



BUCKMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 15th September 2020

Present:

Councillor Liz Exton Chairman
Councillor Jill Arnold
Councillor Graham Exton
Councillor Daniel Bird
Councillor Gemma Hiam
County Councillor Byron Rhodes
Borough Councillor Malise Graham

MINUTES

28/20-21 **Apologies for absence** – Councillor Bygott and Police Constable Roscoe had apologised for being absent

29/20-21 **Approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 7 July 2020 -**
The minutes were approved without amendment

30/20-21 **To receive declarations of interest both personal and prejudicial on matters arising on the agenda** – No declarations were made

31/20-21 **Public Participation** – Members of the public were not present

32/20-21 **To receive reports** –

County Councillor Rhodes

The County Council had received a briefing that afternoon from the Director of Public Health. Covid 19 issues were getting worse; Leicester was getting worse. Debate is ongoing over what exactly that means. It is not always the case that infection rates are increasing solely in towns; cases can rise in villages. At this time Oadby and Wigston has 66 cases with an infection rate of 115.7/ 100,000, Blaby had 62.7/ 100,000 and Melton Mowbray had

25.4/100,000. In Melton's case this equated to 13 cases; a level that is not too bad but had been at almost zero. Leicestershire is not out of the woods and is doing better than some other areas but we must not be complacent. We are now entering the new era of the 'Rule of 6' and the debate on what that means. We need to follow the rules and be careful even in the villages. The vice chairman confirmed that two cases had occurred locally in recent weeks but had not spread. Elsewhere the County Council was maintaining services for the disabled, adult social care, disabled people, and children. Highways work continued. These efforts came with a cost and the Council now expected to be facing a budget deficit of around £18M against a net budget of around £400M. There is concern that over the next year and the year after the current issues might have an impact on council tax and business receipts; the main concern being likely defaults that could be considerable. A savings plan had been developed and it was likely that there would be no recruiting over this period unless it was essential with other measures being followed and spending scrutiny being maintained.

On a positive note, schools were now back in business and school transport was in place. Overall, the County Council was holding its own and services were being maintained. The aim was not to expand activities but to continue to maintain the Council's current services and support public health.

Borough Councillor Graham

The Borough Council was also managing to maintain services. Plans prepared earlier had been set aside and activities now were focused on preparing a revised plan covering the next two years and addressing the issues raised by Covid 19. There were similar concerns to those of the County Council over finances covering the next two years. For the most part, the Borough Council had been reactive over the last few months; the expectation was that Christmas activities would be cancelled. It was unlikely that there would be any light at the end of the tunnel until at least the new year. The County Council were moving out of the Borough Council offices in 18 months' time and the need to find new tenants could be challenging. Nonetheless, as always, the Council was ready to respond to any queries or requests for assistance.

Police Constable Roscoe (report presented by the Clerk)

One of Sharon's colleagues had responded on her behalf to the issues concerning speeding traffic, the existence of the Rutland TT and police monitoring of traffic. The response had been circulated to Council members. The police will be monitoring the Rutland TT.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman both commented on the excessive speeds of traffic, on Timber Hill in Sewstern and on the B676 through Buckminster. The chairman noted that quite large groups of sports cars were travelling along Timber Hill. In Buckminster older residents had expressed concerns

over crossing the road and the Vice Chairman had witnessed near accidents on several occasions. The clerk noted that sports cars were also travelling through Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth, possibly to and from Buckminster.

Parish Clerk

Installation of Airfield Memorial Plaque

In response to the Parish Clerk's report of delays due to Covid 19 the Chairman reported that the resident had now changed his mind over the siting of the plaque and asked for it not to be positioned on the farm. Following discussions with the Chairman it had been agreed that the memorial could be positioned, set back from the road, between the ditch and the hedge. The marble memorial would be held in place by oak posts and the Chairman would arrange for the installation to take place. A quotation for the work would be presented to the Parish Council for approval; the chairman asked solely for the cost of materials to be funded. The clerk noted that he was required to provide the location details to the organisation that delivered the memorial.

Highways Issues – Speeding

Reports of vehicles and motor cycles exceeding speed limits through Buckminster and Sewstern had prompted the clerk to consult with the parish council in Greetham where a 20 mph zone had been established through the village and speed bumps had been created at either end of the main road through the village. The steps taken in Greetham to set up the new limits, install the speed bumps and involve the police in monitoring speeds through the village had been circulated to Council members.

An approach had also been made directly to the police concerning 'The Rutland TT' that had been raised with the clerk by a resident in Great Dalby. The police had responded and would be monitoring the route of the TT and would extend their monitoring to Buckminster and Sewstern.

