

Beckingham Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 29th May 2019

Chair Cllr Lawrence Tatton (Parish Council Chairman)

Parish Cllrs Andy Brewer, Philip Wells, Scott Toomer and Angela Smith

PCSO Sarah Lingard

8 parishioners

Notetaker Terry Brown (Parish Clerk)

Minute	Action
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19/65 Apologies for absence

None

19/66 Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 30th May 2018.

These were approved and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

19/67 Matters arising

None.

19/68 Chairman's report:

"Good Evening and welcome to our 47th Annual Parish Meeting. I'll repeat the opening remarks the same as last year, just in case there is someone present who has not attended an APM before. Why are we here? I am here because the 1972 Local Government Act says I must be here to Chair the meeting, I hope you are here if not to be entertained at least to be informed about the work of your Parish Council over the last 12 months.

There is a loose agenda for this evening, starting with a report on the activities of the Parish Council, this will be given by me, in my role as Chair of the PC and then there is an opportunity for anyone to put questions etc. on how well or badly it is perceived that the PC has performed over the last 12 months. It is a fairly informal meeting, although as I said it is a mandatory meeting prescribed by Act of Parliament but do feel free to top up your glass or plate as the case may be whenever you need to.

At this meeting anyone, or any local company or charity, or organisation based or resident in the parish is able to make a presentation should they so wish and hopefully take questions from the floor, so in no particular order, we have this evening:

A report on the activities of the Village Hall Management Committee, by its Chair, Mr Andrew Brewer.

The Beckingham Village Hall Social Club Chairman, Philip Wells will report on another successful year.

A presentation about the use of Drones in our area, either for commercial or private use.

We would appreciate an input from you, the people that we represent about the Village newsletter, The Bugle, we'll bring that up later on.

Another issue that the PC would like a view on is the future of the Playing Field, there will be a presentation later.

So, the report from the Parish Council.

I would like to start the report by mentioning the other members of the Parish Council for their unstinting efforts and support throughout the past year. They are Andy Brewer who was Vice Chair, Philip Wells, Scott Toomer and the Parish Clerk, Terry Brown. We in the parish are fortunate that we have a close knit hardworking and we think successful team. I would like now just to take a moment and thank each and every one of them for the self-motivated work, effort, input, enthusiasm that they each put in.

We are fortunate that we have a close-knit group that works together to meet common aims for the Parish with each member having a wide breadth of knowledge and experience in various fields that add to our collective decision-making process. I must also thank on behalf of the PC our Parish Clerk, Terry Brown, for the work that he does, work that to the public is hidden behind the scenes, it is however an equally valuable and important contribution. The other person that we must give thanks to is the Village Litter Picker, working quietly away in the background, James Keane.

During the course of the past year we had a change of Councillors, two Councillors leaving the Parish Council, Lynn Sills in the summer and Robin Gibbs in early in the New Year. A new Councillor was co-opted onto the Council, he is being Scott Toomer and we welcomed a relative youngster onto the Council, this left us at the end of the past year with one vacancy.

Breaking the year into suitable categories we'll start with:

Planning.

All Planning Applications submitted to NKDC are passed to the PC for us to peruse and comment on. There have been 9 in the past year, over double the total of the previous year. The applications were:

A change of use of an Agricultural Building at Sutton Cum Beckingham to Residential use.

A Planning in Principle application for three additional dwellings and improved access for Beckingham House to the rear of the Churchyard. We commented adversely on this matter feeling that the additional traffic that would be generated on an already difficult corner would not be safe, as well as the view that the proposed development would be out of keeping for the location as a whole. Incidentally a Planning in Principle known in the trade as a PIP, was a new type of application and we were the first recipients of such an application in Lincolnshire. We have also written to the relevant department to ensure that all necessary consultees are included in such an application.

An Application to prune trees adjacent to The Villa on Chapel Street to ensure clearance for supply cables.

An Application to remove a length of hedgerow on Woodgate Lane.

A proposal by NKDC to establish a Conservation Area in the Village. This being a major issue a Public Consultation was held in the Village Hall presented by the three senior members of NK's Planning Department. We generally agreed that such a proposal would enhance the preservation of the character of the village and with some small suggestions regarding boundaries etc., we supported the application.

