

# Barkestone, Plungar & Redmile Parish Council

Minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 15 November 2016 at 7:00pm  
in Plungar Village Hall

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

8 residents

Ref: Subject:  
130/16 Resolution to sign Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 October 2016  
131/16 Apologies for absence – Councillors Kemp & Lowther.  
132/16 Declarations of Interest  
133/16 Residents Questions

Agreed  
Accepted  
None received

Five residents attended to make representation over the land being used at the back of their properties by the neighbouring owner of The Wickets as a moto-cross track. There is now a track with humps/jumps. The neighbouring residents have endured prolonged periods of noise at weekends especially over the summer. One resident approached the owner of The Wickets who said that the contractor who had installed the track said they did not require planning permission.

The residents have been in contact with Melton Borough Council who have said that a Change of Use planning application is required & that they will take up this issue with the owners of The Wickets. Residents asked the Parish Council to be mindful of any Change of Use application as there are different types of bikes used.

134/16 Borough Councillor Byron Rhodes attending the meeting said he would also take up on behalf of the residents.  
Update from Borough & County Councillors

Borough & County Councillor Byron Rhodes gave the following update:

- The consultation on the draft submission Local Plan is open for comment until 19 December 2016. All comments made will be collated & submitted along with the draft Local Plan to the Planning Inspector.

Councillor Barlow was at the reference group on the day of the launch of the consultation. She felt people were being sounded out as to whether they would speak out at the public inquiry. Unfortunately, Councillor Barlow has not been able to access the latest draft on-line as yet.

The method by which houses will be allocated in villages has changed. In the urban hub around Melton there will be 65% of the total number of houses allocated to the north & south of Melton. Improvements to the road infrastructure will be made. The remaining 35% of houses will be allocated across rural villages. 15 service centres that have sites available have been identified, leaving roughly 300 houses to be spread across 50 villages via windfall sites. Harby is earmarked for 98 new houses, Long Clawson 127 & Bottesford in excess of 400. Bottesford & Normanton have been vocal regarding their opposition to the number of houses being allocated to their villages.

Borough Councillor Rhodes voted against the plan as he felt it was over burdening local schools & the section 106 allocation of 37% of affordable housing for sites of 10+ houses is impractical. Borough Councillor Rhodes favours a garden village; 3 potential sites have been identified: the old airfield at Normanton; Great Dalby & Six Hills. Councillor Barlow said she had heard mention of a new village to the south of Bottesford. Borough Councillor Rhodes said he had not heard anything relating to that location.

There is a drop in session at Harby Village Hall on 23 November to find out more about the Local Plan.

Councillor Parry said he had read the latest draft of the Local Plan & found policy SS2 ambiguously worded. Policy SS3 will guide planning applications made in Barkestone, Plungar & Redmile that proposes a maximum of 3 houses per pocket of land for villages classified as unsustainable.

Councillor Parry requested that Councillors read the latest draft within the next week & then a date will be set for an Extra-ordinary meeting in December so that the Parish Council can discuss & formulate their submission.

- There will be changes to the threshold at which you are able to claim a reduction to your Council Tax if you receive benefits.
- Leicestershire County Council is making progress with raising awareness of the inconsistencies in County Council funding. Other County Councils are in a pretty desperate state already.

135/16 Play Area:

- (a) Monthly Reports – Councillor Johnson handed the weekly inspection report to the Clerk
- (b) Update on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Play Park Committee & the Parish Council – Councillor Parry has spoken with Simon Gates who has said that he & other ex-members of the Play Park Committee will review the Memorandum in the next week. The Parish Council agreed that this impasse is causing too much uncertainty. It was agreed that that if there was no progress with the ex-members of the Play Park Committee there would be a resolution at January's meeting to take over the maintenance of the Play Area which will place a burden on the precept. However, the Parish Council would be able to progress with the refurbishment of the Play Area & it

was hoped that the community would continue to organise & host successful fund-raising events in support of the Play Area.

