

# Barkestone, Plungar & Redmile Parish Council

Minutes from the extra-ordinary meeting held on Friday 16 December 2016 at 6:00pm  
in Plungar Village Hall

Present: Councillors Barlow, Kemp, Lowther & Parry (Chairman)

12 residents

Ref:	Subject:	
145/16	Resolution to sign Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15 November 2016	Agreed
146/16	Apologies for absence – Councillor Johnson	Accepted
147/16	Declarations of Interest – Councillor Barlow declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 151/16c, a planning application for The Forge, 2 Granby Lane, Plungar	
148/16	Residents Questions – All residents present were attending to discuss, ask questions & help shape the Parish Council's response to the Melton Local Plan consultation	
149/16	Update from Borough & County Councillors – None present	
150/16	<p>Melton Local Plan</p> <p>To discuss &amp; agree any response to the final consultation before Melton Borough Council submit the plan to the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>Councillor Parry provided an update to residents on how the Local Plan had evolved whilst still being focused on its original tenet of sustainability. As a result of an active campaign by a number of villages including this Parish Council the village categorisations have changed. The categorisations have reduced down to 3 &amp; have new definitions: services centres, rural hubs &amp; rural settlements. All 3 villages fall into the rural settlements category.</p> <p>Approx. 6,000 houses will need to be built over the next 20 years. Just less than 4,000 houses are earmarked for Melton town &amp; its surrounding areas. 1,800 houses will be allocated to sites with 10 or more houses in service centres &amp; rural hubs. Leaving 300 houses to be built across all of the village categorisations as windfall sites. These are sites with less than 10 houses.</p> <p>The key policy that is set to determine planning applications at Barkestone, Plungar &amp; Redmile as rural settlements is Policy SS3. This policy recommends that a new windfall site in an unsustainable village should be limited to 3 dwellings that must be appropriate &amp; necessary &amp; not result in over development of the village.</p> <p>A resident asked about village envelopes &amp; Protected Open spaces – they are no longer protected &amp; could be developed based on a housing need. The only green spaces protected in each of the villages is the church yards &amp; areas of separation &amp; fringes between the villages. Only a Neighbourhood Plan could protect an open space if it contributes to preserving the character of the village. The Parish Council have previously discussed the development of a Neighbourhood Plan but felt it was too big a body of work for a small parish &amp; it was not necessary as 3 villages have been designated as unsustainable.</p> <p>In Councillor Barlow's opinion the intent of Policy SS3 is vague &amp; not specific enough which means it is open to interpretation. It would seem to be weakly worded, on the other hand, it may have been phrased that way to provide house building options to keep rural villages alive.</p> <p>There are other policies for community facilities, employment, tourism, agriculture &amp; equestrian that complete the Local Plan but the focus of the Parish Council has been on the categorisation of each of the villages &amp; the corresponding housing allocation.</p> <p>A resident commented that whilst there is a restriction of 3 houses per site &amp; there is no cap on the number of 3 house sites, it should be stressed that the houses on the site must be appropriate.</p>	

	<p>There are also rural exception sites whereby affordable, social housing could be built but why locate such housing in villages with few facilities?</p> <p>Councillor Parry said he was concerned that rural settlements may be less well protected than larger villages, since larger villages were the focus of the various evidence studies &amp; were also likely to have Neighbourhood Plans.</p> <p>Councillor Barlow suggested that a way forward could be to take rural settlements out of Policy SS3 &amp; to have a separate, clearer policy for rural settlements around things such as re-use of redundant buildings or how sustainability could be enhanced should new employment opportunities present themselves nearby. Policy SS3 could be applied to sustainable villages &amp; a new Policy SS4 for unsustainable villages.</p> <p>Another resident said they didn't want to put off young people moving in as they don't want to see the village die.</p> <p>It is recognised that schools are proving to be an issue, as the majority are full. So what is the point of building houses to attract younger people if they can't get their children into the local school? Redmile Primary School is full. Also, rural transport is under threat with further cuts anticipated.</p> <p>There are a host of social, environmental &amp; economic impacts to be considered when siting houses.</p> <p>Councillor Parry brought the discussion to a close so that the Parish Council could agree on the basis of its submission. It was agreed that the draft Local Plan is not sound for the following reason:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy SS3 does not provide adequate protection to unsustainable rural settlements &amp; that a new policy SS4 should be considered which outlines the limited or exceptional reasons for building new houses at a windfall site.</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that the exact wording of the consultation response would be drafted by Councillor Parry &amp; circulated for agreement by the other Councillors, before the response deadline of 19 December.</p> <p>The Parish Council's response to the draft Local Plan will be circulated to those that have previously indicated their interest &amp; supplied an email address. Councillor Parry encouraged individuals to respond to the consultation especially those that may have an interest or an area of expertise that the Parish Council has not focused on.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>151/16</p>	<p>Planning: For consideration:</p> <p>(a) 16/00782/FULHH – Clematis Cottage, Drift Hill, Redmile (b) 16/00791/FULHH – Woodbine Cottage, 25 Church Lane, Redmile (c) 16/00880/LBC – The Forge, 2 Granby Lane, Plungar – Councillor Barlow left the room whilst this application was being discussed.</p> <p>Decisions:</p> <p>(d) 16/00595/COU – Manor Farm, Plungar Lane, Barkestone – Approved – The Parish Council objected to this application (e) 16/00594/FULHH – 11 Barkestone Lane, Plungar – Approved – The Parish Council had no objection to this application (f) 16/00678/FULHH – Old Hill Farm, Redmile – Approved – The Parish Council had no objection to this application</p> <p>Planning Committee:</p> <p>(g) 16/00334/FUL &amp; 16/00335/LBC – The Peacock Inn, Main Street, Redmile – agree any representation at Planning Committee on 22 December 2016 – It was agreed that Councillor</p>	<p>No objection No objection No objection</p> <p>Agreed Parish Clerk</p>

