

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHETSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Held at the Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone

28th September 2017

Present: - Mr. D. Smith - Chairman
Mr. M.R. Bounds
Mrs. A.M. Tyler
Ms. S. Tomlinson
Mr. S. Duffin
Mr. L. Breckon (Clerk)

Mr.P.Cox
Mrs. P.Kenney
Mr. M.E.Jackson
Mrs. N.Howden
Mr. M.Bradford

LCC Cllr. Mr. D. Jennings
BDC Officer Carol Parker
BDC Officer Caroline Harbour
PCSO Biju Chandy

No Parishioners.

68. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from – Mr. R.Simmons - holiday, Mrs. N.Kalsi – other meeting, Mr. L.M.Phillimore – other meeting and Mrs. S. Coe (Deputy Clerk) - holiday.
RESOLVED: To accept apologies received.

69. CHAIRS REPORT AND REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed Members and visitors to the meeting.

70. DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

None.

71. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF COUNCIL DATED 24th AUGUST 2017

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meetings dated 24th August 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

72. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF COMMITTEE AND WORKING PARTY MEETINGS

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 24th July 2017, the Staff Working Party minutes held on 23rd August 2017 and Community Premises & Public Open Spaces Working Party held on 7th September 2017 be received.

RESOLVED: A verbal report on tonight's planning meeting be received from the Chairman of Planning Committee.

73. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a) Public Speaking Protocol - No requests received by the protocol deadline.
- b) The meeting was suspended to allow members of the public to make representation about any item not on the agenda (old parishioners time).
 - i) The Taxi rank on Cambridge Road still had rubbish outside it.
 - ii) The Lime Tree still had overspill parking issues. These needed photographing and reporting to BDC.
 - iii) Parked cars around the village were becoming an issue. It was noted that this was also an issue across the district, but if reported, action could be taken.
 - iv) The steps off the three arches path were muddy and overgrown. This was BDC's path and would be reported. The picnic table at the Station street end had been burnt. The Clerk would report these.
 - v) Speeding traffic was still an issue around Cambridge Road.
 - vi) The footpath on East Avenue to Trinity Road Park was overgrown and dark. This has been reported to LCC before.
 - vii) Dog mess was around areas of the village again. The Clerk showed Members the upto date website page showing how it can be reported.

74. TO DISCUSS THE GRAFFITI ART WALL PROJECT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE VILLAGE

This item was requested after the meeting where a resident attended the meeting and was asking for Council support regarding the graffiti project in the underpass which was causing him severe problems at his stables and also for him personally. Council discussed the issues of graffiti around the village as well as the ASB experienced by the parishioner.

A discussion had agreed to oppose the wall as an approved scheme, as well as a suggestion to approach LCC and ask that the underpass be closed and residents signposted to use the pelican crossing on the Bypass at the Enderby Road end.

The Chairman asked the Officers from BDC to introduce themselves and their roles. Caroline Harbour explained her role as Environmental Health Manager within BDC. Carol Parker introduced herself to the meeting and her role as ASB Officer.

The issue of problems around the underpass project had not been seen by BDC by way of calls logs and issues seen of an offensive nature. Tags may have occurred, but only one had been offensive and had been acted upon by Graff HQ. The single ongoing issue raised at the previous meeting as mentioned by the Clerk was no longer being reported. The project had been well received by many parishioner's form both Blaby and Whetstone. The project was designed to solve the graffiti issues, not the ASB issues that any underpass brings with it, as they are historically gathering places.

The issue of closing the underpass needed raising with the County Council as a separate matter. It was noted that many people use the underpass during the day when they feel safe and able to do so. At night it is not a well-used route due to the fear factor and the use of drugs, historic ASB. The Police did patrol the underpass on an as regular basis as possible. It was stated that resources were "thin on the ground" due to the area covered and the number of officers available.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the LCC Cllr's for Whetstone and ask that the underpass be closed as above. That the BDC officers are thanked for their attendance and for their good work to date. That all Members ensure that any issues passed to them are passed to the office for reporting on.

The Chairman thanked officers and they left the meeting at 8.25 p.m.

75. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

BDC Cllr. Mrs. S. Coe had tabled a report. BDC Cllr. Mr. M.E. Jackson reported the following: He was involved in the income generation Scrutiny working group looking at Lubbesthorpe. He highlighted signage issues at Whetstone Tip and asked LCC Cllr. Mr. D. Jennings if he could pass this on. He was asked to email the details.

LCC Cllr. Mr. D. Jennings reported he was pleased with the recent appeal decisions that Countesthorpe had "enjoyed". Phil Crossland had retired as Highways Director. The Strategic Growth Plan was an emerging document. Briefings had been given by County and District Councils for Members. It looked at the housing and employment land needs for Leicester, Leicestershire up to 2050 and had some major implications within it. LCC were also putting in bids for major highway improvements including a new motorway junction 20a.

RESOLVED: That the written report and any verbal reports given be received.

76. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Mrs. A.M. Tyler had attended the Parish Liaison event at BDC. She had attended two workshops and had found them both very informative. She would disseminate the information to the Clerk and the Clerk would ensure that any information from BDC was shared with all Members.

RESOLVED: That the written reports and any verbal reports given be received.

77. FINANCE

a) TO RECEIVE ACCOUNTS AND CONFIRM BALANCE SHEET

RESOLVED: That the accounts paid up to the end of August 2017 were confirmed. The bank reconciliation statement was signed by the Chairman on behalf of Council.

b) TO RECEIVE THE CERTIFIED ANNUAL RETURN FOR WHETSTONE PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017

The Clerk had tabled updated correspondence received regarding the audit report. Last year's report was qualified due to the days the accounts being advertised for inspection being deemed excessive as the Clerk used exclusive 30-day period. This year the issue of the Governance statement was discussed with Grant Thornton to ensure compliance based on last year's return.

The documents in the pack highlighted frustration and also the reply stating the actual 30 days (the issue last year) was ok being over and should be another matter for reporting and not qualified. This implied the 2015/16 was incorrect as a qualified audit. The Clerk would update Council once confirmation was received. The Clerk thanked the Deputy Clerk for her work on this. The Chairman thanked the Clerk and Deputy Clerk for their work on getting the clarification.

RESOLVED: To accept the External auditors report and await the confirmation from the Auditor as per the Clerks Report above.

78. CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported the following: A report on the POS actions raised at the last meeting would be given at the October Council meeting. The Christmas event would also be updated upon. The Deputy Clerk had been approached regarding advertisements being placed in the Duckpaddle. It was agreed that this needed to be moderately and sensitively so as not to change the feel of the publication.

The Clerk shared a presentation given by the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner. It gave a good overview as to the challenges being faced by today's Police force. He would copy it to all Members.

The Cars around the village were still being reported.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for his informative report.

79. CORRESPONDENCE

To receive correspondence report: RESOLVED: The list be received and noted. All correspondence has been copied to members.

a) Councillor Resignation letter – received – The Chairman asked Members to be on the look out for good candidates. The Clerk will write to Jon thanking him for his work and will advertise the vacancy in the Duckpaddle and on notice boards.

b) Parishioner email regarding village – received – The Clerk responded to the sections raised. The Clerk would reply to the Parishioner expresses Councils views.

c) LCC – Traffic Regulation Order – Warwick Road – noted.

d) LCC – Traffic Regulation Order – Footpath Z77 – High Street to Wheatsheaf – noted – The Clerk gave an updated date which had been provided due to contaminated materials having been found on site.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be received and actions noted.

With there being no further business, the Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.50 p.m.