

HIGHAM ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Date: Monday 1 June 2015
Time: 7.30 pm
Present: B Golder (Chair), S Gayton, A Jenkins, D Waterton, J Robinson, D Dickson (Clerk)
Ivan Ould, Reg Ward, 8 members of the public

1) APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Christine Molyneux, who was unable to attend due to ill health.

2) MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 Minutes from Parish Council meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2015 were agreed by the Parish Councillors present, and then signed as a true record of the meeting.

2.2 Minutes from the Annual Parish meeting. The minutes from the Annual Parish meeting held on 21 May 2015 were agreed by the Parish Councillors present and were signed as a true record of the meeting.

3) DECLARATION OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

No declaration of interest.

4) QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

5) LOCAL POLICING ISSUES / NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Nothing has been reported.

6) COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

6.1 **Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Councils Local Development Framework and Draft Site**

Allocations document: All Parish Councils should seek clarification from the Planning Department at HBBC to ascertain whether or not there have been attempts to add both sides and number of houses proposed to the Draft Site Allocations document.

Ivan Ould has already sent in letters of support for two of the thirteen parish councils where such an attempt has been made. You need to be active in finding out if there are any proposals affecting your parish.

6.2 **A5 Strategy Group – June 2015:** This meeting has been postponed until September owing to the changes in administration of a number of borough and district councils. The new portfolio holders will need time to engage with their new responsibilities.

6.3 **AGM of the County Council – May 2015:** At the AGM of the County Council I was re-appointed designated Lead Member for Children and Families. For new parish councillors who may not know what this requires, it means in essence that there is a government role and job

description that I have to fulfil. The roles and responsibilities are reviewed annually at the Department of Education.

- 6.4 **Police meeting on Monday 18th May 2015:** Thanks to the warning about this meeting that I received at Twycross, Market Bosworth and Sheepy parish meetings in early May, I was able to attend this meeting. Parish Councils have received a separate response from me outlining the need for not only parishes but as many of their parishioners as possible to complete the national rural crime survey. Chris Peat has sent an excellent letter that I have copied to all of you.
- 6.5 **The Queen's Speech:** I was delighted that the Queen's Speech last week contained direct references to repeating the additional funding that Leicestershire's schools received on 1.5.15 (some £20.5M). Not only that but the Speech also contained a commitment to fair pupil funding. The F40 Lobby Group that I have chaired for the last 7 years has carried out a very effective campaign. It has no power but has established credibility. If you obtain credibility, people will listen and usually act.
- 6.6 **Budgets:** County Hall is worried at the prospect of front loaded additional cuts to budget arising from the Statement by the Chancellor in July. As most of you already know, we have had to save £120M and make some difficult decisions to achieve that figure. This has to be achieved by 2018. Front loading has not been planned for due to the fact that actual figures have not yet been received.
- 6.7 **George Eliot Hospital News:** This hospital continues to make excellent progress. It's latest achievement is to be rated 7th in England for the quality of it's initial training.

For new parish councillors, I represent the County Council on the Members Advocacy Panel in the guise of 'Governor'. I have recently arranged for the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board for Leicestershire to meet on a regular basis with the Chair of the George Eliot Board, as 30% of its business comes from Leicestershire but the hospital has no voice on the Health and Wellbeing Board. I have also arranged another meeting to look at allegations of bed blocking.

The Hospital has asked if I will formally visit and look at their children's safeguarding arrangements for Leicestershire Children and Young People. I have agreed to do this in the near future.

- 6.8 **Ambulance Issues:** So far I have raised 6 instances of poor or no ambulance response times. Three were in the Market Bosworth Parish area, and 3 in Witherley Parish area. At this stage 4 families have received apologies. Given the number of ambulance call outs throughout the Division, it is clear that for the vast majority of residents a satisfactory service is in place. However, for those where it is not, please continue to contact me and I will raise these individual cases through the Leicestershire Health and Wellbeing Board, of which I am a member by virtue of being the Lead member for children and families.
- 6.9 **Boundary Commission:** As some of you will be aware the Boundary Commission has investigated the current constituency areas for county councillors. This was due to the fact that over 30% of the 55 divisions were + or – more than 10% from the average. The Market Bosworth Division is currently 16% above the average and will have to lose one of the larger Parish Councils to redress the balance. Your Parish Council has been asked for its views. I hope you have replied but until the next County Council elections in 2017 I will continue to represent all 13 current parish councils and the nearly 11,000 registered voters of the Division.

