

Barkestone, Plungar & Redmile

Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 12th November at 7:30 pm at Plungar Village Hall

Present: Cllr. Smith (in the Chair), Parry, Evans, Barlow & Hague & County Cllr. Rhodes

Residents: 3

Ref:	Subject:	Action
068/13	Apologies: PC Mark Longden & Malcolm Grant; Borough Cllr Baguley.	
069/13	Welcome: was extended to Richard Stevens who is to be co-opted to the Parish Council for Barkestone	
070/13	Minutes: Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting held 10 th September 2013 were read & it was resolved that they be signed.	
071/13	Declarations of Interest: Cllr Smith in the Planning Application for Merrivale Farm, Plungar (13/00683/FUL) & Cllr Barlow in the Planning Application for The Wicket, Granby Lane, Plungar (13/00685/FULHH).	Cllrs. will not comment on their respective declared interests
072/13	<p>County & Borough Update: At Melton Borough Council this evening there is a planning meeting to discuss 91 new homes, of which 35/36 are affordable homes, being proposed opposite John Fernley High School in Melton Mowbray. The development is contentious. The Council has to refer to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as there is no Local Plan in place since the Core Strategy document was thrown out. They have been referencing the old Local Plan. It will be 2 to 3 years before a new Local Plan is in place. As a result of the Government's drive for more housing, the new assessment of housing needs across Leicestershire & Leicester City will forecast over the next 20 years however, the lack of suitable sites in the Melton area will mean that some tough decision will need to be made with outlying villages likely to be impacted.</p> <p>Leicestershire County Council's update is that their medium term financial strategy is to reduce spending by £110m per year until 2017/8. The Transformation Board have completed their public consultation with early proposals due to be released in January 2014.</p> <p>Cllr. Parry asked County Cllr. Rhodes about Melton Borough Council's Renewable Energy Policy. It is currently being worked on by consultants Halcrow & Bayou. Currently, they are receiving 1 application per week. The wind turbine proposed for Long Clawson Hill application has gone to appeal. The 10 wind turbines at Ashfordby that has gone to the Planning Inspectorate with the outcome expected January 2014. It has also been announced that permission will be sought for 5 wind turbines at Great Dalby although no planning application has been submitted as yet. Cllr Rhodes is to work with the Rushcliffe Leader. In Rushcliffe they have turned down wind turbines applications in East Bridgford & Orston. New Government guidelines on renewable energy have not been tested, currently Councils appear to be following public opinion.</p>	
073/13	<p>A Volunteer's Feedback from the Melton Local Plan Reference Group: Margaret Bowen, a Plungar resident, attended the Environment Steering Group & provided a snapshot of what Melton Borough Council are looking to achieve. Since the consultation on the Local Plan was announced the Steering Group categories have been amended to: Residents, Employment, Land-Owners, Town Centre, Environment & Special Interests (which include Citizens Advice Bureau, Museum Delivery Services etc).</p> <p>The Environment Reference Group met on 10th November, it consisted of 40 people including Mrs Bowen & Cllr Barlow, and they will help develop the Local Plan up to 15 to 20 years out by reviewing the current demographics & offer their opinions on how they would like to see Melton evolve. The groups will be asked the same questions but they will be coming at it from different angles. A broad-brush view of Melton is that typically residents are low waged ; people want to retain the rural integrity of the area but don't necessarily want to always hark back to the past, can the area be more than The Rural Food Capital of the UK; not proud of Melton town centre; more infrastructure is required ~ bus & train services need to be reviewed, parking is a problem, a poor road network could result in a lack of development & Melton has a ring road which brings traffic into the town; broadband speed is an issue as the lack of investment could restrict economic development from corporate investors through to rural small businesses & hinder the growing home working community & the prospect of wind turbines dotted around the countryside continues to cause unease.</p> <p>Mrs Bowen's own concern is that there should be more representation from the Parish Council as without it, decisions could be made which will impact our villages. Cllrs. Smith, Barlow & Evans are involved. Richard Stevens & Cllr. Smith volunteered for the Employment Reference Group.</p>	Parish Clerk
074/13	Crime Report: Submitted by Hugh Spencer, Police Community Volunteer on behalf of Melton North Rural Beat L25. 1 burglary, 3 thefts & 2 reports of damage to vehicles were outlined. Report to be posted to the Parish Council website.	Parish Clerk
075/13	World War I Commemorations: Cllr Parry reported that he had had a brief phone conversation with Ernest Twells who was unable to make the meeting & no-one else from the World War I Committee was able to attend. Mr Twells felt that the Parish	Parish Clerk

