

Barkestone, Plungar & Redmile Parish Council

Minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 14 February 2017 at 7:00pm
in Plungar Village Hall

Present: Councillors Barlow, Johnson, Lowther, Parry (Chairman) & Smith

Officer present: Parish Clerk

Borough & County representative: Councillor Byron Rhodes

Members of the public: 8

Ref: Subject:

178/16 Resolution to sign Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 January 2017

Agreed

179/16 Apologies for absence – All Councillors present

180/16 Declarations of Interest – Councillor Barlow declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 193/16, the Parish Council has received a donation request from St Helen's church, Plungar for grass cutting.

Please note the agenda items did not run in numerical order but have been written up as such.

181/16 Residents Questions

Members of the public attended to ask the Parish Council wished to make representations on the following subjects:

- (a) To save the pub in Barkestone being turned into 2 dwellings – with few amenities there is a desire from within the community to save the pub. There is a general concern that the pub may have been intentionally run badly for 3 to 4 years to arrive at this outcome. Previous to that, as the Walnut Tree the pub had been run successfully until the landlord & landlady parted.

Prior to the pub being transformed into the Gas Gorilla Bar & Grill discussions had taken place in the village to explore whether the Hall funds could be used to buy the pub if it was made an Asset of Community Value. It was then announced that the pub would re-open so the discussions ceased. An Asset of Community Value was lodged by the Parish Council & a separate application by CAMRA but they were turned down by Melton Borough Council. It now appears that Melton Borough Council take a line which is out of kilter with the spirit of creating an Asset of Community Value. Of the 8 nominations made to date only 1 has been accepted upon appeal with the other 7 rejected.

County Councillor Byron Rhodes mentioned that an Asset of Community Value is also being made in respect of the Red Lion in Stathern. The progress of this application will be watched with interest.

Based upon the number of people who have objected to this Planning Application, the Parish Clerk said that it will go to Planning Committee to be decided by Councillors. Councillor Byron Rhodes explained that a maximum of 5 registered speakers are allowed per planning application. Each speaking for up to 3 minutes.

In terms of the actual conversion into dwellings, it was noted that it appeared squeezed into the footprint with concerns about the quality of the parking & the outside space.

- (b) To save the pub in Redmile – A group of residents have met to discuss the reduction of community amenities in Redmile. The Peacock closed some time ago, the fabric of the Church is in a perilous state & the Windmill could be converted into houses. It is hoped that the Windmill continues as a pub after it is sold but there is no guarantee. The member of the public attending this evening were looking for a co-ordinated community response as to how to save their pub & what protection, if any, an Asset of Community Value afforded the Windmill as well as the milestones & key dates as they did not want to delay the current owners retirement plans.
- (c) To find out the Parish Council's plans for the Play Area – the ex Play Park Committee members are supportive of the Parish Council intentions in terms of grounds maintenance & inspections but wanted to understand if there is still a role for community maintenance days. The Parish Council confirmed that it welcomed the community's input & involvement but it needed to happen in a structured way so that all work was undertaken safely with risk assessments conducted for all volunteers to be afforded insurance cover under the Parish Council's policy.

There are two repairs outstanding in the Play Area both of which are low risk. The repairs will be made when the weather & wood dries out. There is little current use of the Play Area at this time. It was flagged that at some point in the near future the bark area will need to be replenished. The timing of

which will be linked to the refurbishment of the area or upon advice supplied, as bark may no longer be the optimum material.

Since the Parish Council is looking at submitting grant applications, consideration should be given to the time on the existing Play Area lease which may need to be extended.

The Parish Council wants the Play Area to be enjoyed & it recognises that it has a duty of care to Play Park users & manages that risk in part by having public liability insurance. However, events that take place in the Play Park without the Parish Council's knowledge or permission is not covered by the Parish Council's insurance. The ex Play Park Committee members asked for a definition of what an event is to be a future item of discussion. Councillor Roger Smith offered to discuss with the Parish Council's insurance company. The Parish Clerk to forward the corresponding documentation.

- (d) To support the Definitive Map Modification Order on the land were the old railway line runs parallel with the Grantham Canal at Plungar Canal bridge – residents have made it known that they have walked this path for well over 20 years so there should not be an issue obtaining evidence to support this modification.