A total of four Applications for Retrospective and Part Retrospective works on buildings and an Application for a Lawful Development Certificate of a Day Room on 4 locations on Sleaford Road were received. We were asked by NKDC to supply any information that we had regarding the use of the buildings. We were unable to assist as the only information that we had was that which was available to anyone passing the location on the A17.

Environment.

This heading covers, basically the things that we can see around us that we can have as a Council have some impact on.

We had invited and were delighted to receive, in July a visit from Rowan Smith, a senior member of LCC Highways Department for our area. Two Councillors enjoyed a long walk around the Parish where we pointed out the evident lack of repair and renewal to our roads, drains, gutters, footpaths and hedgerows and the subsequent decay that is all too evident. It was agreed that work is overdue and necessary. However, pressures on budgets and priorities meant that there would be little chance of works that are needed being carried out. We did make our feelings felt and the sympathetic response is probably all that we can hope for. A week after the visit some potholes were repaired on Sleaford Road, a co-incidence or as a result of our efforts?

On the matter of roadside gutters, Lincolnshire County Council is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of all highways and footpaths. This includes preventing the growth of weeds at the interface between kerb and road as well as general maintenance in those areas. Due to budgetary restraints Highways have ceased these activities and in order to maintain a reasonably attractive appearance the PC has commissioned a Contractor to carry out this work on our behalf as we did in the previous year.

The appearance is improving, and the weed growth is gradually being reduced, but years of neglect means that it will take time to achieve the result that the Parish deserves.

We believe that part of our duty as a PC is to look after the infrastructure in the Parish as well as trying to get those that we already pay to do the work to actually do it.

We have in place a 2 yearly grass cutting contract for what is termed "Amenity Grass" in the Parish. This work starts when it is decided that the weather is suitable, and length of grass is sufficient to instigate cutting. The Contractor then cuts at regular intervals to maintain the appearance. Also included in this work is the cutting of the hedge alongside the Playing Field which has to be done outside of the Nesting season. Following a question at a previous APM, we have now included in the Contract all the grass that is on Highway land, there having been some verges that were not covered historically by any of the three authorities.

The only grass not cut by us is land owned by NKDC and we have again had the spectacle of two different grass cutters in the village on the same day. We have again failed to persuade NK to grant us permission to cut the Village Green at no cost to them, it being a matter of principle.

A visually important piece of work that we have again carried out ears is the "siding" of footpaths. This is a job for Highways but again has not been attended to for a number of years. It involves the removal of grass that has over time grown over the verge and onto adjacent footpaths reducing the footpath considerably in some places. In total 1.6 kilometres of footpath sides were attended to, something that parishioners have noticed and commented on.

NKDC are to complimented on other matters, the speedy removal of an abandoned car on Sleaford Road, 30 odd fridges dumped on the A17, a load of gardening waste dumped in the same place, a mattress and car tyres on Sutton Road, all removed within a couple of days of the mess being reported. However, getting streetlights to either be on at night or off in the day still seems to be difficult. It is worth mentioning that some residents believe that it is the job of a Councillor only to report such matters, anyone can report issues to NK online or by phone.

We have arranged to have an additional Road Grit Bin and it is located at the junction of Sleaford Road and Sutton Road.

Community:

This building that we are sat in is owned by the Parish Council and is the largest asset that we possess. As a Parish Council we are mandated to "make best use of our assets" We have been fortunate that through the efforts of some dynamic individuals and with the Parish Council supporting them the usage of the hall has dramatically increased.

I shall leave the details of this work to the reports to be made on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee and from the newly formed Social Club.

The Parish Council, in making best use of its assets has in looking to further improve the facilities in this Hall by reducing the heating costs and improving the general acoustics been successful in obtaining two grants to facilitate the installation of suspended ceilings in the two main rooms. We are grateful to NKDC and the reVOLT Fund.

The Parish Council continues with the production of the Beckingham Bugle newsletter we hope again to be able to increase interest in it and to enable diverse and relevant articles with submissions from across the whole Parish.

