

# REARSBY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a full Council meeting held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30 pm in Rearsby Village Hall

### Public Forum

- The Parish Council had been saddened to hear of the loss of Ron Lilley. Ron had supported the Parish Council over a number of years in his role as Flood Warden.
- A number of villagers had expressed concern at the amount of time that the footpath to Thrussington via the railway crossing was closed. The Clerk had been speaking to Network Rail to try and get this opened sooner. But unfortunately, this was not possible as the side of the crossing was to be used for the storage of the new railway crossing sleepers.
- The use of the flood siren had been queried by a few villagers. It was confirmed that this had been installed a number of years ago by Charnwood Borough Council. Flood Sirens were not longer maintained and instead a system of flood alerts via text was being used. The Clerk was to check the exact arrangements for ensuring residents were able to use this system.

### Present

Councillor M Cooke – Chair  
Councillor A Byrne – Vice Chair  
Councillor A Higgins  
Councillor K Wills  
Councillor H Stone

### In Attendance

Sue Norledge – Clerk  
1 member of the public

### 21/70 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from Councillor Kagure Brown and Borough/County Councillor Poland.

### 21/71 To confirm minutes of meetings held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 were agreed as true and accurate record.

### 21/72 Progress on outstanding items

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

- It was agreed to get further quotes from a larger commercial painter for the railings on Brookside.
- It was noted that Burnt Oak had not yet replaced the drain cover in the conker field. The Clerk would chase this.

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

- The bench at the side of the swings appears to have been cut with a knife. The Clerk would ask Derek to repair this.

- The picnic benches on the village hall playing fields would benefit from some form of treatment. The Clerk would ask Derek to take a look at this.
- The base of one of the pieces of outdoor gym equipment needs to be repainted with Hammerite as the paint has peeled off. The Clerk would ask Derek to take a look at this.
- It was noted that there was a hole in the grass near to the pylon in the Village Hall playing fields. This had been there for a long time and did not appear to be causing any problems.

**c) Progress Rearsby Neighbourhood Plan referendum**

The Parish Council was delighted to receive the news that the Rearsby Neighbourhood Plan passed the referendum by 288 votes for and 18 votes against. Thanks were given to all those who had contributed towards the plan over the past 5 years. It was now awaiting adoption by Charnwood Borough Council.

**d) Progress on work within the conker field**

- Councillor Cooke reported that he now had a new contact at Brooksby College who was keen to be involved. They hoped to visit the conker field in approximately 4/5 weeks and come up with some suggestions for the spinney. It would also be useful to ask them their opinion about the best place for planting the new conker trees. Some research needed to be done on possible grants for the planting of new conker trees.
- It was suggested that a replacement was found for the old Jubilee tree that had to be removed.
- It was agreed to purchase two more benches for the conker field. The Clerk would order these and get Knapster Landscapes to fit them.

**e) Report back on visit by the sisters to the new conker field**

The visit by the Sisters to the see the Conker Field had been a great success. They had been entertained afterwards to tea at Beardsleys.

**f) To consider a further post covid coffee morning**

Various options were being looked at for another post covid coffee morning. The possibility of sponsoring two of the existing coffee morning was discussed. Councillor Cooke would look into this and report back to the next meeting. A budget of £80.00 was agreed.

**g) Progress on plans for further benches**

- The Clerk had written to residents which bordered the bottom of the grassed area at the top of Bleakemoor Close to get any comments on the proposed location for a new bench here. Councillor Cooke was to meet with one resident to go through the plans in more detail.
- It was felt that the preaching stone was perhaps not an ideal location for a new bench due to the surrounding trees and the possibility of attracting groups of people to the area. It was agreed that the Clerk would speak to the person who was interested in sponsoring a bench in this location, to see if there were any other locations that would be suitable.

**h) progress on tree planting plans for the village**

The Clerk would chase up the representative of LCC to try and get a meeting with them to discuss possible locations for new tree planting.

It was agreed that the Clerk would speak to the Tree Warden to see if they were able to plant the elm tree on the village hall playing fields.

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

This had been relocated to Station Road. The Clerk was to speak to Richard Metcalfe and see if he was able to share the recent data from the camera

**j) Progress on Rearsby Village news website including directing visitors from old site**

It was agreed to pay 2Commune £75.00 to divert any visitors to the old site, to the Rearsby Village News website..

**k) Progress on unregistered land off Mill Road**

There appeared to be no further progress on the planning application. Previous ones submitted had not been validated due to missing information.

A complaint had been received via the Information Commissioner's Office concerning the manner in which the property owners address had been used. All minutes had been checked and any reference to the address had been removed. The Information Commissioner's Office had confirmed that the matter was now closed.

