

[South Leverton Parish Council

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Draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 12th April 2017 at 7.00 pm in the Memorial Institute

Present: Cllr G Wareham – Chair, Cllrs J Cawthorne, B Loates; M Darlow; S Rickards & Clerk Sara Stilliard

South Leverton Residents: 2 present

Guests: CCllr Ogle

PUBLIC FORUM

One resident was concerned about the proposal to replace grass cutting contractors with the lengthsman. This has been tried twice in the past with the objective of saving money but the job has always proved to be too much for one man in all conditions. Holmes Groundcare have a variety of equipment to tackle long and wet grass for example and 3 men complete the job in 3 hours. They have staff to cover illness and holidays so the grass is never left uncut in the summer. Jack is a willing young man but we could be in danger of exploiting him. The resident could understand the project more if anyone had complained about the state of the grass cutting but this is not the case and if it is not broken it does not need fixing.

A second resident agreed that the grass is always tidy and looks well-kept so why change the contractors and the cost of the machine with a payback of at least 2 years seemed a strange use of council tax money. If the lengthsman became overburdened and stopped doing the job after 6 months for example this would lead to issues for the PC who would also be left with a redundant machine.

The Chair considered it important to respond verbally and immediately to assure the public that there was no question of exploiting the lengthsman. Cllr Darlow had been delegated to look after Jack and had held discussions with him and his parents with regard to what would be involved. Jack has expressed his interest in the opportunity and following the full-scale churchyard and millennium corner trial cut undertaken by him his mother had written to Cllr Darlow confirming their enthusiasm for Jack to take over the grass cutting duties. The trial was part of a financial investigation, to try to minimise expenditure whilst maintaining a satisfactory service, but not at the risk of H & S. Further concerns were addressed during discussion of item 04.17.08.2.

The resident also raised the fact that North Leverton's 30 MPH speed signs have been moved further from the village to reduce speeding. He suggested that this should be considered for South Leverton at Cottam Road to make the village safer for residents in Cottam Road and Town Street. He requested that this be addressed by Council – **Action Clerk to instigate assessment of whether this would be possible via Highways department**

A third resident raised a question via the Clerk since he could not attend the meeting in person – which was

“The Council Tax Bill for 2017/18 shows the Parish precept has increased by 25.5%. Will the Parish Council provide the justification for this increase and identify the specific additional expenditures?”

Action Clerk to respond with the reasoning behind the rise in the precept for 2017/8

PLANNING MEETING

Apologies for Absence – Apologies from Cllrs Muir and Jones which were accepted by Council

Declarations of Interest – Planning Meeting. - None declared.

New Applications –

Resubmission of P/A 16/00515/OUT – Outline Planning Application with all Matters Reserved for the Erection of One Dwelling. Land East of Lambcote Lodge, Station Road, South Leverton Status: Appeal - no response required from Parish Council

Applications awaiting decision –[Outline Application with Some Matters Reserved \(Approval Being Sought for Access\) to Erect a Detached Dwelling, Garage and Construct New Access](#) Land Adjoining Mulberry Barn Rampton Lane South Leverton Nottinghamshire DN22 0BF Ref. No: 17/00351/OUT | Received: Tue 07 Mar 2017 | Validated: Tue 07 Mar 2017 | Status: **Awaiting decision – Council objected**

Decisions - none

BDC Local Plan

Cllr Wareham had prepared a letter addressed to MPs Mann and Jenrick about Councils' concerns with the new BDC Draft Local Plan and asked for feedback from Council. The feeling from several councillors and CCllr Ogle was that it was a very good letter, with well-made points, but that it needed to be condensed a little with specific points highlighted via bullets for example, to make it quicker and easy to read. **Action Cllr Wareham**

Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan – Monitoring Group

Natalie Cockrell from the BDC Neighbourhood Planning team to talk to the Parish Council about the process of Neighbourhood planning on Monday 24th April at 6.30 pm, before opening a meeting to all residents

Action Clerk to confirm the invitation to Natalie

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

04.17.01 Apologies for Absence - Apologies from Cllrs Muir and Jones and from DCllr Critchley which were accepted by Council

04.17.02 Declarations of Interest and Confidentiality
None

04.17.03. Report from the Chair – Agenda Issues.
None

04.17.04. Police Report
None available

Confirmation of the Police contact numbers are as follows: - Notts Police – Non-Urgent – 101. Notts Police Urgent – 999. Mobile numbers for other non-urgent matters: PCSO Lucy Campion – 07525 989445; PC Bill Bailey – 07910 336844. Lucy's e-mail address is lucy.campion@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

04.17.05. District and County Councillor Reports.

DCllr Critchley had given the Clerk leaflets on the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) for health care over the next 5 years which she asked Councillors to distribute to residents. **Action all Councillors**

Cllr Ogle said that after the Council elections in May there was a plan to mount a petition to demonstrate how strongly local people felt about the replacement of Bill Bailey to police rural areas on the ground. It had been agreed that neighbourhood policing was an 'effective and efficient' method of minimising crime so there seemed to be no justification for not replacing him. **Action Cllr Ogle and DCllr Critchley to organise petition**

04.17.06 Minutes of Meeting held on 15th March 2017

The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed off as a true record of the proceedings.

04.17.07 Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda.

