented from Community Groups:

- **Randolph Pattinson Charity** – Nick Ashworth (Trustee and the Secretary) gave a brief background and information on the Charity locally known as “The Poor Gardens”. Annual report and accounts presented.
- **Play Park Project** – Karen Ashworth (Chair) gave background information on the project and a summary of recent fundraising activities. Annual report and accounts presented.
- **District Councillor Sue Howe** – Overview of the District Council’s Achievements in 2013/14 including capital investment in housing, waste collection review, the well Being Service, reduced carbon emissions. NKDC is 19th best place to live, 11th most peaceful and 7th safest area in Britain. Whisby Nature Reserve and Natural World Centre celebrates 25yrs and named in top 10% of performing businesses worldwide on Trip Advisor. District is one of the lowest charging authorities, and a new council tax support scheme has been established.
- **Village Hall Committee** – Background and summary of the years progress. Report presented.
- **All Saints PCC** – Vic Rampton informed us of the Church’s progress in the last year and what is due in the coming months. Asked what decision the PC had made regarding mowing donations.

- **Highway Trust** – Mr Leggott sent apologies. Accounts received by email. Question from member of the public regarding the “Entitlements Purchase” of £1200. DJ to ask and respond.

Open Forum:

- **JHCS Broadband** – Judd Ferrer spoke following information distributed in the Beckingham Bugle regarding this internet opportunity. Prices start from £5.99+vat dependant on speed you choose. Unlimited usage. Rolling 1 month contract. No installation fees if 20 houses sign up. Local villages and some houses within Beckingham already using the service. If you are interested please speak directly to Judd.
- **Footpath between end of houses on Sutton Road and Sutton-Cum-Beckingham** – member of the public asked if the possibility of a footpath could be looked into.
- **Grass cutting on Sutton Road and Sutton-cum-Beckingham** – member of public raised concerns regarding road safety at the junction. PC to look at plans and find out who does what and when.
- **Hillside surface water/natural spring** – member of public would like this matter chasing up. Although LCC Highways have done some work it has not solved the problem.
- **Exit to village onto A17** – member of public would like the PC to address this problem with LCC Highways once again.

Meeting Closed at 20:17

Refreshments served.