

Allington Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall
Wednesday 11 January 2017

Present: Councillor Bosworth Councillor Carter
 Councillor Ashby Councillor Cant
 Councillor Sharp Councillor Plummer
 Councillor Jackson Sharon Milne (clerk)

Also present:

District Councillor Hannah Westropp
District Councillor Pam Bosworth
3 villagers

1. **Chairman's remarks**

1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked those present for attending. The following points were raised:

- a) Villagers commented that some work has been done by Highways on Bottesford Road, but the work was not as adequate, as hoped. Gonerby Lane had also had some work done to fill the deep potholes at the edge of the road. Again, these are temporary repairs and will need attention again soon.

2. **Apologies**

2.1 All Parish Councillors were present, however, County Councillor Paul Wood sent his apologies as he had another commitment.

2.2 Raj Sekhon from Virgin Media, sent his apologies. He had intended to speak to the Parish Council at the meeting about Ultrafast Broadband. However, he had had a sudden family emergency and could not attend.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Minutes of the annual meeting held on 9 November 2016**

4.1 The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. **Correspondence received since the meeting held on 9 November 2016**

5.1 The clerk reported on some of the correspondence received and sent:

- a) A resident had commented that the trees on the Green were in need of pruning.
- b) Notification: road closure for work in Bottom Street.
- c) Parliamentary bi-election correspondence and material for bi-election on 8 December.
- d) Letter from Raj Sekhon, Virgin Media, asking to attend Parish Council meeting to speak about Ultrafast Broadband.
- e) Notice from LCC – Self-help in wintery weather, for the noticeboard.
- f) Email from Highways: explanation of level crossing decision.
- g) Email from Highways noting the unstable state of the bus shelter and the need to repair it.
- h) Letter from Community Lincs encouraging Parish Councils to enter the Best Kept Village competition this year.
- i) Letter from Highways re: grass cutting schedule review.
- j) Email from VHMC stating its intention to ask LCC for a finger post sign in the village pointing out the village hall.

6 Representations made to the Parish Council since the agenda has been set

6.1 There were no representations made to the Council after the agenda had been set.

7 Objectives for the forthcoming year

7.1 New objectives were considered for 2017. The three objectives for 2016 had all progressed.

- The repair to the footpath along from South Lodge to the church is still needed but it is important that the path retains its heritage and is not simply dug up and replaced with tarmac. This matter is still ongoing. LCC are aware that the path needs attention but it is a matter of finances presently
- The pavilion has been a high priority with the Playing Field Advisory Group throughout 2016. More specific details will follow regarding plans for the future of the cabins at the playing field.
- A speed indicator device had been purchased and will be installed in various sites around the village. Initial results look promising – it would appear that motorists are reacting to the signs.

7.2 It was decided that the main objective in 2017 should be to review the village plan and undertake a new village survey. It was decided that this could be broached with villagers at the Annual Village Meeting in April.

7.3 Other suggestions were to consider tree planting in the village and the consideration of delimiters on the approach to the village boundaries. **(Action point: MS)**

8 Ultrafast broadband

8.1 Raj Sekhon, from Virgin Media intended to speak to the Parish Council about providing ultrafast broadband in the village. However, a sudden family emergency meant that he could not attend. The clerk had told him that if he wished to attend on another occasion he should contact her.

9 Gonerby Lane bus shelter

9.1 The newly refurbished bus shelter and noticeboard in Gonerby Lane had been hit by a lorry turning in the road. The incident was reported to the police (Incident number 10005012017). The shelter is potentially unstable and will be cordoned off to stop members of the public using it, as there may be a risk of it causing an injury.

9.2 The clerk would make enquiries with the village insurers to determine whether a claim could be made to help fund its replacement. In the meantime the structure will be removed
(Action point: clerk)

10 Telephone box

10.1 Cllr Bosworth had nothing further to report about the telephone box. The planning notice to remove the phone has still not expired. The matter will be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting. **(Action point: AB & clerk)**

11 Village Sign.

11.1 Since the last meeting Cllr Sharp had photographed numerous options as to where the village sign could be sited. After discussion it was agreed to seek permission for the sign to be placed midway along the village green approximately a metre from the kerb stone. The clerk would make an initial application for this with SKDC and informing LCC Highways of the intention. It was thought the sign should be a similar height to the Welby Arms sign.
(Action point: clerk)

12 Village Asset update

12.1 A draft application to register the Welby Arms as a village asset has been drawn up. This application has also been viewed by CAMRA. Parish Councillors considered the application and approved it unanimously. It will be forwarded to SKDC to start the procedure. **(Action point: MC and clerk)**

13 Sewstern Lane including the Level Crossing

13.1 The Parish Council was updated on the outcome of the process to downgrade Sewstern Lane. LCC Highways stated that it had received objections from certain groups and one of the landowners to say that they did not want the lane downgraded. Due to these objections it was clear to the Highways Division that it could not prove to a Magistrate that the land was no longer necessary as public highway.

