

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

Held at the Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone

16th October 2014

Present:– Mr. P.Cox - Chairman  
Mr. J.Riley  
Mrs. P.Kenney  
Mr. R.Simmons  
Mr. M.C.Burley  
Mr. M.R.Bounds  
Mr. J.Wells – BDC  
Mr. L.Breckon (Clerk)  
No Parishioners.

Mrs. A.M.Tyler  
Mr. D.Smith  
Ms. S.Tomlinson  
Mr. A.Greenwood  
Mr. A.Tanner  
Mr. L.M.Phillimore  
Mr. R.Back – BDC  
Mrs. S.Coe – Deputy Clerk

### **86. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from: – Mr. S.Webb – Family Commitment, Mr. M.E.Jackson – Holiday, Mr.A.Tanner – other meeting, BDC Cllr. Mrs. J.Forey – other meeting, LCC Cllr. Mr. K.Coles – other meeting, LCC Cllr. Mr. D.Jennings – other meeting.  
RESOLVED: To accept apologies received.

### **87. CHAIRS REPORT AND REMARKS**

None.

### **88. DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

None.

### **89. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF COUNCIL DATED 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014**

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting dated 18th September 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **90. TO RECEIVE MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014 be received. That the verbal report on tonight's planning meeting be received.

### **91. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

a) Public Speaking Protocol - None received.

b) The meeting was suspended to allow members of the public to make representations about any item not on the agenda (old parishioners time).

i) The Clerk was asked regarding the defibrillator which had been previously discussed. It had been decided previously to look at this as a budget item, as securing funding was an issue when it came to a defibrillator as a community asset.

ii) The construction on Springwell lane was causing issues for residents. These were being reported on a regular basis to BDC enforcement officers. The no access signs kept being "laid flat" and HGV vehicles were using the lane for access. Again this was being reported.

iii) Back Lane was experiencing dog fouling issues. The Clerk would install an additional dog waste bin.

iv) The football parking by the Dicken was again an issue. The Clerk would pass this on to the Clubs for actioning.

### **92. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM BDC ON ENFORCEMENT AND DOG FOULING**

The Chairman welcomed Jon Wells - Regulatory Services Group Manager and Rob Back – Planning and Economic Development Group Manager to the meeting. The Clerk had briefed Jon with the Councils concerns.

Jon overviewed the latest services offered by BDC which focused on Dog Fouling. 500,000 poop scoop bags had been ordered and the Council would be sent a good supply when these were in stock to allow the public to collect them for free from the Parish Offices. The Dog Warden would be asked to patrol the areas highlighted by the Clerk and also to stencil the problem areas and also the school walk areas. Dog fouling signs would be fastened to lampposts making people aware that it was an offence.

A discussion was held on enforcement and how this can be passed to the Parish Council staff if it was thought to be of benefit. BDC Dog wardens were also available to attend schools and give awareness talks, although it was agreed that most dog fouling was committed by adult dog walkers.

The following questions were asked:

Q. Could enforcement take place even on private land? This related to fields and walkways. Yes enforcement action could take place.

Q. How was the best way to contact BDC about issues? The usual methods of phone, email or by letter. If photos were available of offenders or details of patterns of offending, this was useful to act on.

Q. Did the Parish Council still need to set Bye Laws in place to enforce fines for dog fouling if it so wished? No, BDC could delegate its power down to a Parish Council. Staff would need to be trained.

Q. Was the new BDC depot still being relocated to Whetstone at the LCC site? Yes, this was still happening. Plans would hopefully be submitted by Christmas. A contractor had been appointed to work on the development. Issues had been found on the site regarding mains services running through it which would need diverting. This was ongoing. The plan was to sell the current Littlethorpe site for housing redevelopment.

Rob Back gave an overview on the current enforcement issues in Whetstone. The Wheatsheaf site and the Electroform site were specifically discussed. If an owner was looking to develop the site, no enforcement would normally be taken. This was the case with the Wheatsheaf. The Parish Council were happy to tidy up both sites but needed permission. Rob Back said he would take this away and try and seek permission for this solution and get back to the Clerk.

The type of enforcement notices that could be issued were explained. The Section 215 was explained.

With no further questions, The Chairman thanked Jon and Rob for their attendance and they left the meeting at 8.10 p.m.

RESOLVED: The verbal reports be received.

**93. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

BDC Cllr. Mr. A. Greenwood reported that BDC were now out of Special measures regarding Planning and it was creating a lot of interest with the work that had been done regarding systems thinking. A case study was being put together to highlight the work done at Blaby. The Blaby Highways Forum had discussed the Blaby Bypass.

RESOLVED: That the verbal reports given be received.

**94. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Mrs. A.M.Tyler had attended the Annual Parish Seminar. There had been presentations on Libraries, Policing and Planning.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report given be received.

**95. FINANCE - TO RECEIVE ACCOUNTS AND CONFIRM BALANCE SHEET**

RESOLVED: That the accounts paid up to the end of September 2014 are confirmed. The bank reconciliation statement dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014 was signed by the Chairman on behalf of Council.

**96. TO APPROVE AN UPDATED COMPLAINTS POLICY AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE UNDER THE MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME**

The Clerk had tabled an updated copy of both documents. These complied with the latest legislation.

The Complaints policy was, in essence, the same but now stated what the policy did and did not cover. Before this was common sense, but now documented. It was discussed. Amendments were needed and this would be looked at by the Staff Working party.

Mr. A. Greenwood left the meeting at 8.40 p.m.

The Information under Model Publication was an update as per current guidelines.

RESOLVED: That the information available under the model publication scheme as presented by approved.

**97. CLERKS REPORT**

**General report and Ground Staff Work Schedule**

The ground staff work schedule and updated members contact details sheet had been distributed.

The Clerk reported the following: He gave an update on the Co-opted Member from last meeting. The Cemetery railings painting was now completed. There was no update on the POS request to purchase.

An update was given as to the last meeting attendance of the couple who wished to speak on the Turkish restaurant application. The Remembrance Sunday route change was noted. An update was given on the Non Domestic Rates revaluation. This was looking very promising and a refund of £8,600 was due. A further refund was possible with the small business rate relief being applied.

The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were to be updated and would be added to the next Finance working party agenda for review.

Regarding the Christmas tree lights, the Clerk showed three options and also costings for each. £4500 was set aside and was available for immediate spend.

Following discussion on each option it was RESOLVED to purchase LED strings to place on the tree's opposite the village green. The Clerk would facilitate this option and confirm costs and installation with the suppliers.

**98. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

a) BDC – Notification of Planning application at DCC – Update was given from the Clerk on BDC DCC decision – noted.

- b) BDC – Naming of new roads at Springwell Lane – noted.
- c) BDC – Expression of interest of Land in the Parish of Whetstone – the Clerk gave an update - noted.
- d) BDC – Application for an Environmental permit for concrete plant – This is for us as a consultee to submit any written comments by 14<sup>th</sup> November – RESOLVED: That concern over noise be sent.
- e) LRALC – Newsletter no 9 – for information.  
RESOLVED: The letters be received and actions noted.

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

- a) Leics. Police – Blaby LPU Briefing – Various dates – October/ November 2014.
- b) East Midlands Councils – New Councillor event – BDC Council Offices – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2014.  
RESOLVED: That the events be noted.

With there being no further business, the Chairman thanked members and closed the meeting at 9.25 p.m.