

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHETSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

Held at the Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone  
20th March 2014

Present: Mr. A.Greenwood – Chairman  
Mr. M.R.Bounds  
Mr. L.M.Phillimore  
Mr. D.Smith  
Mr. B. Drury  
Mr. S.Webb  
Mr. R.Simmons  
Mr. L.Breckon (Clerk)

Mrs. A.M.Tyler  
Mr.M.E.Jackson  
Mr. J.Riley  
Mrs. P.Kenney  
Mr.P.Cox  
Mr. M.C.Burley  
Mr. A.Tanner  
Mrs. S.Coe – Deputy Clerk

No Parishioners.

### **157. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from: Ms. S.Tomlinson – Illness, LCC Cllr. Mr.D.Jennings - other meeting. RESOLVED: To accept apologies received.

### **158. CHAIRMANS REPORT AND REMARKS**

The Chairman updated members on the S106 Lubbesthorpe issue regarding the Police, BDC and the Judicial Review. The potential withdrawal of the funding for the Motorway bridges had been put back until June to hopefully allow the situation to be solved. Other Planning Authorities had also been threatened with Judicial Review by the Police but the BDC one was the only one lodged and being pursued. He also updated members on the current land bank figures being used as Lubbesthorpe was currently in question.

### **159. DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

Mr. A. Greenwood declared a prejudicial interest as a Board member of the Blaby and Whetstone Boys Club.

### **160. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF COUNCIL DATED 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2014**

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meetings dated 13th February 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **161. TO RECEIVE MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014 be received. That the verbal report be received.

The Committee asked that Council, due to the lack of engagement, as promised by Davidson's on the Dog and Gun Lane Development, agree that a letter be written to Davidson's expressing disappointment as highlighted above.

RESOLVED: That a letter be written to Davidson's expressing disappointment as highlighted above.

### **162. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

a) Public Speaking Protocol - No requests had been 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 parishioner's time).

i) A reply was still awaited from the Ombudsman related to Springwell Lane on one submitted letter. The situation as to what had been done to date was discussed. This had been discussed with the Secretary of State who had given the possibility of an injustice,

due to the administration process, short shrift. The battle was still being fought as this was about an injustice to the village due to the way the last inquiry had been run. A letter on the language used by a planning Inspector was read out by the Chairman of the Planning Committee which indicated that there was a concern for overriding policies on countryside development and the use and value of green wedges. Netting had appeared on hedgerows along Springwell Lane to stop birds nesting, yet the hedges were not part of any removal scheme seen in the planning applications. The Clerk would raise this with the Planning Officer.

ii) The former Wheatsheaf Public House had been tagged with graffiti and the Clerk gave an update as to the latest position. The Police were making progress. The Council could not remove the tag as it was private property. The Clerk would inform BDC environmental regarding seeing if they could remove it as an enforcement issue and then recharge the owner.

iii) The idea of relocation of the Parish Offices and depot to the old Wilford Shoe site had been shared with the Clerk and was discussed. The old Baptist church site was also discussed as was the old electroform site. These sites would all be known to BDC for potential redevelopment opportunities for potential developers. S106 was discussed as how developers could be asked to change the usual designated use of monies to be used for other non recreational community projects.

iv) The brook banks and amenity area were raised as possibly benefiting the planting of additional bulbs. The Clerk noted these and would discuss with the ground staff. Bulbs had been planted on the brook banks. The rear of the amenity area was seeded last year when the trees were removed. A scheme of planting was being planned.

v) The Police had dealt with the known speeding car off Springwell Lane. Thanks were given.

vi) Speeding had been reported on Attfield Drive. The speed camera was currently installed on Attfield Drive and the data would be analysed to see how big a problem it was, as would all current locations that the camera was used on.

vii) Parking on pavements had been highlighted as an issue in the Leicester Mercury. The incidents in the village were discussed and the information that the Police had given for reporting was re emphasised.

viii) Merridale Farm was advertising goods for sale. Was it licensed to do so? The Clerk would make enquiries and report back.

### **163. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

BDC Cllr. Mr. A.Tanner reported that the Springwell Lane reserved matters were currently being reviewed by BDC. The Clerk would input the Parish comments from this meeting. He made members aware that DCC was being reduced from 17 members to 11 members and these would then be trained to be more “competent” in their dealings with planning matters that the Committee deal with.

BDC Cllr. Mr.A.Greenwood updated members on the current performance of Planning under the special measures designation.

A question was asked regarding the LCC precept being held at zero yet they were trying to reduce services. The public consultation had responded in a positive way for an increase, to prevent cuts, yet they had ignored this and done the opposite. It did little to give confidence that LCC were listening to its residents. The Clerk would pass this to the LCC Cllrs.

RESOLVED: That any verbal reports given be received.

### **164. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Mrs. A.M.Tyler had attended the LRALC Blaby Branch meeting. The LRALC were running a planning awareness seminar in May.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report given be received.

## 165. PLANNING MATTERS

This application was classed as a major application: **13/0803/1/MX** – amended plans including revision of site layout, material proposals, chimney details and revised house types – Residential development of 150 dwellings, associated garages, access infrastructure, landscaping and open space ( reserved matters) – Land east of Springwell Lane.

The Clerk explained that the application was on reserved matters and amended the initial full reserved matters application submitted which the Parish Council had commented on. Many of the points raised by the Parish Council in its submission had, in the Clerks opinion, been addressed by DWH in this subsequent reserved matters submission with the amendments now made.