- 6.10 Rural Broadband: Ivan was asked to check on the progress of the introduction of high speed broadband to the village.
Action: Ivan Ould

7) **BOROUGH COUNCIL ISSUES**

- 7.1 Change of administration. Following the elections the administration is now Conservative. Reg Ward has been made the Chair of the Planning Committee.

- 7.2 Reg Ward has been asked to establish what brownfield sites are available for development instead of using greenfield sites.
Action: Reg Ward

8) **MATTERS OUTSTANDING**

- 8.1 Village Sign (previously 9.1 Matters Outstanding) – LRALC to be contacted to ask what we can do now and how we can take this issue further in order to retrieve the drawings for which we have already paid.
Action: Parish Clerk

- 8.2 Vehicle Activated Signs (previously 9.2 Matters Outstanding). A report is to be produced from the data obtained from the vehicle activated signs in the village
Action: Steve Gayton

- 8.3 Village Issues (see separate issues for previous listings)

- 8.3.1 Right turn out of Wood Lane. Sign has still not been erected. It has been agreed to contact LCC again.
Action: Ivan Ould

- 8.3.2 Pavement along Nuneaton Lane to A5 (previously 9.3.1 Matters Outstanding). (Ref: 7103954 - 45632612326). Contacted again for an update, awaiting a response

- 8.3.3 Wooden Balustrade on Main Street Car Park (previously 9.3.2 Matters Outstanding). This is to be removed when all works have been completed

- 8.3.4 Repair of Carriageway (previously 9.3.3 Matters Outstanding). Reference 8087274 (58078133558). This is part of the Highways inspection held recently.

- 8.3.5 Verges along Wykin Lane (previously 9.3.4 Questions from Public). This is part of the Highways inspection held recently.

- 8.3.6 Pavement along 14 – 24 Main Street (previously 9.14 Matters Outstanding). Logged as Enquiry number 544256. Contacted for an update, awaiting a response

- 8.3.7 Markings on roundabout at A5. LCC has been contacted about the lack of markings for vehicles to turn right at this roundabout. Ref 70723778944.

- 8.4 Play Equipment (previously 9.6 Matters Outstanding).

- 8.4.1 Path round Playing Field: The quote from WPS Landscapes at £6395.00 plus VAT, has been accepted as the company to use. The 106 monies of £6545.40 have been received

from HBBC. A grant from the Florence Turner Trust has also been received for £750.00 towards the path.

8.4.2 Football Club. It has been confirmed that the football club have their own liability insurance.

8.4.3 Dogs in Playing Field (previously 5.1 Questions from Public). Signs to be made and posted at the two entrances of the playing field advising owners to keep their dogs on a lead and to pick up any waste. It was also suggested that the school be asked if the children would like to design signs. It was also suggested that at least 2 dog waste bins be installed in the playing field, but this would be discussed again after the path had been built.

It was also agreed to contact HBBC to ask for information on the process of a bye law regarding preventing dogs in the playing field. **Action: Parish Clerk**

8.5 Provision of defibrillator (previously 9.7 Matters Outstanding). The training has now been completed. The defibrillator has been registered with the Ambulance service. The defibrillator has been installed on the wall outside the Oddfellows Arms. Thanks to Steve Gayton for organising the purchase of the defibrillator and the training. Thanks also to Eunice Owen for carrying out the training. Two bottles of wine were purchased as a thank you to Eunice.

8.6 Parish Council Elections (previously 9.8 Matters Outstanding). The elections took place and the existing Parish Councillors were re-elected. These are: Brian Golder, Ann Jenkins, Steve Gayton, Janet Robinson, Christine Molyneux and Dawn Waterton.