13.2 Highways further stated that Network Rail were also aware of these objections and as such decided not to pursue the stopping up process. It should also be noted that Network Rail were to pay all Lincolnshire County Council costs and it was clear to them it would fail at the Magistrates Court. The decision not to pursue this stopping up was therefore made by Network Rail, LCC legal officers and the Area Manager.

14 Revision of the Village Plan

14.1 This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting. Minute 7.2 refers.

15 Tree pruning letters

- 15.1 The village now has a speed indicating device to monitor speeding traffic. The device will be moved around specific sites within the village. The clerk will write to residents whose properties are near to the device sites to ask them to kindly keep their trees pruned back to ensure that the device's efficiency is not compromised by foliage in its way. **(Action point: clerk)**

16 Village Hall matters

- 16.1 There was no representative present from the Village Hall Management Committee at this month's meeting. Councillors will be updated at the next Parish Council meeting.

17 Highways matters

- 17.1 Cllr Bosworth reported that the newly purchased interactive speed indicator device had been installed at Sedgebrook Road and it was currently monitoring traffic. The device collects data including number of vehicles on the road and the speed at which they are travelling. Cllr Bosworth said that he'd noticed an immediate reduction in car speed once the device was visible. He will share the data with the Parish Council shortly.
- 17.2 Regarding the footpath from South Lodge to the church, The clerk would contact Highways and remind officials that the path is in need of attention but it should not be simply tarmacked as the path is within the conservation area and the slabs should be retained. **(Action point: clerk)**

18 Playing field matters

- 18.1 Cllr Carter reported back from the recent Playing Field Advisory Group meeting.
- 18.2 The community wood is being monitored. The mature trees area had greatly improved but it was sparse at low level. Cllr Carter is awaiting advice from the Woodland Trust to see what else it may be able to offer for the wood. Some saplings have been damaged or are missing altogether. Thanks to Cilla Eisner for replacing the damaged rabbit protectors.
- 18.3 Two CCTV cameras have been installed at the field. One is positioned towards the car park and the other pointing toward the MUGA entrance. Recordings can be viewed for several months after the footage has been taken.
- 18.4 In response to the RoSPA report, stainless steel brackets have been installed to the goalposts inside the MUGA and secured to the fencing to stop them being moved. The old goalposts are yet to be welded but prices for new nets are being sourced.
- 18.5 A preliminary meeting has been held to discuss options for replacing the cabins with a suitable alternative that would be practical, affordable and in keeping with the environment. Preliminary drawings have been made and passed on to an architectural company. The Playing field advisory group will feed back to the Parish Council as necessary.
- 18.6 Cllr Bosworth spoke briefly about the contract with Rentokil. The technician that had been working at the cabins has now left the company. After discussion it was agreed to terminate the contract after the period that the last invoice covers. **(Action point: AB)**

16 Planning matters

16.1 Applications received and determined since the last Parish Council meeting on 9 November 2016:

- Approval – Lambert Farm, Bottom Street - demolition of Pole Barn
- Approval – Red House Farm – Chimney, alterations to windows and doors
- Application – Braemar, Side Street – link extension

17 Financial matters

17.1 The clerk reported on the income and outgoings since the last meeting on 9 November 2016:

Income

Bonfire night income – £1149.00
Bank interest - £0.60
Welby Quiz contribution – £150.00
Village Cross donation – £130.00

Total £1429.60

Outgoings

Padlocks - £11.99
P E Hempstead – £507.30
Fireworks = £800.00
Rentokil – £623.18
Christmas lights expenses - £518.91
Electrical switch - £26.40
CCTV – £337.52
PAYE – £130.00

Total £2955.30

Plus Clerk and Caretakers' salaries.

17.2 Councillors unanimously approved the payments retrospectively.

17.3 The Parish Council considered the precept and draft budget for 2017/18. After discussion it was agreed to bid for £18,000, the same amount as last year. The clerk will submit the request to SKDC. **(Action point: clerk)**

17.4 An additional Christmas bonus was agreed and approved for the clerk.

18 Any other business for future meetings

18.1 The following would be on the agenda at the next Parish Council meeting:

- Telephone Box
- Village Asset

- Revision of the Village Plan

19 Date of next meeting

19.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday, 8 March 2017 at 7.30pm.

Signed: ----- (Chairman). Date: -----