182/16 Update from Borough & County Councillors

Councillor Byron Rhodes gave the following update: the County Council will be setting its budget on 22 February. Leicestershire County Council has authority from Government to increase their precept by 5% but is not keen to push so hard so it is likely that a 4% increase will be agreed. This will result in a £40 per annum increase to Band D properties.

The Borough Council has fewer responsibilities so there will be a 3% increase which equates to £5 increase per annum, to £162 on Band D properties.

The Police & Fire & Rescue Services have each increased their budget by 2%.

The County Council's cut backs will see £66m saved over the next 4 years with £161m already saved. Since 2011 to 2021 will see cuts in the budget of 40%. The County Council continues to be poorly funded compared to other County Councils especially unitary authorities.

The Borough Council's financial state is under more pressure as the new homes bonus is reducing as the money is being diverted to Adult Social Care which is the responsibility of the County Council.

An initiative is being looked into by the County Council in a bid to combat speeding traffic especially in rural locations. Speed humps are not successful in villages but GATSO average speed cameras do have an impact on reducing speed. The Department of Transport is being approached to find out if the County Council would be permitted to purchase average speed cameras with the cost of them offset by the fines revenue. Once the cameras were paid for, the fines revenue would divert back to the Department of Transport.

Councillor Byron Rhodes sought the opinion of the Parish Council & residents. It was felt that Redmile was most affected by speeding traffic especially the route from Long Lane with cars speeding into Redmile & past the school. The danger of speeding cars is further exacerbated by the way in which cars park in Redmile.

A resident asked if there were any substance to the rumours that Bottesford's recycling site is due to close. Councillor Byron Rhodes said no there are no plans to close this site.

An update was provided on Melton Local Plan, a separate report unrelated to the work of the Local Plan has been published – Housing & Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) across Leicestershire. This has come to a different conclusion to the Local Plan's research in that the HEDNA report recommends 4,250 houses should be built that equates to 170 new houses per year from 2011 to 2036 whereas the Melton Local Plan recommends from 2011 to 2031 6,125 houses which divides out to 245 houses per year. As a result, Melton Borough Council has commissioned a supplementary piece of consultancy as there appears to be a lack of suitable houses for retired people & a shortage of houses in locations where there is an employment demand. The economic case for the new Melton Mowbray by-pass could be undermined as 4,000 new houses is one of the accepted criteria for the new road. With the remaining 2,125 houses to be built in the villages. A number of the villages have already strongly indicated that they do not want additional houses. However, all of this is unlikely to impact Barkestone, Plungar & Redmile.

The Parish Clerk made Councillor Byron Rhodes aware of a horse chestnut tree subject to a Tree Preservation Order that has been felled in Barkestone-le-Vale. More information to be requested by the Parish Clerk to Melton Borough Council on the circumstances of how the felling of the tree could proceed without any consultation with the Parish Council.

183/16 Footpaths:

- (a) Report submitted by Footpath Warden

Ken Brockway offered a verbal report in relation to the two agenda items immediately below & made mention that there are a number of gaps on the Definitive Map & we have until 2026 to secure rights of way. For example, there is no right of way on Jericho Lane, Barkestone to the canal & on Footpath G18 to Sutton cum Granby there are gaps. Previously residents responded to calls to help with Footpath G18 but few user access forms were submitted. Could the Parish Council assist in getting the message out there by featuring it in our newsletter.

- (b) Discuss the Definitive Map Modification Order for footpath G11 to Fishpond Lane & the need for evidence of use from residents.

Ken Brockway said the Footpath Association had raised the request for this map modification order as they believe that there was an error in drawing up the original map because you cannot access G11 footpath without having access from Fishpond Lane. What would help secure the modification is user evidence. If any members of the public can recall walking this path over previous years & are willing to complete a form to the effect, then please email Ken – leicestershire.footpaths@gmail.com or contact the Parish Clerk.

Parish Clerk

- (c) Discuss & agree whether to raise a Definitive Map Modification Order on the land where the old railway line runs parallel with Grantham Canal at Plungar Canal bridge

Agreed
Parish Clerk

A padlocked gate with a no trespassers sign as well as the placement of brushwood on the land to the left that provided access from the towpath to the old railway lane has been installed. There is a concern that this gate has been installed on Railway Paths land. Contact to be made with Railway Paths.

It was agreed that the Parish Council do want to start the process of raising a Definitive Map Modification Order. This access path has been walked for years by residents therefore there should be no issue obtaining user evidence. Amongst other requirements are a need to serve notice on the land owners. More dialogue is required with Leicestershire Footpath Association & Leicestershire County Council.

