

Beckingham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 19th July 2011

Membership Cllr. K Ashworth (K.A.), Cllr. T Fox (T.F.), Cllr. G Else (G.E), Cllr. R Sheppard (R.S.), Cllr. P Thorpe (P.T.)

Present D Johnson (D.J.) (Parish Clerk), Cllr. S Howe (S.H.), Cllr. R Phillips (R.P.), PC T Hewson (T.H.) & 3 members of the public.

The Agenda was changed to accommodate speakers

11/36 Police and Public Time

Police

- Police not present at this time, R.P. commented that from what he had been informed, crime figures are low at present. Police are undergoing changes to shift patterns and have difficulties with lack of vehicles.

PC Tim Hewson arrived later in the meeting.

Public

- One member of the public reported that riverside path under A17 bridge is overgrown. Who is responsible for this area? T.F. to investigate.

11/37 Apologies

Apologies have been received from District Cllr. Pat Woodman MBE.

11/38 Minutes of the previous meeting, 31st March 2011

The minutes were accepted as correct and signed as a true record.

11/39 Matters for Discussion

Allotments – Mrs Shirley Fleetwood, Regional Representative for The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardens Ltd. Parish Council asked Mrs Fleetwood for a basic overview of how to set up allotments and manage them. Key points are as follows:

- Suitability and ownership of the land.
- Legal requirement of Parish Council is to provide land and plots if 6 or more people require. No requirement for facilities such as toilets.
- Plots need to be approx. 250 sq metres/300 sq yards.
- PC to set up the area, divide into plots and do the first dig before rented out.
- Rent averages £30-£35 per annum, but can be more. Some in Lincolnshire around £70pa. Always charge full rent immediately, no special offers or freebies.
- Most areas have waiting lists for allotments, but smaller areas could open up the facility to surrounding areas.
- Decision to provide water, and at what cost up to management. Water butts are a must.
- Security issues. Theft and vandalism. Fencing and access.
- Decision to allow greenhouses and sheds up to management. Slab bases as concrete may need planning permission.
- If an Allotment Association is formed they can apply in their own right for funding for facilities from causes such as the National Lottery and Warburton's Bread for things such as compost toilets and fencing. Also, large chain DIY stores will often supply Allotment Associations at a discounted rate.
- The site can often be passed to the Allotment Association to self-manage once well established. They also collect rent on behalf of the Parish Council.
- Tenancy Agreement, bound by law. (Specimen agreements can be obtained from Mrs Fleetwood. Can add in details such as regular inspections.
- If problems with a tenant occur which cannot be easily rectified, a 'warning letter' can be given, and if problems persist, a 'notice to quit' can be issued.
- Book recommended 'The Law of Allotments' by J.F. Garner (isbn 00012305/00016709)
- 1950 Livestock Act details that chickens (not cockerels), rabbits and bees can be kept on allotments. It is not advisable to encourage any livestock. They need at least once daily attention, and can cause problems with neighbours.
- Rule is allotment is strictly non-commercial and should be sufficient to feed a family of four. However, surplus can be sold.
- Disabled benefit from having specially adapted raised beds.

Mrs Fleetwood's travel expenses are 56miles x 45p mile standard business rate. Cheque to be posted.

Parish Council to follow this up with a mail-shot to the village to determine exact numbers seriously interested. Mrs Fleetwood happy to continue advising the Parish Council.

11/40 Late arrival of PC Tim Hewson for Police Report

- PC Tim Hewson reporting only one incident in the Parish recently, a drugs offence.
- Police resources stretched at the moment with only one vehicle between three officers.

11/41 Reports from District and County Councillors

Report from District Cllr. Sue Howe:

- NKDC consistent waste recycling of 53.1% has saved in excess of £600,000 in landfill expenses.
- Sustain NK & Environment Agency are asking residents to conserve water as we are currently under drought status.
- Summer Holiday events: Art workshops at The Hub in Sleaford, crafts, food, plants and wildlife area at Whisby.
- Military personnel were honoured at RAF Waddington.
- Next Parish Cluster meeting is to be held at Auburn Clock Tower on 3rd October 2011.
- A charity golf tournament will be taking place at Torksey, looking for teams of four, more details to follow.
- An opportunity for public to visit and inspect the council's accounts ending March 31st. By appointment only. Monday 11th July to Friday 5th August. 10am-5pm.
- News, advice and essential information via News NK can now be accessed as a podcast. Memory sticks are available from the council.