	<p>Council was holding matters up since it had not committed to funding generally or to paying for a licence for the memorial garden/village signs. However since the last meeting Cllrs Hague and Parry had consulted, accompanied by Graham Glew, a member of the WW1 committee, with one resident who felt that the villagers in general need to be consulted. Mr Glew agreed the village needed to be canvassed to obtain the level of support. Cllr Parry agreed that a village consultation was the next step which needed to be taken by the WW1 committee. It was felt that lack of communication is an issue. The Parish Council want to understand the level of support from the Barkestone villagers before they are willing to commit to financial support for any particular project, & they would like an up to date status of the proposed projects with timelines. Financial backing from the Parish Council is likely to be subject to conditions such as matched funding.</p> <p>A point was raised that there is a WWI memorial to the Barkestone's men in St Peter & St Paul's church.</p> <p>Check with Leicester County Council that a licence would be required for changing the village signs or erecting a memorial especially in regard to the likely number of requests as a result of marking the centenary.</p>	Parish Clerk
076/13	<p>Highways & Byeways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orchard Farm Signs – Have been removed. The issue is resolved. Ditch Clearing on Main Road, Redmile – Melton Borough Council has enquired if the Parish Council has Mark Scarborough's address so that they can make contact. Address details obtained. Winter Resting of G4 & G9 footpaths – Leicestershire County Council has not responded to the request to close the footpaths. To be followed up. Gritting of Granby Road –Leicestershire County Council has confirmed it is not on the priority commuter routes & will only be considered once the main network is clear & only if resources are available. County Cllr. Rhodes requested that the issue be forwarded on to him. Road markings on Barkestone Lane, Plungar – the white lines & slow sign have faded away. Raised by a local resident. Contact Leicestershire County Council. 	<p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p>
077/13	Footpaths: No report	
078/13	Play Area: Reports are up to date. Parish Clerk asked if she could attend a Play Area Committee meeting so that all could exchange an understanding of key responsibilities. Agreement given. Cllr. Evans said he would attend with the Parish Clerk.	Parish Clerk
079/13	<p>Planning:</p> <p>New Applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Castle View Farm, Castle View Road, Easthorpe – Wind Turbine. Parish Council agreed to submit the same objection response that they submitted to Rushcliffe Council for the Whatton Stud Wind Turbine. Merrivale Farm, 18 Frog Lane, Plungar – Cllr. Smith left the room. Revised plans have been submitted which sees the removal of the garages which retains the courtyard openness. It is noted that the dwellings are now smaller so the number of extra houses increases to 5. There are concerns about density & access. However, what will happen to the buildings as they are a part of Plungar's agricultural heritage? Does a Conservation Officer need to review. Parish Council resolves to object to the current plans. The Wicket, 7 Granby Lane, Plungar – Cllr. Barlow left the room. Whilst sympathetic to the needs & reasons of the occupants, they are not considered to be of material concern in regard to Planning. It was agreed that the Parish Council would have to object to this application as it outside of the village envelope & invokes similar issues to those in the Windy Ridge application. <p>Planning Applications Approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Manor, Plungar Lane, Barkestone 33-35 Barkestone Lane, Plungar <p>Other Planning Related Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Langar Airfield – A Plungar resident raised the issue of aircraft persistently flying low over Plungar village. When a complaint was made to Langar airfield the flight path changes for the day but the next day it reverted back. It is believed there is a covenant in place in regard to flying over Plungar. Write to Melton Borough Council enquiring as to the permissions of the covenant. County Cllr. Rhodes asked to be copied in. Plungar Telephone Box – in a poor state of repair. It is believed the Parish Council decided against buying it a number of years ago, Cllr Smith to check his records. Need to ascertain if the phone is still active. Look into the current BT initiative to adopt/buy/sponsor the phone box for heritage purposes. New Melton Local Plan – as previously minuted Richard Stevens & Cllr. Smith to be put forward for Employment Reference Group. Renewable Energy Open Forum – Cllr Barlow updated everyone on the Wind Turbine Debate for the Vale of Belvoir & Rushcliffe at Long Clawson 28th October which was well attended. It was chaired by Alistair Benton, who gave a presentation on behalf of John Rust. It was explained that there are big returns for land-owners, circa £30,000 pa & that 500KW wind turbines offer the highest rate of feed in tariff. There is a sense that the tariffs will change in the medium term so Wind Turbine companies are keen to site as many Wind Turbines as quickly as possible. There were 2 farmers present, 1 of whom did not wish to speak >The other commented that the payments being offered are hard to turn down. It was felt that geography is playing a part in why the Vale of Belvoir is seeing so many applications as it does not come under one authority's jurisdiction. There was a view that Wind Turbine companies appear to target smaller communities close to county boundaries. County Cllr. Rhodes commented that Wind Turbine tariff issue will not be resolved this side of the election. The coalition is the problem as the Minister for Energy & Climate Change, Edward Davey, is a Lib Dem & is blocking a review. However, the December statement might bring a change as it could provide the opportunity to reduce the feeding tariff. 	<p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Smith Parish Clerk</p>