Hedge Growth, Sewstern

The hedge growth on Timber Hill had been cut back.

Website Accessibility Compliance

The clerk would be joining a Zoom presentation on this topic on 21 September to provide further information on the WCAG 2.1AA accessibility guidelines compliance requirements.

In response to a query from the vice chairman the clerk outlined in general terms the reasons behind the legislation for ensuring that the council's website could be understood and be clearly visible to all. Councillor Bird recalled the initial launch of the requirements a few years earlier and noted

that it was introduced as part of the introduction of the Disability Discrimination Act

The Chairman

An issue had been brought to the chairman's attention concerning the lack of public transport from Grantham to Sewstern and to and from Grantham at the weekend. A resident had raised the issue when she discovered that the Saturday service had been discontinued. She worked during the week and Saturday was the only day she could shop. In response the vice chairman noted that experience suggested Centrebus had normally communicated quite well when changes were made to the service. It seemed that the company was now making its own arbitrary decisions. Discussion suggested that the service was under utilised and was no longer economically viable on a Saturday. County Councillor Rhodes suggested the only option would be to arrange a demand responsive service although this might have an impact overall on the 55/56 service. Councillor Bird noted that very few people seemed to use the service based on his own observations. If the decision were made to use a demand responsive service, the County Council would assist in making the transition but there was no simple solution. County Councillor Rhodes advised that the process of having Demand Responsive Transport could be seen on the Council's website. The clerk would contact other parish councils on the route to assess their views on future arrangements. In the interim the chairman and vice chairman would have further discussions.

33/20-21

Review of Covid 19 Aspects

Support for vulnerable residents was now being implemented and no concerns were being reported.

34/20-21

The Local Electricity Bill – Support

Only limited information appeared to be available and it was agreed that the Council should await the outcome of the bill's progress through Parliament.

35/20-21

The Government Review of the Planning System

There was concern at a County and Borough Council level over the significant changes likely to emerge from the Review; it was the most radical change to planning since 1947. The intention appeared to be to ensure more houses would be built and land for building would be allocated on a countrywide basis, more on a county wide rather than a district basis; rural areas may miss out. There would be local plans. The decision-making process would differ significantly from that currently in place. Areas would be assigned to developers and opposition would be minimised. There would be one chance to say where developments would be. It was likely that there would be opposition to some aspects proposed and its passage through

Parliament might see some amendments to the current proposals. The clerk had noted that the NALC are tabling 35 questions on the white paper.

36/20-21 **Highway Speeding Issues (The Rutland TT)**

This topic had been referred to earlier. Adding to earlier comments, the vice chairman reported that in addition to speeding, driving standards were extremely poor. Elderly residents in Buckminster were fearful of crossing the road. Vehicles had been seen frequently turning onto the Sproxtan road at the corner near the shop without any regard to vehicles coming into Buckminster along the B676. HGVs and some farm vehicles added to the problems. There was a total lack of due care and attention. The chairman reported similar problems on Timber Hill in Sewstern. The clerk reported on the steps taken by the Parish Council in Greetham in acquiring equipment to monitor and speeding vehicles; involving the police, the councils (Borough and District) and the local MP; funding the installation of Active Speed Signs and speed bumps at either end of the village. Councillor Bird endorsed the proposal to install Active Speed Signs that were also installed in Stainby and asked the clerk to investigate a greater police presence. County Councillor Rhodes recommended an application to the support fund to assist in funding the measures being considered. The clerk would also investigate the provision of speed guns and other requirements.

37/20-21 **Parish and Communities Fund Application**

The clerk would make a submission to the fund to support the requirements required to monitor and reduce traffic speeds through the villages.

38/20-21 **Registration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

A response had been received from Councillor Bygott and the councillors present confirmed there were no changes to their current registrations.

39/20-21 **Website Accessibility Requirements**

Already covered in the clerk's report.

40/20-21 **Snow Warden Arrangements**

The Council decided not to pursue this proposal.

41/20-21 **Planning Matters**

New Planning Applications: None

Planning Applications withdrawn: 20/00585/FUL Land adjacent Homestill, Gunby Road, Sewstern – construction of 4 houses

Planning applications refused: None

- 42/20-21 **Invoices for approval –**
ACR Invoice 30512 PEAR004 dated 02/09/2020 £35.00
- 43/20-21 **To approve and sign the bank reconciliation for the current period**

Current account - £ 7424.33
Deposit account - £ 1157.41
Total account balance to date - £ 8581.74
- 44/20-21 **Correspondence Received:** No correspondence had been received
- 45/20-21 **Next Meeting:** The next meeting would be held on 24 November 2020

E Exton
Chairman

Date