

REARSBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a full Council meeting held on Thursday 7th January 2021 at 7.30 pm via Zoom

Public Forum

No comments were made.

Present

Councillor M Cooke (Chair)
Councillor A Higgins
Councillor A Byrne
Councillor K Wills
Councillor Kagure Brown

In Attendance

Sue Norledge – Clerk
Borough/county Councillor James Poland
1 member of the public

21/1 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies had been received from Councillor Metcalfe and the Police representative.

21/2 To confirm minutes of meetings held on Thursday 3rd December 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd December 2020 were agreed as true and accurate record.

21/3 Progress on outstanding items

a) Progress on items of essential repair and maintenance

- LCC had cut back the growth on Station Road under the Highways Community Fund.
- Western Power had not yet responded to the request to check the electricity box on the brook banks.
- It was agreed to ask Derek Overfield to look at the planters as no volunteers had yet come forward to maintain them.
- Derek Overfield was to mend the goal post on the village hall playing field.

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

- The Clerk had reported to LCC that the first coping stone on the severn arch bridge was damaged.
- There was a concrete bollard in the brook. The Clerk was to see if CBC would remove this.

c) Progress on the draft Neighbourhood Plan

The draft had been forwarded to CBC for their comments. Gary Kirk had looked through the comments which were in the main very positive. A few small changes may need to be made including; -

- Changing the area of Local Separation, so as not to exclude PSH100.
- Removing the Village design statement as an appendix and just including the relevant bits in the main text.
- Some more information on where the figure of provision for 20 houses came from.

Subject to the resolution of the above points, it was agreed that the draft Neighbourhood Plan be submitted to CBC for consideration for Section 16 consultation.

d) Progress on work within the conker field

- The litter bins have been ordered and would be fitted over the next couple of weeks.
- The Clerk would chase up the delivery of the sign.
- Lee Garner had been asked to submit the planning application for the tree works on behalf of the PC.
- It was hoped to order some benches over the next few months. Councillor Cooke was obtaining some costs for the benches.
- The owner of 55 Station Road was speaking to Derek Overfield regarding relocation of the fence.
- The Clerk had asked Derek Overfield to fit the springs on the kissing gates.

e) Mobile vehicle activated sign location and recording update

There was nothing further to report.

f) Progress on Rearsby Village news website

More information was being included on the site. Councillor Wills requested that any information that was put onto social media was also sent to go onto the website. Councillor Cooke was being trained on how to load up items on the site and this training would be extended to the Clerk.

g) Progress on request replacement of damaged play surface on the children's play area

Subject to the following being successfully resolved, it was agreed to accept the quote from Caloo of £2,954.00 plus VAT for replacement of damaged surfaces to the two pieces of play equipment.

- Ensure that the quote included total covering in new surface of the whole of the floor surface of the two pieces of equipment.
- That there was a guarantee for the work for at least a year.

h) To agree the precept request for 21/22

It was agreed to request a precept of £23,010.00 which was a 10% increase. This was needed due to the increased costs of the conker field and the plans for further village improvements during the year. A budget of £32,822 was agreed with receipts of £2,600, leaving £7,212 to be met from reserves. It was agreed that reserves should not fall below 50% of the annual precept.

i) Progress on potential sources of grant aid

Councillor Kagure Brown had been looking into potential sources of grant aid for projects in the village. There were some grants available around environmental projects and in particular those including volunteers. It was agreed to progress this further and pay particular attention to grants that may enable some development of the village hall playing fields. It was agreed that Councillor Poland would forward details of the officer at CBC who could assist in this to Councillor Kagure Brown.

21/4 Police, County Councillor and Borough Councillors reports

a) County/Borough Councillor Report

Borough/County Councillor Poland reported that; -

- LCC had grants of up to £1,000 to support rural pubs during the current crisis. They need to earn less than 50% of their income from food sales. Councillor Cooke was to ensure that the Horse and Groom were aware of this.

- The consultation on the LCC proposed budget ends on 17th January 21.
- The Communities fund has a further £600,000 available to give to groups who support the vulnerable during the current crisis.
- It was noted that sometimes the testing station at Birstall did not appear to operating at full capacity. Councillor Poland was to raise this with Edward Agar MP.

b) Police Report and crime and safety in Rearsby

There had been a report of a syringe found on the footpath behind the village hall playing fields. This had been reported to the police.

c) Village Warden Reports

Heritage Warden report

No report was made.

Tree Warden Report

No report was made.

Flood Warden report

The Clerk reported that CBC had offered a limited supply of sandbags for the PC to store for the use of vulnerable residents who were unable to purchase their own. A location for storage needed to be found. The flood wardens would be contacted about this.

Nature Warden report

No report was made.

e) Monthly risk assessment and village safety report

No risk assessment had been undertaken. There was discussion around the issue of dog fouling in the village. Councillor Kagure Brown had undertaken a campaign around the village to supply dog bags at various locations around the village. Thanks were given to her for this fantastic initiative. If this was successful, the PC could consider the purchase of permanent dog bin bag dispensers at PC owned locations.

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

No meeting had been held.

g) Finance (including cheques, balances and budgets)

The balance of the accounts on 31.12.20 is £24,510.94.

S Norledge - wages and expenses - £476.47

HMRC - £239.60

Burnt Oak – mowing, £540.00.

Derek Overfield – various jobs £483.40

R Metcalfe – xmas expenses, £40.00

The bank reconciliation to 31.12.20 was noted.

h) Issues arising from LRALC reports

It was agreed to nominate the two young men who had undertaken the litter pick over the past 12 months for the Lord Lieutenant Award. They had done an excellent job and had agreed to carry on with their work over the coming months. The Clerk would progress this.

21/5 New Business

a) To look at potential sources of help with the issue of speeding traffic through the village.

Following the Clerks request to LCC, Councillor Poland agreed to make sure the Rearsby was included in the potential sites for the LCC Community Speed Initiative.

The Clerk would chase up the PCSO to see if any speed checks had been undertaken in the village.

b) To consider a cultivation licence for the grass verge at 37 Station Road

This request was agreed. It was agreed that it be noted that should the property be sold, the verge would need to revert back to grass. This was to ensure that it did not set a precedent for the road.

c) To agree new broadband contract for the village hall

It was agreed to enter into a new two year broadband contract for the village hall at a monthly cost of £33.45.

21/6 Planning

P/20/2244/21688 Melton Road, erection of infill extension

No comments were made.

P/20/2153/2 10 Church Leys Avenue, erection of single storey extension to rear of dwelling

No comments were made.

P/20/2175/2 37 Station Road, first floor extension to rear of dwelling

No comments were made.

P/20/2160/2 2 Grange Avenue, two storey extension and first floor extension over garage.

No comments were made.

21/7 Correspondence received that is not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

There was nothing further to report.

21/8 Chairman's report, including article for submission to Rearsby Scene

The article would include information on the location of dog poo bags and to try and start a discussion in the village on possible locations for the new benches.

Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 4th February 2021 via zoom

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

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

Dated.....