The PC supported Village Fete and as a result of its success gates have been erected at the three entrances to the Village and Flag Poles erected on the Village Hall. The Flag Poles fly the Union Flag and Flag of Lincolnshire and measures are in place to celebrate or mourn national events. Following the recent passing of two residents as a mark of respect we have in each case arranged, after consulting the respective families, that the Lincolnshire Flag be flown at half-mast.

The defibrillator, located outside of this building has been taken for use on two occasions, fortunately not having to have actually been used. Each time the equipment has to be examined and proven to be fit for use before the Ambulance Service will make it available to the general public. We are again grateful to those that supply such responsible maintenance services.

The VETO fund that was established quite a few years ago to fight against the proposed erection of wind turbines has been placed into the hands of the PC by the two remaining signatories as they felt that it was no longer reasonable for two individuals to continue to be responsible for it as the threat posed by the Turbines had disappeared. The PC will decide in due course and after any necessary consultation as to the future of the fund.

The village web site is updated every time that there is something to put on it, all relevant agendas and minutes of meetings are listed as well as all financial transactions by the PC and the Village Hall Management Committee and other matters of general interest. We are trying to make the web site a "go to" place for any information about the Village and its activities. Should anyone want something posting, contact details are there on the site.

Finally, a bureaucratic tale. Several years ago, land behind the Churchyard, adjoining the Rectory was sold by the PC. Part of this entailed having the land valued, by a branch of HMRC. This was done on the understanding that the cost would be minimal. Three years passed and a final demand notice was served on a Councillor for non-payment of £900. All news to us. Several letters have been exchanged with various departments each promising a resolution or threatening further action. The saga will no doubt continue throughout this financial year.

The future:

In April of this year, our term of elected office, that is 4 years, came to an end and we are returned unopposed. Some may think that that indicates a lack of interest in the Village, we believe that it is the electorate's way of saying to us that we are doing a really good job and we are to carry on for another 4 years.

We welcome the public to attend any PC meeting where they can have 15 minutes of free time to question, criticise, make requests of the Council or put their view forward on any subject that they think fit. It is not something to be afraid of, you will be putting your thoughts to likeminded neighbours such as ourselves and we welcome input from anyone."

19/69 Reports from Community Groups

The accounts for the following parish organisations had been tabled:

Beckingham Highways Trust - see Annex 1

Randolph Pattinson Charity – see Annex 2

Police – see Annex 3

Police report:

PCSO Sarah Lingard reported that the Crime Commissioner had achieved extra funding to avert the possibility of the previously publicised PCSO redundancies and that Beckingham would remain with the current pattern of officers

However, a recent burglary was a timely reminder for all parishioners to take precautions against opportunistic thefts, a problem made worse by the proximity of the A17.

A parishioner asked about the clear up rate to reported crimes.

Village Hall Management Committee:

Andy Brewer reported on the extensive improvements that had been achieved in the Village Hall during the year and these included roof repairs, toilet redecoration, carpets and the purchase of a glass washer.

Future ambitions included a change to the blinds and changes to the toilets for disabled access. However, the latter would involve a considerable investment of £15000 to £20000 approximately.

Scott Toomer, courtesy of his day job in the RAF, gave an interesting talk on the increased restrictions placed on the flying of drones such that they should be kept below 400ft and always within line of sight.

The proximity of the several RAF sites near and around Beckingham makes this very pertinent information.

Randolph Pattinson Charity (Poor Gardens):

Nick Ashworth outlined the history of the Charity and that the trustees were now focused towards helping youngsters with things like school trips and work experience. However, no donations had been made in the previous year.

All Saints Church:

The newly installed Rector Christine Goldsmith introduced herself. She outlined her aim to bring the Church into greater use within the community and asked for help from all members of the parish to achieve this.

Beckingham Social Club:

Philip Wells reported on a successful second year of the Club as exemplified by the renewal by of most the membership by existing members. There were now 118 members of the Club.

The Club was self-sufficient in funds and had contributed towards the Village Hall Management Committee investment in things like Sky TV.

It has ambitious future plans which included film afternoons, bingo sessions and flower arranging classes.

19/70 Open Forum

The following items were discussed:

A possible development of the Playing Field

Andy Brewer outlined the current situation of the area in terms of the state of the existing play equipment, the costs of maintaining the site and current funds of £3600 held by the Parish Council towards the development of the area

He proposed its development as a woodland walk for dog owners but separated and fenced from the existing equipment.

