

REARSBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a full Council meeting held on Thursday 6th September 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Councillor M Cooke (Chair)
Councillor A Byrne (Vice Chair)
Councillor S Chenery
Councillor K Wills
Councillor A Higgins

In Attendance

Sue Norledge – Clerk
Borough/County Councillor James Poland
PCSO Matt Harburt

18/81 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

None

18/82 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 2nd August 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

18/83 Public Forum

- It was noted that Alan Green, who was a previous Chair of the Parish Council had passed away. His contributions towards village life were remembered by many.
- It was noted that on 22nd September at 6.30 in the Village Hall, a ukulele band was playing.

18/84 Progress on outstanding items

a) Repair and Maintenance

- It was noted that LCC had removed the second gate at the top of Gaddesby Lane. This was due to safety concerns for horse riders who were using the bridle path which crosses the by pass. Disappointment was expressed that LCC had not notified the Parish Council, prior to the removal and it was agreed the Clerk would write to LCC stating the PC's disappointment. It was agreed to leave the 'close the gate' sign on the first gate. It was felt that this was still used by the majority of pedestrians/bike riders when crossing the bypass.
- The Clerk had purchased two new portable goal posts for the village hall playing fields at a cost of £258.38. These would be installed when the larger goal post had been removed. The Clerk was to speak to Knapster Landscapes to see if they could remove the concrete settings.
- One of the posts on the overflow car park at the village hall was rotting. The Clerk was to speak to Derek Overfield to see if he could replace it.

- The Clerk was to check that the Christmas lights did not require a licence. It was felt very unlikely, as licences were only required for lights that were on the public highway.
- The Clerk was to ask Derek Overfield if he could put duck tape over the instructions to use the telephone box on the electricity warning sign on the village hall playing fields and on the play park.
- The Clerk was to speak again to the Environment Agency, concerning the weeds in the brook.

b) Progress on Jelson Homes appeal

- It was felt that the inspectors report may be received around November time. There will have been a delay due to the consideration of the new information concerning the 5 year land supply.
- Disappointment was expressed over the editorial contained in the Rearsby Scene Jottings, concerning the information given by the PC for the appeal. The PC had worked extremely hard keeping villagers informed through leaflets, notices, notes in the Rearsby Scene, PC minutes and the website, as well as supporting leaflets and letters from Charnwood BC. Unfortunately, the format of the appeal was not known until the first day of the appeal and timings were set each day by the inspector, for the following day. It was agreed that Councillor Cooke would write to Rearsby Scene concerning this issue.

c) Progress on Neighbourhood Plan

- Martin Field had forwarded a copy of the draft plan to Councillors prior to the meeting. Some comments were made to Martin and it is hoped to get the amended draft to the October meeting.
- Councillor Wills had a contact who could assist in the production of the chapter on evidence and the updated proposals map.
- It was agreed that a health check would be organised between the regulation 14 and 16 consultation.
- A public consultation event would be needed before regulation 14 consultation began.

d) Progress on future sale of the Convent

Information had been provided earlier in the week from the selling agent, to say that the site had now been sold and would be developed as per the approved planning application.

e) Mobile vehicle activated sign

More volunteers were needed to assist in the re siting of the VAS. The alternative to this, would be to purchase a second VAS, so that they could remain in one location and just be switched off during the rest period. This would be a costly solution though.

It was agreed to look into the purchase of wireless communication system for the downloading of the data. This would remove the need to transport the data box back to Peter French's house to download the data.

f) Progress on revision of standing orders and financial regulations

The updated Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were agreed.

