BUCKMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 19th November 2019

Present:
Councillor Liz Exton Chairman
Councillor Jill Arnold
Councillor Graham Exton
Councillor Kate Bygott

Police Constable Sharon Roscoe

MINUTES

43/19-20 Apologies for non-attendance – Councillors Bird and Hiam had apologised for their non-attendance

44/19-20 Apologies for absence – County Councillor Rhodes and Borough Councillor Graham had apologised for their absence

45/19-20 Approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 10 September 2019
The minutes were approved without amendment

46/19-20 To receive declarations of interest both personal and prejudicial on matters arising on the agenda – No declarations were made

47/19-20 Public Participation – Members of the public were not present

48/19-20 To receive reports –

Police Constable Roscoe

There was little to report for Buckminster and Sewstern. However, commercial burglaries were taking place in other locations. Number plate thefts and thefts of parts from Landrover Defenders were on the increase; doors and bonnets were being removed in some cases.
PC Roscoe had dealt with road flooding incidents involving the towing of 11 vehicles from flood water. In response to a question concerning the theft at the Buckminster store PC Roscoe confirmed that evidential difficulties had prevented further investigation.

PC Roscoe left the meeting following her report.

The Clerk

Installation of Airfield Memorial Plaque

Plans for the installation of the airfield memorial plaque provided by the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust had not been received from the resident.

Planning Consultancy – Skillington Quarry Development

A decision on the planning applications for which the Parish Council acted in a consultancy role is still awaited.

Flooding in Sewstern

A review of the flooding issue, arranged by the Parish Council, had taken place on site on 11 November. Representatives from the County Council, the Estate, the Chairman and Clerk to the Parish Council and Mr Alan Hart, a Sewstern resident, were present. A summary of the review is attached to this report so that all residents are aware of the steps being taken to address the flooding issue.

Highways Issues

Issues with Public Rights of Way and Highway signs, road markings and road surfaces passed to the Clerk by Councillor Arnold had all been reported and acknowledged by the County Council. Currently there was no estimate on when the issues would be addressed.

The Chairman

All matters had been covered in the Clerk’s report. The vice chairman advised that new owners were to take over the Blue Dog and a grant should be available. The vice chairman would contact the new owner.

49/19-20 Flood prevention in Sewstern

Covered in the Clerk’s report

50/19-20 Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2020

Prior to the meeting the clerk had circulated an email from the LRALC providing an update on its internal audit facilities. The LRALC planned to expand its number of auditors and would be offering an annual audit for £170, in the case of the Parish Council. While the Council’s current auditors
provided an excellent service, the fee in 2019 was £360. The clerk was asked to apply to the LRALC to join the waiting list for their auditing facilities.

51/19-20  
**Review of Council Documents**

The following documents had been updated against the NALC master versions, where appropriate, and had been circulated prior to the meeting:

- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations

The follow documents had also been circulated for review:

- Risk Assessment
- Asset Register
- Privacy policy

The documents were endorsed by the Council without amendment.

52/19-20  
**Precept Submission for 2020/21**

Projections for funding requirements were reviewed against costs accrued so far in 2019/20. Inflationary increases of 2% had been applied where appropriate. Grant Thornton had yet to provide an invoice for its external audit work in 2016/17 and an allowance of £500 was included. The chairman proposed an increase to the clerk’s salary and this was endorsed by the Council. After reviewing the projected figures the Council endorsed a Precept of £6750.00.

53/19-20  
**Voluntary Warden Schemes – Snow and Trees**

The Snow Warden scheme proposed by the Borough Council had been advertised and Council members had received enquiries but no volunteers had come forward. A proposal from Leicestershire County Council had also been made for the nomination of a Tree Warden, however, as the Parish Council had no responsibility for any trees in the Parish it was considered inappropriate to ask for a volunteer for the role.

54/19-20  
**Planning Matters**

There were no new Planning Applications

The Planning Applications listed below had been approved:

- 19/00750/FUL – Grange Farm Buckminster – Biomass boiler installation
- 19/00817/FUL – Estate Office – new gable to rear elevation, extension of existing roof and installation of fire escape
- 19/00822/FULHH – Homestill, 1a Gunby Road, Sewstern – Relocation of existing vehicular access

Applications Refused – None
Plaguing Consultancy Skillington Quarry – SKDC decision awaited

55/19-20 **Invoices for approval** – Payment of the Melton Borough Council invoice1007220 for £88.35 was approved

56/19-20 **To Approve and Sign the bank reconciliation for the current period**
Current (Community) Account - £8747.65
Deposit (BMM) Account - £1155.68
Total account balance including unpresented payments - £9814.98
The bank reconciliation was approved and signed.

