

# ***Beckingham Parish Council***

## **Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.**

<b>Membership</b>	Councillor B Day (Chairman) Councillor G Else	Councillor K Ashworth Councillor T Fox
<b>Present</b>	J Lyon (Parish Clerk) District Councillor Sue Howe Chief Inspector Mark Housley PC P Hanson	District Councillor Pat Woodman MBE 6 members of the public DI Mike Jones

### **10/21 Police and Public Time**

Chief Inspector Mark Housley introduced himself as the Chief Inspector covering the West Division of Lincolnshire – this being an area including Sleaford, Market Rasen and Caistor. DI Mike Jones covers the North Kesteven area. North Kesteven has been reduced to one Inspector rather than the previous two. The Community Beat Managers have been reduced in rural areas, as the demand is higher in the City areas rather than in the rural community. Travelling criminals are being stopped at source which means that hopefully they won't get to the rural areas.

The A46 was previously the dividing line which has now been removed to make one larger beat area, and Beckingham and Stragglethorpe have been tagged onto the Cliff Beat, covered by PC Hanson. The PCSO's have made contact with the Travellers Site and attend on close to a daily basis. Community Beat Managers have been reduced but also the work allocation has been changed which has freed them up to do more 'community policing'.

The crime figures for North Kesteven last year were down, and over the past three months have reduced by a further 5.7%. Detection rates have increased marginally.

Incidents that 'cause fear and concern' have fallen by 12.4% in the West Division and 7% in North Kesteven

Other crime is down by 15%

Criminal Damage is down by 11.7%

Burglary is down by 48.6%

Robbery has remained the same

Theft from Motor Vehicles has fallen by 21.3%

Theft of Motor Vehicles has remained the same

The Overall trend is down on last year, which was considered to be very low

These figures are from before the restructure, but the figures for the last 6 – 8 weeks since the restructure follow the trend.

Community participation is important to intelligence, and anything mildly suspicious should be reported, and if relevant it will be used proactively to make the community safer.

The Neighbourhood crime team are taking work off the Community Beat Team to enable them to provide Community Policing.

It was questioned whether the new Budget and Government will change the Policing arrangements. The new Government have made it clear that they will uphold the Neighbourhood Policing Model.

This area is still well policed in terms of numbers of incidents and Community Beat Managers when compared to other areas, even within the NK district.

It is not always about visibility as a lot of work is carried out behind the scenes to investigate and detect crime. There is always a Neighbourhood Response Vehicle on call.

There is liaison between Lincoln but also on a National level, and especially with Nottinghamshire. There is ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) on the border of Nottinghamshire on the A17.

Figures are looked at on a daily basis, and patterns and analysis made. The Police Force are held accountable for the decisions that have been made about the reorganisation.

It was questioned whether Police Forces can cross borders if there is a serious incident out of area. It was confirmed that the same technology is used by Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Police and each will help each other out if necessary.

The Smart Priorities for the Policing Panel were discussed. The Neighbourhood panels are used to identify problems to allow the Police force to address them, but they need to be specific. The Main priorities currently are speeding, mobile phone usage, seat belts and drink driving, and these are responded to at all times, often using unmarked cars.

The Police have a duty of effective and efficient policing, and the performance figures are challenged every three months. 60 extra Special constables have now been recruited to Lincs Policing.

It was suggested that if the PCSOs can attend Parish Council meetings then it acts as a point of contact for the community, and it allows the Police to report the crime figures. Chief Inspector Mark Housley reported that it might not always be possible for the PCSOs to attend Parish Council meetings but they will try to attend the Cluster Meetings. He is concerned that this may not always be the most efficient way of using resources. It was pointed out that the service level agreement has not yet been finalised.

There being no further questions the Police were thanked for their presence and left the meeting.

A member of the public asked if there was anything that could be done about vehicles driving too fast out of the driveway of the property to the right of the Church. It was agreed that it would be looked into to see if it would be feasible to put a mirror up to allow the vehicles to see any other road users.

It was questioned why the grass had not been cut for some weeks – the Clerk had already spoken to Lincs County Council who had advised that the new contractors who took over the contract in April had had some initial Health and Safety problems, however these have now been rectified but the grass cutting is some three to four weeks behind schedule. The clerk to ask if there is any chance that the verges could be cut before the village fete on Saturday. It was questioned whether it is possible for the Parish Council to ‘opt out’ of the grass cutting and employ someone to do it whenever necessary – the clerk to also investigate.

### **10/22 Apologies**

Apologies have been received from Councillor P Hallam

### **10/23 Minutes of the previous meeting,**

District Councillor Pat Woodman MBE and District Councillor Sue Howe asked that they be shown present for the meeting, as they left after the election of officers. After these changes the minutes were accepted as correct and signed as a true record.