The issue of the need for a safeguarding policy was discussed but it was felt that this was not currently needed. The issue of a GDPR policy would be reviewed by the Clerk and requirements confirmed at the next meeting.

g) PC contribution towards the Rearsby Scene

Councillor Cooke had produced two articles for the Rearsby Scene – the outdoor gym equipment and the problem of dog fouling in the village. These were approved and would also go on the PC website.

h) Councillor Vacancy

It was agreed to place a notice on the PC notice board, the website and the Rearsby Scene, to see if anyone was interested in being co opted onto the Parish Council.

i) Progress on dog fouling notices around the village

Councillor Cooke had produced an audit of the various dog fouling notices around the village. Many of them were out of date. This had been forwarded to CBC and they had agreed to update the notices.

j) Progress on renewing broadband contract for the village hall

The Clerk had obtained a quote for a renewal of the broadband contract with BT and Councillor Wills had obtained a quote from Virgin. Although the Virgin price was slightly higher, it offered far faster broadband speeds. It was agreed to enter into a contract with Virgin.

18/85 Police, County Councillor and Borough Councillors reports

a) County/Borough Councillor Report

Councillor Poland reported that;-

- LCC had invested in a new headquarter for the software company, Access Group at Loughborough University. This was a valuable investment for LCC and it was hoped it would contribute 1.6 million towards front line services and create 500 new jobs. It was anticipated that the building will be complete in Summer 2020
- Nominations for the Queens Award for Voluntary Service are now open. The closing date for nominations is 14th September.
- The 7 Borough's and Districts in the County have agreed to work together to investigate a wide range of options for the future of local government in Leicestershire

b) Police Report

PCSO Harburt reported that for the fourth month running, there had been no reported instances of crime in Rearsby. Residents were cautioned that with the dark nights approaching, extra care needed to be taken with security measures.

c) Village Warden Reports

Heritage Warden report

No report was made.

Tree Warden Report

No report was made.

It was agreed to write to the Wardens to check that they were still interested in undertaking the role of village warden. It was felt that it would be helpful if the Wardens could produce a quarterly report on their work.

Flood Warden report

Concern was expressed that the weeds had not yet been cleared from the brook by the Environment Agency.

e) Risk Assessment and village safety

Councillor Byrne had undertaken a risk assessment. Everything was fine apart from the lifting of the play mats. The Clerk had asked Burnt Oak to try and treat the mats with a moss killer.

The annual Inspection Report had been undertaken by Independent Playground Inspections Ltd. The following items were reported:-

- The pedestrian gate on the children's play area was closing too quickly. This had been adjusted previously but very quickly reverted back to the quicker speed.
- There was a missing cap on the gate post. It was agreed to replace this.
- A safety inspection of the trees in the children's play area was recommended. This was undertaken several years ago.
- It was recommended that the support of the foundation of the overhead rota item be inspected. It was agreed to ask Playdale to look at this.

f) Village Hall

Councillor Cooke reported that:-

- The constitution for the village hall had been located. The Charity Commission would be responsible for the Village Hall in the event of the loss of the Village Hall Management Committee.
- The VH Committee were looking at widening the pathway to the hall by reducing the entry road width by 600mm.
- The kissing gate floor surface was a little uneven and would get very muddy in the rain. It was agreed to ask the builder who replaces the barrier to put down a more appropriate surface.

g) Finance (including cheques, balances and budgets)

The balance of the account at 31st August was £34,493.11

S Norledge - wages and expenses - £646.91

Burnt Oak – mowing, £744.00

Ladywell Accountancy – wages, £56.00

HMRC, £148.40

Community Heartbeat – electrodes, £45.60

Hickman Signs – gate sign, £96.00

CBC – bin emptying, £948.92

The bank reconciliation to 31.9.18 was signed by the Chair.

It was agreed that at the next meeting, thought would be given to new items of expenditure for the remainder of the financial year.

18/86 New Business

a) National Highways and Transportation Survey – PC response

It was felt that this could not be filled in on behalf of the village without some consultation with residents. It was agreed that the Clerk would write and request more notice be given in the following year, to allow consultation with residents.

18/87 Planning

a) Planning applications

There were no new applications. The application from Brooksby Quarry to extend into the next area was discussed. However, no comments were made on this.

18/88 Chairman's report

There was nothing further to report

Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 4th October at 7.30 pm, Rearsby Village Hall

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

Signed..... (Chairman, Rearsby Parish Council)

Dated.....