57/19-20 **Correspondence received** – Parish Council Precept 2020/21 dated 12 September 2019

58/19-20 **Next meeting of the Parish Council**
25 February 2020

E Exton
Chairman

Date

Attachment: Flooding in Sewstern – Review
Flooding in Sewstern Review November 2019

Flooding in Sewstern has occurred over a number of years. Following email exchanges between Leicestershire County Council, the Buckminster Estate, the Parish Council and a Sewstern resident, Mr Alan Hart, it was decided to hold an on site review to assess what action should be taken. A meeting was held on Monday 11 November 2019 involving the following participants:

Mohamed Admani, Senior Engineer Flood Risk Management – Infrastructure Planning LCC

Amy Jackson, Infrastructure Planning LCC

Doug Williams, Assistant Land Agent Buckminster Estate

Liz Exton, Chairman Buckminster Parish Council

Alan Hart, Resident of Sewstern

Bernard Pearce, Clerk to Buckminster Parish Council

The group reviewed the current flooding situation in Main Street, with Mr Hart outlining the extent and direction of the flooding. Options to improve the capacity of the current drainage system by altering the direction of flow at the point it ran alongside Mr Hart’s residence were discussed, acknowledging the need to ensure the open ditch remained clear; a task that Mr Hart agreed would need to be undertaken by himself and the Estate’s tenant farmer through who’s land the drainage system also passed.

An option to divert the flow of water through the tenant farmer’s land that had been proposed earlier by the County Council was also discussed. Details of this proposal are attached.

Mr Hart showed Mr Williams that the start of the flow was further up the road beyond the open access to the field on the right hand side. Water was also running from the open access to the field and running off the field lower down towards the village.

Mr Admani noted that the field was much higher than the level of the road and that the ditch could pose a problem.

The following points were made by Mrs Exton:

• That pushing the water faster off Main Street would flood Back Lane and have a knock on effect; the lane was flooded on Friday 15 November this year.

• That there was an electric cable in the dyke leading to the village which meant that the depth of the dyke could not be increased.

There was a suggestion that the cable supplied power solely for the street light1

Mr Admani undertook to review all utilities carried by the cable. Mr Admani also noted that the gradient was uphill to Mr Hart’s house.

The group walked through to Back Lane to review the outflow of the drainage channel to assess the impact of increasing the flow of water through the existing channel and the proposal put forward by the County Council.

1 Further investigation revealed that the cable supplies power to the house on the opposite side of the road.
Mr Williams confirmed that the Estate would consider, with its tenant farmer, the options discussed and the impact on its farm land. Mr Admani advised that he would need to involve the Highways division of the Council and would discuss further action with the Estate. The options proposed by Mr Hart would be reviewed and the work involved assessed. All recognised the importance of finding a solution to the flooding issue in Sewstern mindful of the general issues associated with increased flooding across the country.

The Parish Council proposed that a solution to prevent future flooding should be reached before Christmas and this was agreed by Mr Admani and Mr Williams. If necessary, the Parish Council would coordinate the holding of a second meeting to review the details of the agreed solution.

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2 Highways has confirmed that there are no records of the culverted watercourse being a highways drainage system
As you are aware, flood risk management have been looking into the source and potential alleviation of flooding at this location. To gain a greater understanding of the topography within the catchment, Leicestershire County Council funded for a topographical survey which was carried out in October 2018 by an external consultant.

Following a study of the survey data, an alleviation option was identified, which would consist of the diversion of the watercourse running alongside Main Street through privately owned agricultural land. This could potentially provide benefit as flows would be conveyed away from properties and the highway. Further to this, the County Council were in numerous talks with the private landowner to install a riparian owned ditch to accommodate for the diversion and compensation for any land loss. Unfortunately, I must bring to your attention that the landowner is no longer supportive of this scheme. As a result, the Council will no longer be moving forward with the flood alleviation scheme.

The Council are required to prioritise tasks in line with our statutory duties as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). I must stress that unless the flooding relates directly to a County Council asset (such as highways drainage systems), the Council has no obligation to take direct action to resolve flooding issues, nor to remedy flood related damage. Nevertheless, we are always open to co-ordinate a solution.
Inlet to be aligned to enable flow to enter overflow ditch with minimal velocity loss. Ditch to be 1.5m wide and max 1.2m depth.

Ditch to be at 2m offset to boundary.

Ditch at confluence with existing watercourse to be aligned to reduce erosion.