

Beckingham Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, on Tuesday, 5th May 2009 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Membership Councillor B Day (Chairman)
Councillor T Fox (Vice Chairman)
Councillor G Else (Treasurer)
Councillor P Hallam
Councillor A Young

Present J Lyon (Parish Clerk)
District Councillor Pat Woodman
7 members of the public
PCSO Chris Boyle

09/21 Apologies

Apologies were received from District Councillor Sue Howe

PCSO Chris Boyle reported that since the last Parish Council Meeting there had been one crime – this being damage to a padlock. The annual crime figures for the year were 19, this being up 3 from 16 last year. The breakdown of these was; 2 damage, 2 car theft, 6 assaults, 3 thefts from motor vehicles and 6 burglaries. Of these 7 were detected and 12 undetected. 7 of the crimes were from the MOD camp.

The SID (speed indicator device) has been deployed 3 times since the last meeting, but unfortunately was damaged whilst on Sutton Road. If the SID records particular times/dates when speeding is a problem then this may result in a police presence so that further actions can be taken.

There is to be a Neighbourhood Watch area joint meeting to be held at The Enterprise Centre, Aubourn on the 11th June from 6pm until 8pm approx. Further details to follow once known.

09/22 Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting, 19th May 2008

The minutes were read to the meeting, accepted as correct and signed as a true record.

09/23 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

09/24 Report from Chairman

Councillor Day apologised that he had not been able to complete a full report and it was agreed that this would be included in the next edition of the Beckingham Bugle.

Councillor Andrew Young presented the clerk and fellow Councillors with a letter of resignation with immediate effect and left the Council.

09/25 Reports from Councillors

District Councillor Pat Woodman MBE reported that amongst NKDC's achievements this year are;

The Tourist Information Board is to celebrate their 20th anniversary
NKDC has topped the planning league across Lincolnshire.

NKDC has launched its Money Advice Service to provide help and information to residents on how to manage their finances.

NKDC have a Community Safety Partnership Scheme which aims to improve the quality of life by promoting community safety and reducing crime and the fear of crime.

The Environmental and Client Services and Building Control divisions at NKDC are recognised for meeting rigorous quality standards, as part of the ISO:2000

NKDC have been a single Chartermark across the whole Council

NKDC have been awarded their Investors In People award again

NKDC have launched the Spires and Steeples Trail – an arts and heritage trail across North Kesteven

There are now Youth awards in addition to the community awards

The Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Partnership has received an award of £436,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to improve Lincolnshire's aviation sites - including Cranwell Aviation Heritage Centre, Metheringham Airfield Visitor Centre, RAF Digby Sector Operations Room Museum and Waddington Viewing Area

NKDC have just reviewed their refuse and recycling routes.

During the last year around 100 affordable homes were built across the District

NKDC have introduced free swimming to people aged 16 and under and 60 and over at Sleaford or North Kesteven Sports Centre

NKDC have agreed to fund the Wheels 2 Work scheme for another year – a scheme which provides a moped for 6 months to enable people to get to work

The District's Stepping Out Walks paths and leaflets have been revamped and republished

HRH, The Prince of Wales, Prince Charles, visited Hill Holt Wood as part of a number of engagements across the whole county including a visit to Brant Broughton. At Hill Holt Wood he learnt all about NKDC's WatchNK initiative

District Councillor Woodman MBE was asked how the financial advice service would operate in conjunction to the Citizens Advice Bureau and confirmed that it would be run separately.

The meeting was advised that if anyone needed to apply for a moped under the Wheels to Work Scheme then this could be done either through the Witham office or directly to NKDC at Sleaford to assess availability.

09/26 Reports from Charities/Sub Committees

Randolph Pattinson Charity (Poor Gardens) provided the Council with a copy of the years accounts together with a letter re the appointment of trustees – Mr Ashworth explained that the land was let under a full agricultural tenancy agreement, but now it is let on an annual basis from November until October

Playing Field Committee – report and accounts to follow, for inclusion in the Bugle.

Village Hall – a copy of the years accounts has been presented to the Council, and it was reported that activity is very low – it is hoped that a new, enthusiastic committee be formed to raise the interest level in fundraising.

09/27 Accounts

The accounts having been previously circulated were accepted. Councillor Else indicated that he would like to lower the precept next year. Income and expenditure are roughly on a level with last year, apart from the reduced insurance on the playing field equipment – he confirmed that the Parish Council still had public liability insurance for any damages on the equipment but the equipment was no longer covered against theft or damage.

09/28 Any Other Business

The Chairman then requested comments from the village.

Travellers Site, Poplar Meadows – District Councillor Pat Woodman confirmed that all the relevant planning permissions were in place (with exception to the one for a washroom currently going through the appeal procedure). The clerk has not received the plans showing all current permissions that were requested from NK – the clerk to follow up. District Councillor Pat Woodman MBE explained that the Government policies lean towards the favour of the travellers. The clerk to check with Margaret Biggin, Environmental Health Dept, as to the outcome of the site meeting in April.

The line of sight when leaving the village onto the A17 is dangerous and unacceptable. Cllr Day explained to the meeting that this had already been reported to the Highways Department. Councillor Hallam has a meeting arranged with Steve Walsh from Highways on Thursday to walk around the village and discuss all the outstanding problems. County Councillor Ray Philips has been asked to check the speeds on the west bound carriageway, but nothing has been received to date – the clerk to follow up.

The bollards onto the entrance of the A17 have been replaced with reflective ones – the originals had to be replaced as they were often damaged by persons leaving/entering the village. It was thought that if they were lit from above they would be more visible – Cllr Hallam to discuss with Steve Walsh.

Playing Field - The possibility of installing sports drainage is being investigated – District Councillor Pat Woodman suggested that Sport England was contacted – especially if a girl's football team could be incorporated. The Beckingham Cricket team currently plays at Claypole, as the upkeep of the square is an onerous task. There are a group of people from the village that would like to form an informal team to play 5 or 6 games a year of 20:20 cricket and are willing to take on the upkeep of the square.

Allotments - There have been 8 people requesting an allotment – it was thought that although the soil is not good enough at the playing field, raised beds could be built. District Councillor Pat Woodman MBE reported that it was not unusual not to have a water supply to the allotments. Mr Neil Matson will investigate further and if there is enough interest a public meeting be called, possibly with a representative from the Allotment Society or NKDC for advice.

Play equipment - The slide has now been replaced and the swings are scheduled for reinstatement.

Parish Plan – It was questioned whether the village as a whole had a vision as to where it was heading and what were its priorities – a Parish Plan is ideal for this, but it was questioned whether Beckingham had enough interest for a new steering group to be formed to move this forward.

Donations are available from the Randolph Pattinson Charity for the poor and needy of the parish – the playing field equipment may be eligible for funding.

Highways repairs are to be addressed when Councillor Peter Hallam meets with Steve Walsh on Thursday, 7th May.

There being no further comments, the meeting was closed at 8.30pm.

DRAFT