

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9th March 2021 at 7pm

This meeting was held remotely in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

PRESENT: Cllr Pat Woodfield (Chairman), Cllr Paul Berrisford, Cllr Margaret Briggs, Cllr John Charles-Jones, Cllr Andrew Gough, Cllr John Newsome, Cllr Richard Pannell, Cllr Daniel Raynor, Cllr Colin Starke, Cllr Charles Wardle.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Helen Greensmith (GBC, part), Cllr Boyd Elliott (NCC, part), Averil Marczak (Clerk). 7 residents/members of the public observed all or part of the meeting.

4214. OPENING REMARKS

Cllr Gough explained that Cllr Woodfield would arrive late, and he took the chair until agenda item 9 (minute 4223).

4215. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA)

No additional interests were declared.

4216. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February were approved.

4217. MATTERS ARISING

One application had been received for the vacancy. The request to use the Playing Field for a wedding marquee had been withdrawn.

4218. DISTRICT REPORT

Cllr Greensmith had circulated a report. Cllr Wardle requested that the dog bin for Lowdham Lane, previously discussed at length, be installed with some urgency by the bridle path entrance. Cllr Briggs requested that an additional dog bin be considered near to the fishing lakes. Cllr Greensmith agreed to work with Cllr Elliott to follow this up. Cllr Greensmith reported that she had asked GBC's wardens to be more proactive in the villages to help prevent anti-social behaviour. There was an opportunity to stencil messages about dog fouling on the pavements using semi-permanent paint which would fade with time. It was agreed to consider at the next meeting where these stencilled messages might go. Cllr Charles-Jones asked Cllr Greensmith to pass on thanks to GBC for clearing up fly tipping so quickly. He asked that they review the frequency of waste collection from the footpath bins, as many were overflowing due to the increased numbers of footpath users. He agreed to email Cllr Greensmith with some of the key bin locations.

4219. PLANNING (PART ONE)

Application PC1127/GBC2021/0148 to increase the height of bungalow to have first floor and 2 storey rear extension at 4 Field Lane was considered. The chairman suspended the meeting between 7:12 and 7:15 to allow members of the public to speak and a resident raised concerns about the increased height and proposed design of the property. It was agreed to observe that increasing the height of this property within a row of bungalows would have an adverse visual impact and affect key views within the Conservation Area; to note that bricks should be matched and to note that the neighbours had raised concerns.

4220. COUNTY REPORT

Cllr Elliot had circulated a report. Cllr Newsome raised his concerns that the queues for Calverton Recycling Centre had become unmanageable and this was potentially causing fly tipping. Cllr Elliot had received reports that motorists were being stopped and quizzed on their way in and he planned to visit personally to have a quiet word with personnel at the site. Cllr Charles-Jones reminded Cllr Elliott of the village's ongoing dissatisfaction with the service provided by Via to maintain the roads.

4221. CONSULTATION ON SPEED REDUCTION TO 50MPH ON BONNER HILL/ FOXWOOD LANE

It was agreed to observe that WPC would recommend a reduction to 40MPH and that this should be applied at the same time to national speed limit zones on Lowdham Lane and Shelt Hill.

4222. COVID-19 UK GOVERNMENT ROAD MAP FOR LIFTING LOCKDOWN

Cllr Starke presented an overview of the key changes that the UK government had presented, and the implications for WPC at each stage. It was agreed that the benches should be returned to the Governors' Field after April 12th and, provisionally, that the cleaning and locking up procedures should cease after May 17th. It was agreed that the Annual Parish Council Meeting should be moved from May 11th to May 4th, as the facility for remote meetings ended on May 6th.

4223. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

It was agreed that reports should be posted in advance on WPC's website, and to hold a parish meeting for Q&A only via Zoom on April 27th.

4224. CEMETERY COMPLAINT AND REVIEW OF REGULATIONS

A family had complained about the removal, without notice, of funeral flowers and associated personal effects from a grave. The Parish Council noted its regret that the family had been caused distress by its procedures.

The action had been taken 6 weeks after the interment and was in keeping with WPC's cemetery regulations. The family had requested that in future funeral flowers should only be removed after notifying families. The Chairman had set up a working party with Cllrs Gough and Pannell to conduct a rigorous review of WPC's cemetery regulations. As part of this process, the following had been considered: ICCM's model regulations; published regulations of more than 30 district, town and parish councils; views of local funeral directors.

It was agreed after a lengthy debate to retain a regulation regarding the removal of funeral flowers without notice, but to seek to make families aware of this regulation by requiring funeral directors to give out a copy of the regulations when an interment was booked. It was agreed that longer term an abridged leaflet should be produced for this purpose. It was also agreed to adopt additional regulations stipulating what personal mementoes could be left on graves, limiting this to floral tributes and a maximum of 2 compliant ornaments. A number of general best practice updates and regulations were also adopted.