8.7 Replacement weather vane for Church (previously 9.9 Matters Outstanding). This issue is ongoing. **Action: Ann Jenkins**

8.8 Automation of Church Clock (previously 13.1 Other Matters). A grant of £1990 (~~£995~~) has been received from the Parish Initiative fund. A request was made to the Parish Council for the remaining £1990 (~~£995~~). This was proposed by Dawn Waterton and agreed by all Parish Councillors present. **Action: Ann Jenkins**

8.9 Fisher family grave. Ann Jenkins to see someone regarding this on 2 June 2015. Also an Environmental Fund is available for this.

8.10 Lorries accessing Hilary Bevins Close (previously 5.3 Questions from Public). The increase in lorries was due to the removing spoil from the site.

8.11 Road sweepers (previously 5.4 Questions from Public). Craig Isen has been on holiday so that road sweepers have not been out as often as they should have been. Severn Trent have been to the site to advise them not to take too much water at one time as this is causing the low pressure/lack of supply.

8.12 Bus Route (previously 13.1 Other Matters). This may be re-visited when the development in Hilary Bevins Close has been completed.

9) **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence has been received via email and forwarded to Parish Councillors as appropriate.

10) **PLANNING**

- 10.1 Barwell SUE. This will go ahead but with severely limited infrastructure to improve the local environment. There is no more money for road improvements.

Action: Reg Ward to confirm

The information from the vehicle activated signs will help to confirm the huge amount of vehicles that already come through Higham per day.

- 10.2 Public Open Space Adoption. This is part of the site in Hilary Bevins Close. HBBC have already stated they will not be adopting this space. It was agreed between the Parish Councillors present that Higham on the Hill Parish Council will also not be adopting this space. David Wilson Homes will therefore need to use their own company to maintain this space.
- 10.3 Land Rear of Oddfellows Arms. A planning application has been submitted to change this to equestrian use. This has been rejected by the Parish Council on the same grounds as for the request for housing, in that it is an area of natural interest.

Brian Golder has spoken to Jenny Brader at HBBC who said that the application was for 2 horses grazing only with no buildings. However there is still concern that this may be just a preliminary request with a view to extending at a later date.

- 10.4 15/00579/OUT Northwood Stud. Planning application for the erection of a dwelling (re-submitted scheme). This was rejected as it is outside the settlement boundary and it has not been earmarked as a preferred site for development.

11) **FINANCE**

- 11.1 The accounts for the year 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2015 have been passed to the Internal Auditor for checks before being sent to the External Auditors.
- 11.2 A cheque for £750.00 was received from the Florence Turner Trust towards the provision of a pathway round the playing field.
- 11.3 A cheque was approved and signed for Michael Smith for £370.00 for grounds maintenance during May 2015
- 11.4 A cheque was approved and signed for LRALC for £16.80 for dividers.
- 11.5 A cheque was approved and signed for Michael Smith for £370.00 for grounds maintenance during April 2015.
- 11.6 A cheque was approved and signed for CPRE for £36.00 for annual subscription
- 11.7 A cheque was approved and signed for RP Richards Environmental Services for £42.00 for dog waste collection in April 2015.
- 11.8 A cheque was approved and signed for D Dickson for £91.16 for clerk's expenses.
- 11.9 A cheque was approved and signed for J Robinson for £32.97 for flowers for planters

12) **OTHER MATTERS**

- 12.1 Tendering for jobs. It was discussed and confirmed that for all jobs 3 quotes must be obtained before a decision is made on the contractor.
- 12.2 Electoral Review of Leicestershire. All Parish Councillors were asked to visit the following website and make comments on the proposed review of the electoral divisions, <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/>
- 12.3 There will be a golf day on 18th July 2015 for anyone interested. Please contact Steve Gayton for more details.
- 12.4 Basketball post. This will be considered after the path has been built.
- 12.5 Proludic. These are to be invited to the next meeting. Ann Jenkins to contact.
- 12.6 Old railway track. A contact was received regarding the possibility of renovating the old railway track between Shenton and Nuneaton. After discussion it was agreed this would not be possible as the majority was now privately owned. A response to be sent to the originator.

The meeting concluded at 9.10 pm.

The next meeting will be held in the Methodist Chapel as follows:

Monday 3rd August 2015

Signed _____

Dated _____