- (d) Status of repair at G13 footpath - the steps to Gypsy Lane at Barkestone

The work has been completed to a high standard. An email to that effect has been sent to Leicestershire County Council.

184/16 Play Area:

- (a) Monthly Reports – Councillor Ian Lowther to forward to the Parish Clerk
(b) Discuss the outstanding repairs – The Parish Council's contractor has been out to inspect the repairs & has concluded that the wood is saturated & therefore we need to wait until the wood dries out.

The Parish Council has also made financial provision for contractors to cut the grass, with quotations being sought. Councillors Ian Lowther & Amanda Johnson will be attending Play Park Inspection training at LRALC in May which will help strengthen the inspection regime.

- (c) Discuss current funding raising & agree approach to applying & securing grant funding – Councillor Ian Lowther outlined the start that had been made to engage with the school on helping to shape the refurbishment of the play area. There is external grant funding available, the Parish Council has made a provision in next year's budget & the ex-Play Park Committee through their funding raising have in the region of £3,000 to contribute toward the refurbishment.

185/16 Redmile Churchyard:

- (a) Note the Annual 'shove' test of the memorials & gravestones was completed

Noted

186/16 Financial:

- (a) Current account balance at 31 January 2017: £10,820.85; Deposit account balance: £10,695.71
(b) Bank statement matches receipts and payment listing
(c) Payments required: Sharon Pyke - £449.26 February salary; Roger Smith - £27.90 Travel expenses; Philip Harby - £30.00 Replacement light to Barkestone defibrillator cabinet; Leicestershire Footpath Association - £5.00 Subscription; Glasdon - £28.12 Post fittings for dog poo bin; BJA Engineering Services - £1,075.00 – Plungar noticeboard; Plungar Village Hall - £10.00 February hire
(d) Direct Debits: Eon - £122.33 Street Lighting

Agreed
Agreed - with
the exception
of BJA
Engineering
Services

	(e) To discuss the appointment of a new internal auditor in support of the Annual Return – A list of internal auditors with Local Authority experience was obtained from LRALC. The Parish Council agreed to combine the timing of the internal audit to coincide with the Parish Clerk’s other parish so that some expenses could be halved. Two internal auditors local to the area were contacted, one of the internal auditors is no longer taking on new parishes. It was agreed to award this year’s internal audit work to Kevin Shaw.	Agreed
187/16	Planning: For consideration:	
	(a) 16/00809/COU – 2 Rutland Square, Barkestone – Further to the discussion in the public session regarding the viability of this pub. The Parish Council noted the 55 objections that have already been lodged with Melton Borough Council. It was agreed to object to this application based upon poor design, losing a community asset goes against National Planning Policy Framework, the draft Local Plan & the rescinded Local Plan, it was also noted that there are incorrect statements within the Design & Access statement as there are no shops in the immediate areas & there is only 1 school in Redmile.	Object
	The Parish Council has previously tried to have the John Dory categorised as an Asset of Community Value which was turned down. CAMRA also tried & were unsuccessful.	
	Due to the number of objections already this application will go to Planning Committee so the Parish Council will need to agree, once a date is known, who will represent the Parish Council.	
	(b) 17/00035/FUL – The Barn, Lodge Farm, Harby Lane, Plungar	No objection
	Decisions:	
	(c) 16/00880/LBC – The Forge, 2 Granby Lane, Plungar – Approved – the Parish Council did not object to this application	Noted
	(d) 16/00782/FULHH – Clematis Cottage, Drift Hill, Redmile – Approved – the Parish Council did not object to this application	Noted
	(e) 16/00922/FULHH – The Hive Lodge Farm, Harby Lane, Plungar – Approved – the Parish Council did not object to this application	Noted
	(f) 16/00967/TCA – Castle View, 17 Main Street, Redmile – Approved – the Parish Council did not object to this application	Noted
188/16	Update on the Melton Local Plan – As per Councillor Byron Rhodes report in minute 182/16	
189/16	The Windmill, Redmile	
	(a) To consider & agree the merits of whether an Asset of Community Value should be submitted to save The Windmill as a pub & restaurant – The Windmill is currently up for sale as a pub but being marketed with the potential of changing its use to housing. This is the last pub in Redmile.	
	If an Asset of Community Value is submitted to Melton Borough Council should that come from the Parish Council, CAMRA or a local group? The problem appears to be that Melton Borough Council have turned down virtually all requests to make any pub an Asset of Community Value. There have been informal meetings in Redmile to discuss the future of the Windmill but residents are mindful of upsetting the current owners who want to retire. Timing on when to submit an Asset of Community Value would appear to be the key issue, if the pub is sold & is retained as a pub, that would be the best outcome & no Asset of Community Value would be required at this stage. However, if the pub is sold & then a change of use planning application is submitted to turn the pub into dwellings, then it is too late to submit a request to make the pub an Asset of Community Value.	
	It was agreed that the Parish Council would submit an Asset of Community Value but input would be required from the local community.	Agreed – Councillor Tom Parry
190/16	Pension:	
	(a) To discuss & agree whether to contribute to a pension for the Clerk – The Parish Council agreed to contribute 2% provided the Parish Clerk made an equal contribution into the Government’s Nest scheme.	Agreed
	(b) To discuss status of Pension Regulator’s auto enrolment process – The Parish Council is able to complete its Declaration of Compliance.	Agreed – Parish Clerk
191/16	Risk Assessment Policy:	
	(a) Review draft policy with a view to adopting – the Parish Council made further suggestions & agreed that an updated version would be reviewed at March’s meeting.	Deferred
192/16	Data Protection Policy:	
	(a) Review draft policy with a view to adopting – the Parish Council made further suggestions & agreed that an updated version would be reviewed at March’s meeting.	Deferred