	<p>Cllr. Parry observed that the Parish Councils in the Vale have been very vocal against wind turbine applications. Cllr. Evans suggested instead of being en masse against every wind turbine application whether we should consider developing stringent conditions of acceptance & whether other Parishes would be interested in joining us? This led to a discussion about the merits of holding an Open Forum at Plungar Village Hall which showcased the main sources of renewable energy likely to be applied for in the Vale or whether events had rather overtaken this idea. It was agreed to proceed with the planning of an Open Forum the most likely date being a Saturday toward the end of January 2014. Cllr. Hague to provide a list of the 3 to 4 main renewable energy sources. The content of the forum to be further agreed. Also, need to make contact with Jim Worley at Melton Borough Council to see how they might be able to help.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Status – chase Richard Spooner for update. • Shell Field Farm – chase Andrew Dudley for update. • Kissing Gate @ Plungar – Cllr. Smith has obtained a quote of £385 to replace the kissing gate. The opening is now too narrow for a kissing gate so instead a gate of 3ft by 4ft which can be opened sufficiently to allow buggies through has been suggested. The house-hold next to the kissing gate has agreed to make a donation of £150. Cllr. Smith proposed that we proceed with the work & Cllr Parry seconded. • Resolution as to electronic/paper review of planning applications – move out to January’s meeting. 	<p>Cllr Hague</p> <p>Parish Clerk Parish Clerk</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p>
080/13	<p>Redmile Churchyard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2nd (higher) up branch was removed by Brian Richardson. The charge is included in Brian’s invoice which will be approved for payment at this meeting. • Brian Richardson has submitted his quote for the fence between the Churchyard & the Play Area. A 2nd quote to be sought. Richard Stevens said he knew someone & would obtain their contact details. • Brian Richardson has said he will maintain the same costs for the grass cutting next year. A 2nd quote to be sought. • Re-pointing of the church wall. Parish Council resolved to go with Mr Riddell’s quotation, option B 10 x 1.4m stretch. 	<p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Cllr. Smith Parish Clerk</p>
081/13	<p>Plungar Village War Memorial: In recognition of Mr Hodge’s work the Parish Council will make a donation of £80 to Help the Heroes, Mr Hodge’s chosen charity. Cheque to be made out.</p>	Parish Clerk
082/13	<p>Denton Parish Council: Parish Council resolved to pay Denton Parish Council £50 to buy their share of the lap-top & projector which Barkestone, Plungar & Redmile Parish Council will now own outright. Cheque to be made out.</p>	Parish Clerk
083/13	<p>Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in Barkestone & Redmile: The Parish Council agreed that a quotation should be sought.</p>	Cllr. Smith
084/13	<p>Insurance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-on has not as yet responded to the question of who owns the street lights & therefore who should insure. Response to be chased. • The Parish Council needs to clarify its responsibilities to the Redmile Play Area. See 077/13. 	Parish Clerk
085/13	<p>Review Parish Council Responsibilities: A preliminary list of responsibilities has been previously circulated, Cllrs. to look around their respective villages & report back.</p>	All Cllrs.
086/13	<p>Grantham Canal Regeneration Project: Parish Council agreed that they should be involved given how intrinsic the Canal is to all 3 villages. Cllr. Barlow to forward newsletters .</p>	Cllr. Barlow
087/13	<p>Preliminary Budget Planning for 2014/5: Budget of actuals & forecast for 2013/4 reviewed. Topic deferred until January.</p>	Parish Clerk
088/13	<p>Financial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current account balance at 31.10.13 £15,172.92; Deposit account balance £10,672.07. • Payments since 10.09.13 – English Clockmakers - £144.00; E-on - £119.52 • Receipts received since 10.09.13 – Melton Borough Council - £6,180.00 – precept; Leicestershire County Council - £752.35 – Headland mowing • Cheques required & signed: Sharon Pyke - £467.54 (combined figure) October & November salary; Sharon Pyke – £79.60 stationery; Sharon Pyke - £6.00 postage; Sharon Pyke – £61.32 - travel expenses; Grant Thornton - £120.00 audit of the 2013 Annual Return, Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Local Councils - £60.00 Parish Clerks Training, Brian Richardson - £1,440.00; Plungar Village Hall - £10.00. 	
089/13	<p>Councillors Reports:</p> <p><u>Cllr Hague:</u> Asked if anyone had an update on The Peacock Inn as he had received a number of enquiries/complaints about the building as it is looking dilapidated. It is a Listed Building so Cllr. Hague is going to ask if Richard Spooner from Melton Borough Council can get involved.</p> <p><u>Cllr. Barlow</u> – E-on need to be contacted regarding the street light on Granby Lane near the 2 white cottages which is on all day.</p> <p>No update has been received from Melton Borough Council regarding the adverse comments from within Plungar & beyond about the different coloured bricks used on the house at the corner of Granby Lane. Chase response.</p> <p><u>Cllr. Parry</u> – Requested that we follow up on the problem of speeding vehicles along Barkestone Lane between Barkestone & Plungar. Contact Leicestershire County Council requesting a site visit.</p> <p><u>Cllr. Smith</u> – Plungar Village Hall will no longer provide a base for motorcycles & bikes to call in at weekend. Need to make enquiries as to whether Millers had applied for a change of business as it is understood they are providing livery & dog training. Cllr. Smith proposed that Richard Stevens be co-opted on the Parish Council working with Cllr. Parry to represent Barkestone village. Resolved to co-opt Richard Stevens. Appropriate paperwork to be completed by Richard Stevens.</p>	<p>Cllr. Hague</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p>
090/13	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 14th January @ 7:00pm, Plungar Village Hall</p>	
	<p>Meeting closed at: 10:50</p>	