Report from County Cllr. Ray Phillips:

- Highways – Four weeks ago £6.2 million was divided up across 42 high priority jobs, one of which being the A17 and problems with potholes. Work has been sub-contracted, 10 year contract at a set price. They manage their own timescales for non-urgent jobs but have certain targets in place to work to. – K.A. commented on the difficult main exit out of the village, especially in winter, although grit is provided. There is a very high accident rate on the A17. – P.T. commented on the liaison between NKDC and NSDC after another two serious accidents on the A17 Golf Club entrance on the NKDC and NSDC border. Changes in District and County Council personnel have caused a lack of communication recently which is being addressed. P.T. also commented on the continued speeding problem on Sutton Road.
- Schools – No immediate problems anticipated but a number of local schools including Brant Broughton will be considering Academy Status. This would be the decision of Head Teachers and Governors, and consultation with the local community would be necessary.
- Parish Emergency Plans – We are not current members of LALC who are providing support on this. The aim of Parish Emergency Plans is to promote self-help and the 'Big Society'. Things to consider include, emergency arrangements, grit bins and road salting, protecting vulnerable members of the community, help, support and advice from the Parish Council.
- Flood & Drainage plan – no plan currently in place. Clerk to check correspondence. K.A. asked if templates are available. D.J. to discuss with NKDC contacts. Put on agenda for next meeting.

11/42 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Phillips would like to make a Declaration of Interest at this point regarding a personal and prejudicial interest with regard to Planning Application 11/0238 Noble Foods Ltd Wind turbines.

Cllr. Phillips will leave before this discussion.

11/43 Finance Matters

Deposit Account Balance £1769.24

Current Account Balance £4053.28

Payments:

- R.S. Gray & Sons Invoice for 2010 Christmas Tree - £90
- J. Keane Litter Picking wage payment (3.8p x 274) - £104.12
- J. Lyon Parish Clerk wage payment April & May 2011 - £166.66
- Veolia Grass cutting Invoice £143.53

Also,

- D.J. to contact Mrs Fleetwood regarding contact details to forward a cheque for travel expenses.
- Travel expenses if D.J. needs to go out of town for training courses to be 45p per mile.

Cllr. Phillips left the meeting.

11/44 Planning Matters

11/0238 Noble Foods Ltd Lodge Farm Sleaford Road Beckingham Lincoln Lincolnshire LN5 0RB
Construction and operation of 3 wind turbines (each with a maximum tip height of 90m), with associated ancillary infrastructure

- Application WITHDRAWN
- R.S. raised the question of when the Anometer is due to be taken down? It is believed permission ends October 2011.
- Need to be vigilant for any changes or new applications.

11/45 Correspondence

Emails:

- Came & Co. Insurance Receipt – Passed to G.E. to be kept with accounts.
- NK Community Champions nominations – Closing date for entries passed.
- Drainage – R.P. has covered in his report.
- 'The Pod' - Use of The Pod is free, however, cost of staff must be covered. K.A. to discuss costs.
- NK require info on 'older peoples groups' taking place in the village – None in the village
- Police Poster – D.J. to display on the notice board.
- Cluster Meeting – Last meeting was on 11th July at Hill Holt Wood. K.A. & D.J attended.

Post:

- Community Wildlife Grant (LCC) – Info useful to the Play Park Project.
- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (LCC) – Update, no need for action.

11/46 Matters Arising

- Parish Council communication with residents to be improved. We need to make better use of The Bugle and contact with Mikki Young. Also, update info on the Village website. Need to make available the Minutes of our meetings, and feedback from Cluster Meetings. An initial mail-shot to the whole village introducing ourselves and the role of the Parish Council, and then the possibility regular updates in The Bugle.
- Grass cutting - Work sub-contracted to different companies for different areas of the village. T.F. to look into.
- Dog Warden, Litter Picking & Code of Conduct Training courses – Available next week at North Hykeham by NKDC. D.J, K.A, T.T & R.S to attend if places are available on 27th. D.J. to contact Marcella Heath at NKDC.
- Cluster Meeting Feedback – Hill Holt Wood 11th July 2011.
 - Hill Holt Wood to quote for new village notice board - D.J. to contact.
 - Police Report - Updated on effects of budget cuts. Also, continuing problems in Stapleford Woods.
 - Morton Hall – Change of use from Women's Prison to Immigration Removal Centre for Men. No change in risk to local community.
 - HELP Insulation Scheme – NKDC approved scheme. D.J. to contact for further info.
 - Next Cluster Meeting – Monday 3rd October, 7pm (6.45pm for refreshments). T.T. & D.J. to attend.
- Community Planning – Results and recommendations due soon.

11/47 Date of the Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting was set for Tuesday, 20th September 2011 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall
Further dates agreed for 25th October 2011, 29th November 2011 and January 10th 2012.

Meeting was closed at 9.24pm.