Regarding the Elliot Close POS, it was noted that at the public inquiry, the DWH QC Jeremy Cahill said that this needed completing and witnessed a conversation between WPC and Ian Althorpe DWH where we were offered completion of this outside of whether the appeal was won or lost by DWH. The Elliot POS was handed to BDC for this to be “leveraged” and then handed back to WPC for ongoing upkeep on behalf of the village.

For this to happen, the Elliot Close POS needed new public access onto Dog and Gun Lane with secure and substantive gating, seating, signage, waste bins and dog litter bins. The argument before of “no safe access onto Dog and Gun Lane” from the POS was now “lost” as the Davidson’s approved development on the lane, gained access across the road by residents who would purchase their homes.

It was noted that this was borne out by the 18 year plus saga of the aggregated Elliot POS which DWH agreed to provide, yet reneged on the commitments and the land had since been classed as an open space, accessed by trespass. This needed dealing with ahead of any development.

The Clerk informed members that for the Glenfield Park development, Wilson Bowden and DWH and Barratt, who were understand to be part of the Springwell Lane offering, had offered post consultation with the Parish Council. This was a pro active approach. Whetstone Parish Council, as a pro active Council, would be willing to engage with the developer and make the “best of a bad job” for the village. They have the chance to change the perception and this may be an opener to start achieving that.

RESOLVED: Council **object** on the grounds bullet pointed below, but realise the Inspectors approval gives the reserved matters approval by default. Council ask BDC to ensure that strict planning conditions protect our concerns, protect the residents who will be affected most and that the planning conditions keep the village free from noise, dust and nuisance as the development takes place.

Council noted that no pre consultation with BDC had occurred between DWH and BDC and this showed in their initial reserved matters and details submission.

The 3 remaining issues to put forward as objections were:

- No provision of POS – This needed addressing by conditions for on-site provision. If a contribution was to added to the existing provision on Oliver Park this would be considered.

- Access to the existing estate by footways are not welcomed by the Council or by the residents of the estate, as what had been a cul de sac, is now a public through fare.
- The play areas are not shown, or thought through.

The Clerk was thanked for his informative overview.

## **166. FINANCE**

### **A) RECEIVE ACCOUNTS AND CONFIRM BALANCE SHEET**

RESOLVED: That the accounts paid up to the end of February 2014 are confirmed. The bank reconciliation statement dated 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014 was signed by the Chairman on behalf of Council.

### **B) FOR INFORMATION – THE STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE AND PRECEPT INFORMATION 2014/15.**

The Clerk had copied the statement of expenditure and precept information that now resides on the BDC website which was noted.

### **C) REVIEW STANDING ORDERS, FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

RESOLVED: That the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment as reviewed be approved.

## **167. CLERKS REPORT**

### **General report and Ground Staff Work Schedule and meetings schedule**

The ground staff work schedule and meetings schedule has been distributed and was noted.

The Clerk reported on the following: The Cricket club container update was given. It was due to be painted before the start of the cricket season. Planning permission was being sought.

The S106 claim submitted for £50,579 had been approved. Some clarification on the 2<sup>nd</sup> set of comparative costing's were needed as these were given verbally and hand written on the documents submitted.

Mr.A.Tanner and Mr. B.Drury left the meeting at 9.25 p.m.

An insurance claim for £1,968 towards decoration and carpets for the water ingress from roofing works completed last year had been submitted in agreement with Zurich Insurance. The insurance renewal for 2014/14 had been received for £5,129, a reduction on the previous year. This was part of a multiyear agreement.

The Clerk had received a request from STWA for access onto the village green for a site compound for planned works on the overflow pit. The Clerk had refused this request as it was not desirable to have the site taken over for a considerable period of time. Alternatives of the Dicken car park had been offered. The start date was September. The Vicarage Lane work had been extended due to the weather. A further £900 had been negotiated and received.

The Clerk showed photographs of the recent tree works in the village. He also showed photographs of the POS at Sanderson where a request had been made to reduce the height of trees to improve light to properties. It was agreed that this would not be the

correct course of action to take and the Clerk was asked to ensure the trees remained. The Clerk would inform the Ground staff.

The Clerk was thanked for his informative report.

#### **168. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

a) LRALC – Local Audit and Accountability Act – update – noted.

b) St Peters Church – Re: Grant award – noted. A discussion was held as to the method being implemented to issue the grant cheques. It was Councils intention to send cheques on production of invoices for works/goods/services completed. This was noted.

c) Turner Foundation – Re: Grant award – noted.

d) Valuation Tribunal – Appeal acknowledgment – noted.

e) Guide Dogs – Re: Grant award – noted.

f) Commbus – Re: Grant award – noted.

g) BDC – Cycling Tour information – for information.

RESOLVED: The letters be received and actions noted.

#### **169. TO CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER MEETINGS, ORGANISATIONS OR EVENTS**

a) Dementia Friends – Safe and Sound at Home - Salvation Army, South Wigston – noted.

b) Leicestershire Police – Meeting with Inspector and beat team – Force HQ – RESOLVED: Mrs. A.M.Tyler and the Deputy Clerk to attend.

c) BDC – Draft Homelessness Strategy consultation – The consultation was online.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

#### **170. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

In accordance with the Public bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960, the press and the public will be excluded from the following item by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed (staffing) and will be requested to withdraw.

**ALL CONFIDENTIAL TEXT HAS BEEN REMOVED**

With there being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.35 p.m.