

# REARSBY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a full Council meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

### Public Forum

A resident on Brookside was still concerned that the drains on Brookside were still blocked, despite them being cleared by LCC. Councillor Poland was to report this to LCC.

**Present** Councillor M Cooke (Chair)  
Councillor A Byrne (Vice Chair)  
Councillor K Wills

**In Attendance** Sue Norledge – Clerk  
Borough/County Councillor Poland  
PCSO Staniforth

### 20/09 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Metcalfe and Councillor Higgins.

### 20/10 To confirm minutes of meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### 20/11 Progress on outstanding items

#### a) Progress on items of essential repair and maintenance

- The broken surface to the pavement just after the railway crossing had been reported. Repairs had been made but it was felt that these were not adequate, and the Clerk was to report this again.
- The condition of the raised walkway between Rearsby and Thrussington had been reported. LCC had inspected it and felt that it was still structurally sound, and its condition would be monitored. Chairman to mention this in his Rearsby Scene note.

#### b) To report any new items of essential repair and maintenance and agree action to be taken

- It was reported that the paint was peeling off the railings on Brookside. The Clerk was to ask Derek Overfield to repair this.
- It was agreed to ask Derek Overfield for a quote for filling the three planters with the summer planting.

#### c) Progress on the draft Neighbourhood Plan following the completion of the Section 14 consultation process

- It was agreed that £3,000 of expenditure be approved to employ Gary Kirk of Your Locale. He would complete the updating of the NP following consideration of the Section 14 comments.

- It was agreed to take out the reference to PSH100 and to refer to a ribbon development off Gaddesby Lane.
- It was agreed to leave in the extension to the area of local separation.

**d) Progress on negotiations with Davidson Homes over the transfer of the Conker Field including consideration of fencing and access**

- The transfer of the conker field to the Parish Council was now complete. The Chairman is to mention this in his Rearsby Scene note.
- It was agreed that the Chair and Clerk would meet with the site manager to discuss the access arrangements for the grass mowing and maintenance of the field.
- It was agreed to instruct Burnt Oak to undertake the grass mowing as part of the PC contract. This would cost an extra £100,00 per cut.
- It was agreed to instruct George Walker to erect a fence alongside Station Road at a cost of £1,690.00. They would also remove the saplings that had grown there. A decision about the planting of a hedge at the back of the fence would be made later. It was agreed to obtain quotes for various native species hedges.
- It was agreed to purchase a new wooden kissing gate for the Station Road entrance as this was beyond repair. This would cost £850.00 from George Walker.
- It was agreed that discussions/decisions on the other kissing gates, benches and further signage would be on the next meeting agenda.
- It was agreed that the Clerk would order two signs for either end of the field, to detail ownership and no ball games and litter dropping.
- It was agreed to purchase two litter bins for each end of the field. The Clerk would arrange this with CBC. The cost of emptying them to be met by the PC.
- Stef Reynolds, the Nature Warden was to undertake an initial study of the wildlife contained in the spinney. A management plan could then be drawn up.
- The Clerk was to write to all neighbouring properties on Church Leys Avenue to update them on the change in ownership and that we will be undertaking an assessment on the trees and also the boundaries. The Clerk was to ask the solicitor to write to the property on Station Road to clarify the position regarding their boundary with the conker field as it is the PC's understanding that the trees should be totally within the boundary of the Conker field.
- The tree survey will now be undertaken by Tree Assessment Ltd at a cost of £338.

**e) Mobile vehicle activated sign location and recording update**

An update will be given at the next meeting.

**f) Consideration of a new litter bin for Church Leys Avenue**

It was agreed to ask CBC to replace the dog bin on Church Leys Avenue with a general litter bin which has double the capacity. This will cost the PC £171.00 including installation.

**g) Progress on potential items of expenditure for 19/20**

**1. New Village web site – Councillor Wills**

This will be considered at the next meeting

**Enhancements to the village hall playing fields – Councillor Higgins**

There was nothing further to report and it was agreed to remove from the agenda.

## **2. New benches and tree enhancements – Councillor Byrne**

There was nothing further to report and it was agreed to remove from the agenda.

## **3. Enhancements to the conker field – Councillor Cooke**

This had been covered earlier in the agenda.

### **20/12 Police, County Councillor and Borough Councillors reports**

#### **a) County/Borough Councillor Report**

Councillor Poland reported that; -

- CBC is proposing to increase its share of the Council tax by 3.63 percent. The Council has the 23<sup>rd</sup> lowest council tax in the country. Council budgets are still under pressure and the draft budget aims to protect front line services but even with this increase, reserves will need to be used.
- The County Council are currently consulting on City and County Transport Priorities. The Strategic Transport priorities will set out a 30 year transport blueprint for Leicester and Leicestershire.

#### **b) Police Report and crime and safety in Rearsby**

PCSO Staniforth reported that there had been no reported crime in Rearsby during January. Thurmaston and Syston were experiencing thefts of catalytic convertors from vehicles.

#### **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.

##### **Nature Warden report**

Stefan Reynolds reported that;-

- Buzzards had been seen nesting in the spinney at the end of Brookside.
- The egret had been seen around the brook.
- The owls had been active around the village.
- He would still like to explore the possibility of a footpath being constructed around the overflow pond off the Melton bypass. It was thought that this was Pochin land so the Clerk would write to Fisher German to see if they would be interested in this idea.

#### **e) Monthly risk assessment and village safety report**

Councillor Cooke had undertaken an assessment during January. It was agreed to instruct Burnt Oak to undertake some mole removal. The cost would be £20.00 per mole. It was also agreed that Councillor Cooke would update the risk assessment form to include the conker field.

#### **f) Report back from Village Hall Committee meeting including risk assessment**

Councillor Cooke had attended the Village Hall committee meeting and finances continued to be healthy.

Rita Meade had asked if there could be a formal opening of the conker field in May, A budget of £500 was approved to fund this. The Clerk was to write to Rita to let her know this and ask if she would like to organise it.

#### **g) Finance (including cheques, balances and budgets)**

The balance of the account at 31.1.20 was £35,627.69

S Norledge - wages and expenses - £332.30

LRALC – training, £40.00

BHW Solicitors – conker field, £775.00  
LRALC - training, £40.00  
Village Hall – archaeology group, £21.50  
The bank reconciliation to 31.1.20 was signed by the Chair.

**h) Issues arising from LRALC reports**

There was nothing to report.

**20/13 New Business**

There was no new business.

**20/14 Planning**

P/19/2250 13 Gaddesby Lane, erection of two dwellings

Revised plans had been received but it was felt that the properties were still too close to the Wellingtonia tree and could damage it. The PC’s previous objections still stood.

**20/15 Correspondence received that is not covered elsewhere on the agenda.**

A request had been received from a young villager to undertake a weekly litter pick over a three-month period for their DofE award. The PC wished to support this and would facilitate this by providing a suggested route and some equipment for the litter pick. The Chair would sign the report of the weekly litter pick off. This could not be done under the supervision of the PC due to insurance regulations.

**20/16 Chairman’s report, including article for submission to Rearsby Scene**

There was nothing further to report.

**Date and time of next meeting**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Rearsby Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

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

Dated.....