

REARSBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a full Council meeting held on Thursday 12th April 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Councillor I Christie Smith (Chair)
Councillor M Cooke (Vice Chair)
Councillor A Byrne
Councillor A Higgins
Councillor S Chenery
Councillor K Wills

In Attendance Sue Norledge – Clerk
Borough/County Councillor James Poland

18/28 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

No apologies were received.

18/29 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 1st March 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

18/30 Public Forum

No comments were made.

18/31 Progress on outstanding items

a) Repair and Maintenance

- The ‘uneven ground’ warning sign had been erected at the Melton Road entrance to the village hall playing fields.
- Two new planters had been ordered. Unfortunately, the supplier no longer made the original version but were trying to manufacture a similar design.
- Concern was expressed that dog owners were dumping filled dog waste bags in the ditch between Rearsby and Thrussington. The Clerk was to investigate the possibility of installing a waste bin in this area.
- The goal posts had been damaged on the village hall playing fields. The clerk needed to order new parts before the damage can be completely sorted.
- LCC had confirmed that the PC could install a ‘please close the gate sign on the gate at the top of Gaddesby Lane. The Clerk would order a sign for each side of the gate.

b) Progress on Jelson Homes appeal

CBC were currently meeting with the QC who had been appointed to act for CBC. They had offered an opportunity for the Parish Council to meet with the QC. This was on Friday 20th April and Councillors Christie Smith, Byrne and Cooke could attend.

c) Progress on Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Byrne reported on the following progress;-

- The contact at CBC is now Paul Gilding . Once the CBC LTD consultation is sent out, the questionnaire for the village can be finalised.

- Councillor Byrne had completed an application for £5,000 from Awards for All.
- The 2017 Strategic Housing Land Assessment for Rearsby had been looked at in more detail. These could form the basis of identifying if there are any suitable sites in the village for future housing. The pros and cons for all of the sites will need to be carefully considered. If any sites seemed suitable they could be put forward for consultation with village.
- Councillor Byrne had studied other Neighbourhood Plans and it was felt that the original draft was perhaps a little too short.

d) Progress on future sale of the Convent

The site appears to have been sold subject to contract. CBC had been consulted on a possible change to the original planning approval. This could involve conversion of the convent to offices and a day nursery in the old chapel. Concern was expressed that this was a significant change and could lead to an increase in traffic, compared to the original approved proposals.

It was not clear if the new proposals would still include the 8 new houses. The Clerk was to get in touch with the sisters to try and arrange a meeting to discuss the early transfer of the conker field to the Parish Council.

e) Progress future housing needs survey

The final report had been received and this was as expected and included demand for smaller housing for residents wishing to downsize. This information will be included in the revised Neighbourhood Plan.

f) Progress on grind rail on village hall playing fields

Councillor Cooke had obtained a second quote, however this was more expensive than the first quote. He was still trying to obtain further quotes and had written to the original young person, who had written to the PC requesting that the grind rail be replaced. Unfortunately, no reply had been received to date.

The Clerk was to put a sign on the unauthorised grind rail that had been erected, requesting that it be removed.

g) Mobile vehicle activated sign

The sign was currently on the Melton Road. The possibility of leaving in one location for a longer period of time was discussed. Councillor Chenery would talk to Peter French about this suggestion.

18/32Police, County Councillor and Borough Councillors reports

a) County/Borough Councillor Report

Councillor Poland reported that;-

- The cost of the brown waste bins was to increase to £40.00 a year from 1st May 2018. This price would be held for two years.
- A new Community Grants scheme had been agreed. This would give each Councillor £1,000 per year to award to community schemes in their ward. Grants would be for a minimum of £250.00. Further details would be forthcoming.

c) Village Warden Reports

Heritage Warden report

No report was made.

Tree Warden Report

No report was made.

Flood Warden report

No report was made.

e) Risk Assessment and village safety

Councillor Cooke had undertaken a risk assessment. The main items noticed were;-

- There was still moss on the safety matting in the children's play park. This need to be jet washed. Derek Overfield was currently recovering from an operation, but it was hoped he would be able to use a water supply from the farm to undertake the work.
- The benches would need staining when the weather was better.
- There was building waste being put onto the footpath at the side of the children's play park..

f) Village Hall

Councillor Cooke had attended the Village Hall Committee;-

- The possibility of installing a kissing gate by the five bar gate in the car park was discussed.
- The PC felt that the barrier should moved back as had been recommended by the Planning Officers at CBC. Councillor Cooke was to arrange to meet with a builder and the VH Committee Chair to see what would be involved.
- The VH Committee is happy to provide annual accounts to the PC.
- A copy of the new constitution was to be supplied to the PC. This was so that the PC could see what liabilities it may have in the event of the VH Committee ceasing.

g) Finance (including cheques, balances and budgets)

The balance of the account was £18,840.37

S Norledge - wages and expenses - £383.34

2Commune – website - £510.00

LRALC – membership - £303.38

The bank reconciliation to 31.3.18 was signed by the Chair.

18/33 New Business

a) To consider request to fund repairs to the church floodlights

The PCC had approached the PC to request a contribution towards the cost of repairing the church floodlights. Unfortunately, the PC had just received advice from LRALC that PC's did not have any legal powers to make any financial contributions towards the upkeep of a church. This was due to the 1894 Local government Act that specifically prohibits PC's making any financial contribution towards the upkeep of churches, church yards or church halls. The funding of a closed church yard is permitted.

A meeting is being held between the PC and the PCC to go into this in more detail.

b) To consider the requirements for General Data Protection Regulations

The deadline for compliance with GDPR was 25th May. The Clerk, following the guidance of LRALC had produced an audit of the information held by the PC. This was noted. Also produced was a General Privacy note and Privacy note for staff and Councillor, and a subject access policy and template response letter. These were agreed and needed to go onto the PC website.

There was some discussion about trying to make better use of the PC website. Some villages have a website that combines the PC site with other organisations in the village. Councillor Wills was to look into this in more detail. The Clerk confirmed that the current website does provide the facility for community groups to put their own information onto a community calendar of events. More information on this will be provided.

c) To discuss the audit requirements for 17/18

The deadline for submission of the Annual Return to the external auditor was 11th June 2018. It was agreed to appoint Richard Willcocks as the internal auditor. As the income/expenditure for the year was in excess of £25K, it was still necessary to send all documentation off to the external auditor. As good practice, the Clerk will still put the documents onto the website. The returns will be approved at the June meeting.

d) To discuss the Gladman proposals for 300 houses in East Goscote

It was confirmed that as part of the site is in the Rearsby parish, the PC will be a statutory consultee. Councillor Byrne had sent out a draft reply to all Councillors and this will be sent once the application becomes live.

e) To consider the installation of a kissing gate into the village hall playing fields

Councillor Cooke was trying to get a second quote for the installation of a kissing gate into the village hall playing fields from the car park.

18/34 Planning

a) Planning applications

None had been received.

18/35 Chairman’s report

It was confirmed that the AGM will be at 7.30 pm on the 3rd May and will be followed by the May Parish Council meeting. Councillor Christie Smith will not be able to attend but was looking into the regulations of taking part in the meeting via skype.

18/36 Correspondence box

A letter had been received from the Community Library at East Goscote for a donation. It was felt that the PC had many requests for donations and needed to focus on those that were directly related to Rearsby.

Date and time of next meeting

AGM on Thursday 3rd May at 7.30 pm to be followed by the May Parish Council meeting - Rearsby Village Hall

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

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

Dated.....