4225. MEMORIAL TOPPLE TESTING

It was agreed that topple testing must be conducted; the Clerk had contacted A W Lymn to arrange a meeting to discuss procedures and would report back at April's meeting.

4226. VILLAGE HALL

The replacement flooring would be installed during summer half term, June 1st - 4th. It was agreed that the disabled toilet should be refurbished, at a cost of £975+ VAT for new sanitary ware and a fold down changing table (contractor: Scott Stone) and £230 pounds for redecoration (contractor: Ashwells).

4227. PLANNING (PART TWO)

The following applications were considered:

PC1125/GBC2021/0071 revised consultation for the demolition of existing caravan storage buildings and erection of 1 no. detached dwelling and detached garage block and associated works at Bank Hill Farm, Bank Hill: no objection.

PC1126/GBC2021/0155 for single storey side, rear and front extensions at 21 Park Avenue: it was agreed to object to the external appearance, in particular the black cladding and flat roof, which were out of keeping.

PC1128/GBC2021/0153 for replacement porch and approach steps at 25A Main Street: no objection.

PC1129/GBC2021/0066 for single storey front extension with balcony above to master bedroom at 170 Lowdham Lane: no objection.

4228. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Cllr Starke had reviewed the risk assessments and would update the document for the Governors' Field to make it more generic as Covid-19 restrictions were gradually lifted. The following were reviewed: Governors' Field health and safety report for past year; Cemetery health and safety report, which noted grave top ups required and an unsafe memorial. No issues of concerns were raised in the Lengthsman's checklists and there were no entries in the accident book in the past year. No further actions were considered necessary.

4229. GOVERNORS' FIELD REPAIRS

Cllr Starke reported that DCM had agreed to repair the safe surface under the seesaw at no charge. He had discussed concerns about the lower spring mounting under the car springer with Proludic and they had agreed that it should be monitored.

4230. SAM MIDDUP FIELD

It was agreed to accept a quote for £400 from Steve Rose for the erection of gates and wooden fencing. It was agreed that the footpath should be opened on April 1st. The Clerk would contact Cllr Elliott and the LIS team regarding their involvement in the opening. It was agreed to notify neighbouring residents via a hand delivered letter.

4231. PARISH BENCHES

The insurance claim for £668, following the destruction of a bench on Foxwood Lane, had been received. It was agreed to consider the precise location of the replacement bench at a future meeting. It was noted that a trip hazard remained following the removal of a bench on Roe Hill, and Cllrs Wardle and Charles-Jones had a plan to resolve this in due course. It was agreed that the bench removed from Roe Hill, now restored, should take place in the Governors' Field at some point after April 12th.

4232. FLOODING MATTERS

The EA report was awaited. Cllr Charles-Jones paid tribute to a villager who had played a very helpful role in gathering photographic and other evidence of flooding and this had been welcomed by the EA's consultant. Cllr Newsome reported that he and Cllr Wardle had removed a hand built dam constructed in the dyke alongside the playing field.

4233. REQUEST FROM WCA TO USE PLAYING FIELD

It was agreed that the WCA could use the Playing Field on July 17th for a village fair. It was agreed to seek further information regarding proposed parking arrangements.

4234. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

The complaints procedure was reviewed and it was agreed that no changes were necessary. It was agreed to review again when the proposed new code of conduct was received from GBC.

4235. FINANCE

The Clerk presented the financial statement for March and 16 payments, totalling £4,409.54 net, were approved for payment. Gross payments over £500: £695.42 LGPS (staff pensions). A 3rd Covid-19 support grant had been received (£934).

4236. CORRESPONDENCE AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Copy correspondence between the Tennis Club and the Preschool had been received, regarding use of the tennis courts. A note of thanks had been received for the first cut of the Smalls Croft green. The Woodborough in Bloom team had requested assistance for a tidy up on March 20th, and several councillors agreed to volunteer. The Playing Field grass cutting would recommence on March 19th. The following items were noted: Gedling Police Newsletter; GBC, various agendas and press releases.

4237. WOODBOROUGH INSTITUTE

Cllr Berrisford reported that the rotten floor had been removed, new joists put down and new flooring laid. Several enquiries regarding reopening had been received.

4238. OTHER UPDATES

Cllr Charles-Jones gave an update on his conversations with Openreach regarding fibre optic broadband for the village.

4239. WOODBOROUGH WEB

It was agreed to include: minutes; details of the footpath opening; details of the Zoom Annual Meeting of the Parish and change of date for May Annual Parish Council Meeting.

4240. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next PC meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 13th April.

The meeting finished at 9.30pm.