Cllr Darlow asked if some agenda items could be time limited to allow sufficient time to discuss the significant issues more fully. Cllr Wareham responded that restricting the Public Forum to 10 minutes seemed to be improving the time keeping and no further action was agreed

04.17.08. The Lengthsman Scheme

Cllr Darlow asked that all Councillors let him know if anything needs doing in the village so that he can instruct Jack accordingly. Cllr Loates asked if he could sweep Glover Close **Action Cllr Darlow** Jack has asked if the Council would like him to sand and re-varnish the several benches in the village. **Action Cllr Darlow to call P Cawthorne for information on which of these may be appropriate to re-varnish**

It was noted that there have been several very complimentary comments from residents about Jack's work in the village.

04.17.08.2 Lengthsman grass cutting trial

The trial was reported as being incomplete. To-date the lengthsman had cut the grass in the churchyard and millennium corner using his own domestic mower. It had been the intention to arrange a demonstration of the selected commercial machine and train Jack in its use at no cost to the PC. Unfortunately, due to business commitments Cllr Darlow had no opportunity to arrange this completion. All councillors were requested to visit the sites and report their findings, as summarised: -

Cllrs Darlow, Muir, Wareham – reported the grass cut standard to be more than satisfactory and in part an improvement on the present contractor.

Cllrs Jones, Loates, Rickards – reported that whilst Jack had done his best their preference was to maintain the present contractor.

Cllr Cawthorne – had been unable to visit the site.

The Chair made reference to his written report to the council that the investigation had demonstrated a £900 annual cost saving going forward compared with the tabled budget value of £2200 for the 17 / 18 season, and a return on capital employed for the purchase of a machine of less than 2 years. All present had a genuine concern with regard to H & S issues raised by Cllr Rickards which related to Jack working in isolation. It was agreed that without a satisfactory solution to H & S issues no authorisation could be given to appoint the lengthsman for grass cutting duties at this time. There was no support for the motion supporting the lengthsman adopting the grass cutting duties. **Action Clerk to inform HG of this Action Cllr Darlow to inform Jack Foster of the decision**

04.17.09. Correspondence

There were 3 items of correspondence to consider:

- Clerk magazine
- 'Holding' response to Council's letter about replacing Bill Bailey on behalf of Paddy Tipping
- E-mail from Stephanie Allen of Redbank in response to Council's request for more considerate parking outside Redbank House

04.17.10. Parish Paths/Rights of Way

04.17.10.1. Footpath along the Catchwater Drain

Bassetlaw has agreed to contact Network Rail about this matter – it is still in hand within the backlog of work **Action Clerk to follow up.**

04.17.10.2. Overgrown footbridge on Millfield Lane.

Laura Summers has confirmed that NCC is responsible for the upkeep of this footbridge and will schedule maintenance work once a year **Action Clerk to follow up that this is done.**

04.17.10.3. Issues to report

The large buses which reverse into Glover Close to turn back towards North Leverton have knocked the grit bin off kilter and closer to the footpath **Action Clerk to report this**

The issue of buses using Glover Close as a turning point was discussed and there was a suggestion that perhaps they could use the layby at Tomlinson's Yard to turn around more safely. CCllr Ogle suggested that councillors forward this and any other suggestions re buses to the Clerk who will collate them and pass them on to CCllr Ogle. **Action Clerk and all Councillors**

04.17.11. Highways/Pavements/Public Safety Issues

04.17.11.1 Street Lights & Pot Holes.

No faulty street lights reported this month

A very large pot hole to be reported on Church Street **Action Clerk**

Very large potholes and poor state of the road surface in Town Street has been reported and Matt Duckworth of Via has inspected it and it is on list awaiting action **Action Clerk to continue to chase this**

04.17.11.2. Trentside Speed Awareness group

Nothing to report this month

04.17.11.4. Issues to report

None

04.17.12. Finance

04.17.12.1. Monthly Bank Reconciliation.

The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation to the 23rd March 2017 - agreed by Council.

04.17.12.2. Payments.

The following payments were approved for payment. **Action Clerk**

S Stilliard	Salary and Exps	£244.76
S Rockcliffe	3 months IT services	66.99
Jack Foster	Lengthsman for March	57.50
Jack Foster	Trial grass cut 3 rd April	83.00
HMRC	Clerk tax Jan - March	172.80

04.17.12.3. Confirmation of precept payments for 2017/8

SLPC have received confirmation of their requested precept and street cleaning grants for 2017/8

04.17.12.4. Annual pay rise for Clerk

Council kindly agreed to increase the hourly pay rate for the Clerk by 3% from April 2017 in line with NALC recommendations **Action Clerk**

04.17.13. Village Website

Nothing to report

04.17.14. Redbank / Cambrian Beeches

The parking on the roadside by staff working at Redbank has improved following a letter about this matter in March. A very prompt and courteous letter from Stephanie Allen was received in response.

There is very little nuisance noise from Cambrian Beeches now

04.17.15 Village matters to report

04.17.14.1 Defibrillator check

The Defibrillator has been checked. Cllr Jones has a replacement defibrillator should it be needed

04.17.14.2 Other matters

Nothing to report

04.17.16. Dates of next meetings to be held at 7pm in the Memorial Institute

Please note that some dates have been changed to avoid bike night which causes problems parking and the Village Hall is also booked on these nights. **Action Clerk to rebook the meeting room**
The next meeting on Tuesday 16th May will incorporate the AGM and the Annual Parish Meeting and so will start at 6.30pm

Tues 16th May, Tues 20th June, Tues 18th July, Tues 19th Sept, Wed 11th Oct, Wed 15th Nov

Sara Stilliard – Clerk, tel. 881582

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