



BUCKMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 7th July 2020

Present:

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

MINUTES

16/20-21 **Apologies for Non-Attendance** – Police Constable Roscoe had apologised for being unable to attend

17/20-21 **Apologies for absence** – All councillors were present

18/20-21 **Approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 12 May 2020 -**
The minutes were approved without amendment

19/20-21 **To receive declarations of interest both personal and prejudicial on matters arising on the agenda** – No declarations were made

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

21/20-21 **To receive reports –**

County Councillor Rhodes

The County Council had been completely reorganised over the past three months. County Hall was closed. Around 4000 staff were working remotely but it was not possible for everyone to do their full jobs. Some would

normally have had to work together, and some had to use special equipment, for example, in Highways. However, Care and Support services had been able to keep going satisfactorily with hardly a hiccup. There was a concern that, in particular, not all of the staff and services working in this key area would be able to provide their usual support. However, it had continued as normal even when in the early days staff in this specialised area had been unable to obtain all of the PPE that was required under the Covid 19 conditions; that issue had been resolved. Schools had continued particularly to support care staff and around 2000 children had been in school. That number had increased with the limited opening of primary schools. Highways had also continued but with restrictions and consequently at a slower pace because of the need to maintain social distancing.

Country parks had been closed; this was largely an issue for the western side of the county. They were now open, Beacon Hill is the most popular site, although coffee shops and toilets had remained closed; some of the latter were now open.

Waste recycling sites had been closed but it had been possible to open the site at Melton Mowbray. The booking system had controlled the social distancing requirement; there had been a cost. There was ongoing pressure to open the Bottesford site.

There were significant costs. Investments in IT, increased payments to care workers and additional costs for PPE. There had been additional investment in IT. The £1.5M Community Grant Scheme had been helpful but had now all been used up. An overspend of £64M on the budget was envisaged although a Government grant of £27.5M would reduce that to around £36M. There were concerns about defaults on council tax payments and business rates and it was possible that financial problems could extend to 2021/22.

Local concerns about grass cutting were recognised but ensuring social distancing was maintained had caused some delays. The second cut of the year had just been undertaken and the third would be starting in a few weeks' time. The process had been concentrated on the junctions initially and would now be focusing on the first metre cuts at the sides of the roads. This would be extended later in the season. It has been a difficult few months.

The recent reintroduction of the lock downs in Leicester and the affected local areas had resulted in further problems.

Borough Councillor Graham

The problems faced by the Borough Council were similar to those faced by the County Council but on a lesser scale. All resources were focused on addressing the issues raised by Covid 19 and there were similar concerns over finances.

Police Constable Roscoe (report presented by the Clerk)

There had been an increase in speeding traffic.

This was endorsed by several council members and on one occasion it had sounded as though an accident had occurred. Motorcycles had disappeared from the roads during the earlier part of the pandemic but had now returned. The clerk would advise Police Constable Roscoe of the parish council's concerns.

Parish Clerk

Installation of Airfield Memorial Plaque

The installation of the airfield memorial plaque provided by the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust has been delayed due to Covid 19.

Flooding in Sewstern

Leicestershire Highways closed Main Street in Sewstern at the beginning of June. An exchange of emails with the Senior Engineer in Flood Risk Management revealed that work was undertaken to install a soakaway. It was dug out and re-stoned by the drain. Grips had been installed to channel water into the drain; they would be inspected at regular intervals. Repairs to the headwall are outstanding and are planned for when drainage works are to be undertaken. I've asked if a further inspection can be carried out later in the year.

Highways Issues

Following a request from a Sewstern resident who had a near accident with a cyclist at the main street crossroads, Highways had been asked to inspect the mirror and assess whether any repairs are needed. It emerged that the mirror had not been installed by Highways but would have been positioned by a resident at some time in the past.

The lack of effectiveness of the mirror was questioned at the meeting.

Hedge growth issues, Sewstern

The hedge along Church Lane had grown significantly and now covered the footpath forcing pedestrians into the road. The Estate had been asked to trim the hedge to ensure that pedestrians could walk safely along the lane. There was some resistance and a desire to put off any trimming until August but the danger to pedestrians had been emphasised.

There was some debate at the meeting as to whether there was an issue for pedestrians as apparently the traffic using the road was minimal. Nonetheless it was thought sensible that the Estate should inspect the hedge in March to assess whether trimming might be needed at that time.

The Planning department at Melton Borough Council has been asked to assess the hedge at Timber Hill which was obscuring the road signs. It had been inspected and the owner had been asked to cut the hedge back.

Borough Councillor Graham agreed to speak with Mr Worley, Assistant Director for Planning and Housing Delivery, over the need for regular inspections as ensuring that the hedge was trimmed had been included in the planning requirements.

The Chairman

Concerns continued over the distribution of support for vulnerable people during Covid 19. The issue arose because of the post code assigned to Buckminster and Sewstern. Although the issue had been taken up by the county council and referred to the local MP there was still no resolution.

The chairman understood efforts to resolve the issue were being taken in London. There was also a difficulty in identifying the people who should be receiving support because their identity is protected by the NHS. County Councillor Rhodes was certain that support had been provided to those that had been identified.

22/20-21 **Review of Covid 19 Aspects**

There was nothing further to add on this subject

23/20-21 **Planning Matters**

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

The comments provided by the chairman were endorsed and the clerk would submit them to the planning committee. The chairman referred to comments made by 3 other parishioners

Planning applications advised for information: NONMAT/00608 Land parcel School lane, Sewstern – reduction in garage size for one property

Planning Applications Approved – None

Applications Refused – None

Planning Consultancy Skillington Quarry – Application PL/0076/18 had been reviewed by Lincolnshire County Council Planning and Regulation Committee on 6 July and had been endorsed

24/20-21 **Invoices for approval** – There were no invoices for approval

25/20-21 **To Approve and Sign the bank reconciliation for the current period**

Current (Community) Account - £8705.06

Deposit (BMM) Account - £1157.38

Total account balance including un-presented payments - £9862.44

The bank reconciliation was approved and signed.

26/20-21 **Correspondence received – None**

27/20-21 **Next meeting of the Parish Council – 15 September 2020**

E Exton
Chairman

Date