Initial research had identified a useful range of possible sources of help, funding and otherwise.

The meeting resolved that the Parish Council should pursue this idea further

The Chair asked for feedback on the Bugle.

Whilst it was thought to be a useful feature of the parish some suggestions for improvement were made e.g. less text and a list of useful contact addresses.

19/71 Date of next Parish Council meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 25th July 2018.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Beckingham Highways Trust - Annex 1

BECKINGHAM HIGHWAY TRUST

YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2019

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Bank balance @ 28/02/2018	£4,840.28		
Stewardship Scheme	£179.00	Drainage Board	£40.97
Single Farm Payment	£1,343.87	Anglian Water	£19.16
Rent – Coney Farms	£525.00	Fencing: Cap Ex Repairs	£73.47
Donation Refund – BVHSC	£275.00	Criminal Damage Repairs	£0.00
		Donations:-	
		P C C re Grass Cutting	£300.00
COIF Inc Dividends	£14.60		
Bank Credit Interest	£2.82		
		Bank Balance @ 28/02/2019	£6,746.97
	£7,180.57		£7,180.57

BECKINGHAM HIGHWAY TRUST

YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2019

Summary of funds held:

Bank Current Account	£4,233.54
Bank Savings Account	£2,513.43
COIF Investment (Last valuation held 31/12/18)	£416.46
Total	£7,163.43

Randolph Pattinson Charity – Annex 2

RANDOLPH PATTINSON CHARITY (POOR GARDENS) STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

For year ended
31st December 2018

TSB Bank – Treasurers Account

Balance brought forward 1 st January 2018	<u>£1446.08</u>
<u>Credits/Income</u>	
Investment income (see Note 3b below)	£ 28.86
Bank interest	0
Poor Gardens Rental for 2018	<u>£ 100.00</u>
Total Income for 2018	£ 128.86
<u>Debits/Expenditure</u>	
Disbursement	£ 0.00
Total Expenditure for 2018	£ 0.00
Cash at Bank 31st December 2018	<u>£1574.94</u>

NOTES

1. By a will dated 31st March 1691, Randolph Pattinson left to the “Poor of Beckingham and Sutton” the income from the Poor Gardens.
2. Trustees: The Trustees as at the 31st December 2018 were Mr. A Brewer (1/9/21), Mrs. A Matson (1/9/2019), Mr. S Blackburn (1/9/2019) and Mr. N. Ashworth (1/9/21) secretary / correspondent.
3. The Poor Gardens have been registered with the Land Registry. The Charity Commission are listed as the Official Custodian to prevent financial charges arising following a change of Trustees.
4. The Trust assets comprise:-
 - (a) The freehold of the Poor Gardens (O.S.8076) 2,085 acres is currently let on an agricultural /grazing tenancy at a rental of £100.00 p.a.
 - (b) 57.91 Income Shares in the Charities Official Investment Fund quoted at 1432.62 pence per share on 31st December 2018, representing a value of £829.63. This investment represents the compensation received when a few yards of the northern boundary of the Poor Gardens were taken for the construction of the A17 by-pass.
 - (c) There were no disbursements during 2018.

N. Ashworth
Secretary/Trustee
12 May 2019

Police Report - Annex 3



Beckingham Annual Parish Meeting Period Covering 1st May 2018 – 29th May 2019

The below are the crimes and reported which are of interest to the wider community of Beckingham.

Crime

September

14/09/18 – Dwelling burglary – Chapel Street.

October

17/10/18 - Dwelling burglary – Chapel Street.

May

22/5/19 – Dwelling burglaries – Sleaford Road & Chapel Street.

28/5/19 – Theft of Land Rover doors – Hillside.

Hykeham Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team

To report all crimes and incidents Tel: **101** in an emergency dial **999**

Contact numbers for general enquiries only.

SGT Ken Whyte 01522 805721

PC Mark Wood 07973 846976

PCSO Sarah Lingard 07944 776791

PCSO Jo Mackie 07825 100379

Email: hykehamrural.npt@lincs.pnn.police.uk

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