**l) Progress on fence between Station Road/Conker Field**

The Clerk had written to the residents again to try and progress the matter of the fencing around the two conker trees. Unfortunately, the residents felt that unless the PC could show some official documents that showed the boundary of the conker field, they were not prepared to move the fence any further. However, they were prepared to sign an agreement acknowledging that the two trees were in the ownership of the Parish Council. This was not felt to be satisfactory. It was agreed that further evidence would be sought from local residents, which showed the boundary with the two trees being in the conker field. The Clerk would write to the residents to let them know that this work was being undertaken.

**m) Progress on potential sources of grant aid**

Councillor Kagure Brown was to look into potential sources of grant aid for the planting of new trees and also the purchase of an outdoor table tennis table for the village hall playing fields.

**n) Progress on speed checks in the village**

Information had been received concerning the recent speed checks in the village and appropriate action would be taken against those caught speeding. They had asked for other locations that could be used for future speed checks. It was felt that the junction of Brook Street and the Melton Road would be a possible location. The Clerk would pass this onto the police.

**o) Progress on village tranquillity and reflection garden**

The Clerk would chase up CBC planning regarding any need for planning permission. A full update would be given at the next meeting.

**p) Progress on ideas for Queen's 70<sup>th</sup> year anniversary**

No suggestions had been received. Councillor Cooke was to check if any other village organisations had plans.

**q) Progress on plans to improve the village hall playing fields**

There was some discussion over the need for some fencing around the basketball net. This would make it more useable as the ball would not go into the hedgerow. The Clerk would look into the costs of new basketball nets with fencing..

**r) Progress on items for submission for LCC members Highways Fund**

It was agreed to submit a request in order of preference; -

1. A restricted width type chicane approaching the village from East Goscote.
2. A new permanently installed vehicle activated sign on Melton Road.
3. The installation of village gates coming into the village from East Goscote with some sort of sign requesting traffic to slow down

The Clerk would pass this request onto Councillor Poland.

**s) To discuss further request for fencing/hedging on boundary of children's play park**

The resident whose boundary adjoined the children's play park was still getting noise problems from children bouncing balls against their wall. They had requested that some sort of fence/hedge be erected. There was discussion around this request. However, it was felt that this would be an expensive solution for the PC and would lead to problems with the boundary of the children's play park. It was agreed that the Chair would again make a request for parents to discourage children from playing football in this area.

**t) Progress on arrangements for Christmas including request for a donation for the Christmas lights festival**

The arrangements for the Christmas Lights Festival were making excellent progress. It was agreed that the Parish Council would make a donation of £100.00 towards the costs.

Richard Metcalfe had kindly agreed to make the arrangements for the installation of the Christmas tree.

**21/73 Police, County Councillor and Borough Councillors reports**

**a) County/Borough Councillor Report**

No report was made.

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

No report was made. It was noted that there had been a spate of thefts of catalytic convertors from other villages in the area..

**c) Village Warden Reports**

**Heritage Warden report**

No report was made.

**Tree Warden Report**

No report was made.

**Flood Warden report**

There had been much concern expressed in the village about the condition of the brook and in particular the amount of weeds that were in the brook. The Clerk had been speaking to the Environment Agency regarding this problem. They have assured us that the weeds have no impact on the flooding in the area. However, there was still concern about how unsightly this looked and concerns were expressed that by strimming back the weeds, that this merely encourage them to grow back more strongly. The EA had agreed to visit the site and explore the possibility of putting weed killer down to get rid of the weeds. Some residents had expressed interest in forming a volunteer group to remove the weeds themselves. However, the EA would not endorse this approach due to safety concerns. Hopefully, more information would be available for the next meeting.;

**Nature Warden report**

No report had been received.

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

Councillor Cooke had undertaken a risk assessment. With the exception of overgrown bushes near to the swings, all other items had been covered elsewhere in the agenda.

**f) Report back from Village Hall Committee meeting**

No meeting had been held.

**g) Any issues from LRALC round robin**

There was nothing further to report.

**h) Finance (including cheques, balances and budgets)**

The balance of the accounts on 31.10.21 was £17,386.44

S Norledge - wages and expenses – £279.73

DCK Accounting – payroll - £30.00

Burnt Oak – mowing £660.00

Pink pages - £248.25

The bank reconciliation to 31.10.21 was noted.

**21/74 New Business**

**a) To consider the condition of the safety surface on the children’s play area**

It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Caloo for a quote for the same surface for the remaining areas of play equipment where the surface was shrinking.

**21/75 Planning**

P/21/1942/2 7 Church Leys Avenue raising roof height to 2 storeys.

It was agreed to object to this application on the grounds of; -

- Overdevelopment of the site. It is currently a small single storey bungalow.
- The windows and the Juliet balconies at the rear of the property, will overlook the neighbouring properties on Station Road. This will result in a loss of privacy for the residents of these properties.

**21/76 Correspondence received that is not covered elsewhere on the agenda.**

There was nothing further to add.

**21/77 Chairman’s report, including article for submission to Rearsby Scene**

Councillor Cooke will draft his report

**Date and time of next meeting**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm

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

Dated.....