	Parry would speak on behalf of the Parish Council. The Parish Clerk to register Councillor Parry to speak.	
152/16	<p>Financial:</p> <p>(a) Current account balance at 30 November 2016: £13,054.36; Deposit account balance: £10,694.43</p> <p>(b) Bank statement matches receipts and payment listing</p> <p>(c) Payments required: Sharon Pyke - £10.00 Stationery; Sharon Pyke - £19.95 Land Registry Deeds; Sharon Pyke - £49.29 Travel Expenses; Roger Smith – £20.00 Poppy Wreath; Leicestershire County Council - £966.00 Tree surgery works at St Peter’s Church, Redmile; Eon - £219.60 – Quarterly Street Lighting maintenance; Plungar Village Hall - £10.00 hire</p> <p>(d) Direct Debits: Eon - £118.38 – Street Lighting</p> <p>(e) Review of financial forecast to 31 March 2017 – Running ahead of budget due to taking on the refurbishment of the Plungar War Memorial &amp; having to make repairs to a second stretch of the church wall.</p> <p>(f) Review &amp; agree projects &amp; improvements for 2017/18 – The budget to switch the street lights off at night was taken out of the budget for next year. It was agreed to consult with residents in the coming financial year with any action financed in the following year. The projects for next year will be the maintenance &amp; partial or full refurbishment of the Play Area &amp; looking at alternative transport solutions should rural transport be impacted as expected.</p> <p>(g) Discuss &amp; agree precept which may be subject to review at January’s meeting should Melton Borough Council make unexpected material changes to their funding after this agenda item has been discussed.</p> <p>The Parish Council reviewed the provisional budget line by line &amp; made a number of changes. The budget is to be updated &amp; brought back to Parish Council for a decision in January. It was recognised that the precept will need to increase significantly to accommodate the increasing running costs. Amenities such as Redmile Church-yard where the maintenance regime had previously had a lighter touch requires a greater level of investment. With regards to the refurbishment of the Play Area, the Parish Council will look to grant funding, which would be likely to require matched funding, therefore a portion of reserves would need to be maintained for this. It was also noted that the additional work which had been required for Redmile church-yard &amp; the Plungar war memorial had already reduced reserves, given the lack of contingency in the budget &amp; this trend should not be allowed to continue.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p>
153/16	<p>Superfast Broadband:</p> <p>To note that the majority of Plungar village should have access to Superfast Broadband by Christmas. Residents need to contact their internet provider.</p>	Noted
154/16	Councillors Reports: None received	
155/16	<p>Clerk’s Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leicestershire County Council’s Medium Term Financial Plans Consultation for 2017-2021 is open</li> <li>• Thank-you from Wymondham &amp; Edmondthorpe Parish Council for the use of the projector as their Parish Council meetings with an offer to assist with the cost of bulb replacements.</li> <li>• Local residents have helped the Redmile family whose house has been damaged by fire with further assistance coming from Melton Borough Council.</li> </ul>	
	The meeting closed at 8:20pm	
	Date of next meeting: Tuesday 17 January 2017 at 7:00pm at Plungar Village Hall	