### **10/24 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising that would not be covered later in the agenda

### **10/25 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations at this point.

### **10/26 Reports from County and District Councillors**

District Councillor Pat Woodman MBE reported that the District Council were awaiting the budget figures for next year. They may lose the funding that enables the building of council houses.

District Councillor Sue Howe reported that they were urging parents to check on the licensing of vehicles being used for private hire, as the 'prom' season is imminent.

NK have launched a joint awareness campaign for help, support and advice in this economic downturn.

There is to be a service of recognition for veteran servicemen this week - the clerk has the details if anyone would like to nominate someone for next year.

The straw houses in Waddington will be officially opened by the Duke of Gloucester this Thursday.

The next Cluster meeting will be held in Brant Broughton Heritage room on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July. It was pointed out that due to the Policing Restructure Beckingham is no longer grouped in the correct cluster.

### **10/27 Finance Matters**

Invoices have been received and cheques signed for the insurance renewals – these being  
£470.10 for the village hall insurance and  
£264.29 for the Parish Council Insurance

Mike Ingram has carried out the internal audit of the accounts year ending 31.3.10

The Governance Statement was read and agreed as part of the Audit Commission Annual Return. Now this has been fully completed it will be forwarded for the external audit.

Came and Co are offering an Independent Annual Inspection Service for the Children's Play area at a cost of £35 per site for a basic inspection or £45 including photographs and a site risk assessment and an assessment of Disability Discrimination Act and also a stock valuation. It was agreed that the higher level of inspection be taken. The clerk to arrange and to cancel the arrangement with Rospa.

James Keane, the parish litter picker gave a written report to the council and a cheque was written for his salary – this being 270 (as per electoral role Dec 09) x 38p = £102.60

An invoice has been received from Veolia for the Playing Field grass cutting for May – this being £38.71 + £6.77 Vat = £45.48

### **10/28 Planning Matters**

There have been two planning applications since the last meeting – these being

2 Poplar Meadows – erection of day block and revised siting of 2 static caravans

5 Poplar Meadows – erection of day block and revised siting of 2 static caravans

Both applications have been commented on – the main opposition is the drainage problem as the 'soakaways' are not effective in the clay land that the site sits on. All top water should be piped to the dyke at the bottom of the site. Planning Officers have indicated that this could be managed as a planning condition if the application is successful.

Nick Feltham has sent the clerk a 'Planning History' of the Beckingham Travellers site, showing all applications made and decision given – the clerk will photocopy this and let all councillors have a copy.

Since the original application for 5 Poplar Meadows, a revised application has been submitted showing the positioning of a visiting caravan, and also the demolition of the current small shower unit.

### **10/29 Correspondence**

Further to the last meeting all Councillors have had a copy of the Protocol for Handling Complaints from Legal Services – it was agreed to adopt this protocol, and the clerk to notify Michael Sampson, Legal Services Manager, NK.

There is to be a Local Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interest Training Workshop on 13<sup>th</sup> July at Waddington or 14<sup>th</sup> July at NK – to be circulated

Lincs CC – Sleaford Road (Rectory St to Chapel St) will be closed on Saturday from 10.00 to 17.00 for the Village Fete.

Lincolnshire County Council – Preferred Minerals and Waste Strategies non statutory consultation will commence on 10<sup>th</sup> June to 5<sup>th</sup> August – to be circulated.

NKDC – Councillors are reminded that there is a legal requirement to register any changes within 28 days and provide written notice to the Monitoring Officer.

NHS Lincolnshire – newsletter – to be circulated

NKDC – Sleaford Town Centre Regeneration Supplementary Planning Document – to be circulated.

### **10/30 Matters for Discussion**

Councillor Ashworth asked that Community Led Planning be put on every agenda – the next meeting is to be held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June – the Clerk said she would drop a copy of Brant Broughton's recently launched Parish Plan off before Thursday.

It was questioned that in light of the fact that the Church are to create a 'Village Community Centre' including kitchen and toilets, is it necessary to have two such venues – ie the Church and the Village Hall – it was agreed to invite the Churchwardens to the next Parish Council Meeting to discuss the matter further. Any decision about use of village community spaces needs to have full consultation with members of the Beckingham community and although we are inviting the churchwardens this is about exploring what they intend for the church. No decisions will be made on the future of the Village Hall until information is shared and full discussion with the community take place as part of Community Led Planning.

### **10/31 Date of the Next Meeting**

The date for the next meeting was set for Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 7.45pm in the Village Hall.