193/16	Donation Request: (a) Consider request from St Helen's Church, Plungar for assistance with the cost of grass cutting in 2015/2016 – It was agreed to make a donation of £150.	Agreed
194/16	Newsletter: (a) Discuss & agree potential topics & timings – There are plenty of topics for the newsletter. It was agreed to aim for a Spring newsletter & that articles should be with the Parish Clerk by the end of March.	Agreed
195/16	Social Media (a) Discuss & agree an approach to using Social Media – The Redmile Facebook page set up by a Redmile resident has been extended to include Barkestone & Plungar. The Parish Council will post on facebook & will monitor the interaction.	Agreed
196/16	Superfast Broadband: (a) To note that Plungar has access to Superfast Broadband	Noted
197/16	Asset Register: (a) To write off Plungar's wooden noticeboard, replaced by new stainless steel noticeboard	Agreed
198/16	Consultations: (a) To discuss & agree whether to respond to Leicestershire County Council's Highways Asset Management Policy & Strategy that closes Sunday 26 March 2017 – Councillor Jill Barlow will review	Agreed
199/16	Highways: (a) Discuss any response from Leicestershire County Council on potential traffic slowing measures at both entrances into Redmile – No response has been received from Leicestershire County Council. (b) Note Cycle Live event on Sunday 25 June 2017 – route to be confirmed (c) Note Velo 99 cycle event on Sunday 10 September 2017 – Granby return via Plungar & Barkestone	Chase up Noted Noted
200/16	Parish Council Responsibilities: (a) Status of repairs & refurbishment (b) Contact with the Borough or County Council over local repairs/refurbishment	Deferred
201/16	Councillors Reports:	

Councillor Ian Lowther – this was a request that came out of Redmile's community meeting. Could a dog poo bin be sited at the Barkestone Lane end of the Grantham Canal? Parish Clerk replied that the Parish Council is not responsible for dog poo bins on the Grantham Canal, it is the Canal's Trust.

Councillor Jill Barlow – asked if the Parish Clerk would proceed with setting up a pension scheme with Nest, the Parish Council's preferred provider.

Councillor Tom Parry – said a resident had been in contact to draw the Parish Council's attention to the mess & mud on the Highway from horseboxes at Wilders Farm. The resident would need to take up direct with Wilders Farm.

202/16	Clerk's Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received a request for a case study for Superfast Broadband – Councillor Roger Smith said he would complete • Required confirmation of who was available to attend the Play Park inspection training at LRALC on 11 May – Councillors Amanda Johnson & Ian Lowther confirmed their availability • Redmile Community meetings – great that the village is engaging & pushing to bring about change but organisers need to be aware that Councillors are attending as residents. No request was received enquiring if anyone from the Parish Council was available. • Is anyone able to meet with 2 grounds maintenance contractors for Redmile church-yard & Play Area – Councillor Ian Lowther said he would meet with them. 	
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The meeting closed at 10:40pm

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 21 March 2017 at 7:00pm at Plungar Village Hall