

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2nd February 2023 held in Walesby Village Hall

Meeting opened 6:32pm

Present: Cllr Samuel Cllr Wager Cllr Tapper Cllr Whittaker-Smith

1. **To receive and accept apologies for absence**

No apologies were received

2. **To receive declarations of interest**

None received

23/09 To confirm the minutes of previous Parish Council Meeting

The minutes were accepted.

Prop: Cllr Tapper Sec: Cllr Whittaker-Smith decision was unanimous

23/12 To discuss any ideas for an event for the Kings Coronation

This item was moved up the agenda to allow the members of the public which were present to discuss the item to leave once this item had been discussed.

Members of the public were present to discuss this so Standing Orders were suspended to allow a discussion to take place. It was thought that a street party style event held at the village hall could be a good idea and potentially some kind of parade. The residents present were to look into feasibility and how they would like to organise the event, whilst liaising with Parish Council who will help where they can/ they are needed.

23/10 Clerk's report on items from the previous meeting

- A quote had been received to put a fence between the allotments and the Churchyard. Clerk was asked to speak to someone from the church and enquire what their plans are as it was believed that they have removed/chopped hedge which has made the boundary open. Clerk also to try and gain another quote as it was thought that the original quote was quite high.
- A revised quote has been received from a Tree Surgeon for work in the cemetery and Pocket Park. The Total for both sites was £500 for the urgent work. Clerk asked to try and get other quotes for comparison.
- Memorial Bench:- This has now been purchased. Products are made to order and it could take 16 weeks until delivery.

23/11 To decide on Precept request for the coming financial year to include review of this year so far

Following a discussion and a review of the finances so far this year it was decided to request a rise in the Precept payment of just under 4.5%.

Prop: Cllr Wager Sec: Cllr Tapper decision was unanimous

23/13 Planning: To discuss any received planning applications

Clerk had received a phone call from a resident of Haughton to inform the Parish Council that a planning application had been put in for a travellers site on the site as the one a few years ago which was refused. The resident requested that the Chairman give them a call. Clerk passed contact details to Chairman.

The Councillors discussed the application and their feelings were that the objections to the original application made in 2014 still stands. The following comments will be sent to Bassetlaw District Council Planning Department:

'Our specific reasons for objecting are as follows:

1. The development would lie in open countryside and would be visually intrusive and detract from the landscape character of the surrounding countryside and involve the loss of a hedgerow. The area is currently fields and pastureland and in our opinion should remain so to ensure the character of the area is maintained.

2. The proposed vehicle access and egress would pose a serious highway safety danger in that it would include large slow moving vehicles turning on and off the site numerous times daily directly onto a very busy road where high speeds from oncoming traffic is common and we are aware of a number of near misses which have occurred as a result of the road speed and poor visibility.
3. The site would increase the volume of traffic regularly coming into conflict with other road users such as pedestrians, horse riders, groups of walkers and dog walkers.
4. The site is of local historical importance and is the setting of an 11th century motte and bailey castle and an 8 acre 17th century duck decoy, which many consider to be the oldest and finest example in the country. The duck decoy attracts much interest from locals and visitors from further afield and the site would be a serious detriment to the area.
5. The surrounding area cannot sustain such a significant population growth, the village itself has very few amenities, doctors surgeries in Ollerton are at breaking point as are the local dentists and schools.
6. The size of the proposed development would be such a scale that it would dominate the local settled community.
7. Within a 5 mile distance there are a number of traveller sites and from recent investigations all of these have ample space on them to accommodate a number of caravans. This would indicate that there is sufficient provision already for traveller families and full use of the existing sites should be made before creating more.
8. Local knowledge suggests that there are contaminants and other dangerous materials buried on the site which would pose a risk to the occupants and anyone excavating the site and potentially the wider community. This could include a risk to human health and these must be thoroughly investigated. The investigation may also increase the historical significance of the immediate area.

A previous, similar application, submitted by the same applicant was rejected in 2014, and this rejection was subsequently upheld after an appeal hearing held in 2015. There were a multitude of reasons for the rejection, including those above, and general circumstances have not changed since that time. There is significant doubt that the applicant has either ownership rights over or permission to create a second access to the site, as proposed. Without that, the already limited access facilities and high inherent dangers pose an unacceptable risk to road users along the 60mph stretch of carriageway that fronts the site.

This application, which is in open country, outside any village boundary, seems to be both a complex application and we believe, involves a significant amount of local objection. We therefore seek confirmation that this matter will be dealt with at a full planning meeting and not under delegated powers and formally request that the council take our objections into consideration when dealing with the application.'

23/14 To approve Grounds Maintenance Tender documents prior to circulation

The grounds maintenance tender document was approved.

Prop: Cllr Wager Sec: Cllr Whittaker-Smith decision was unanimous

23/15 Payments for approval

Prop: Cllr Tapper Sec: Cllr Wager decision was unanimous

23/16 To receive items for information and future meetings

- Clerk informed Parish Council that communication had been received from Plusnet that they were no longer doing Business accounts and that we were to be moved to a contract with BT.
- The cooker is still waiting for a seal for the oven, it's proving more difficult than it should be.
- A memorial request had been received. It was considered and approved.

Prop: Cllr Wager Sec: Cllr Tapper decision was unanimous

23/17 To suspend standing orders for public participation

County Councillor Pringle will forward details regarding applying for a donation towards the Coronation celebration.

23/18 Time and date of next meeting

2nd March 2023 at 6:30pm in Village Hall

Meeting closed at 7:58