	(c) Agree the servicing of the mower	Deferred
	(d) Discuss with Simon Gates (tbc) budgetary provision for 2016/17	Deferred
	(e) Discuss the cutting back & height reduction of the conifer hedge at the neighbouring property – Access to the Play Area has been requested for week commencing 28 November. The Parish Council agreed & asked the Clerk to notify the property owner of how the Play Area is accessed by mechanical equipment & to request that notices are placed to inform the public that the Play Area is closed on the days the work is being carried out.	Agreed Clerk
136/16	Financial:	
	(a) Current account balance at 31 October 2016: £16,972.24; Deposit account balance: £10,694.43	
	(b) Bank statement matches receipts and payment listing	Agreed
	(c) Payments required: Sharon Pyke - £449.26 November salary; Sharon Pyke - £449.46 December Salary; Sharon Pyke - £20.72 Travel Expenses, Sharon Pyke - £15.97 Stationery & Postage, Leicestershire County Council - £50.00 Licence for Dog Poo Bin; Bonsers - £1,576.80 Restoration of Plungar Village War Memorial, J A Kent Services Ltd - £945.00 Redmile churchyard grass cutting; R P Hunt - £727.80 – Footpath Mowing; Plungar Village Hall - £10.00 hire	Agreed
	(d) Direct Debits: Eon - £122.33 Street Lighting	Noted
	(e) Review of 6 month budget – there have been a number of unbudgeted spends this year which will see spending exceed the budget. Overall the Parish Council is in a stable position as it has reserves to call upon. The Parish Council acknowledges it needs to improve its forecasting which is set against a history of keeping the precept to a minimum. However, this is having an impact on the Parish Council's responsibilities & the look of the villages.	
	(f) Discuss potential projects & improvements for 2017/18 – switching off streetlights after a certain time in the evening; Play Area maintenance; Play Area refurbishment; provision for any further reduction in the bus service; the re-pointing of another section of the church wall & provision for additional works in the churchyard.	
	(g) Discuss & 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 – The precept discussion was deferred because of the decision to hold an extra-ordinary meeting in December to discuss the Local Plan. This will provide an opportunity for the potential projects to be costed. The Clerk will prepare a budget forecast for the Parish Council to discuss at December's meeting.	Deferred until December meeting
137/16	Planning: For consideration:	Clerk
	(a) 16/00678/FULHH – Old Hill Farm, Sutton Road, Redmile	No objection
	(b) 16/00712/GDOCOU – Field 4663, Barkestone Lane, Redmile – because the application is incomplete & should therefore be deemed invalid. Also, the premise for the change of use should be considered void because the shed has not been used for its intended purpose when the original application was granted consent. The building has been observed over a long period of time & there have been no signs of activity.	Objections
	(c) 16/00334/FUL & 16/00335/LBC – The Peacock Inn, Main Street, Redmile - The updated application does little to address the Parish Council's original objections apart from the removal of the garages.	Objections
	Redmile has been categorised as an unsustainable village in the draft Melton Local Plan, which follows NPPF guidelines & this application breaches several aspects of policy SS3 of that draft plan.	
	Whilst the Parish Council supports the conversion of the pub to dwellings, the building of 2 new dwellings on the existing car park, in addition to four units in the existing buildings, creates too high a density of dwellings for this site which will result in a token amount of amenity space on a site that will have parking issues. Also, the new dwellings will unbalance the views into & out from Redmile & along that particular stretch of the Grantham Canal which has an SSSI designation.	
	A single dwelling near the canal &/or a reduction in the number of units in the existing buildings would reduce the overcrowding of garden and car parking space.	
	Whilst the Parish Council acknowledges that its Village Design Statement has less relevance than it used to, it should serve as a useful reference document as to the recurring building characteristics in this conservation village. The Parish Council sees little evidence of complimentary relevance in the design of the 2 new dwellings.	
	Decisions:	
	(d) 16/00588/TCA – Forest House, 16 Main Street, Redmile – The Parish Council did not object to the tree works - Approved	
138/16	Update on Melton Local Plan – discussed under minute 134/16, update from Borough & County Councillors	
139/16	Discuss & agree timing of next newsletter & potential topics	Deferred
140/16	Discuss the motocross track on private land at The Wickets, Plungar & agree any next steps – discussed under minute 133/16. The Parish Council awaits a Change of Use planning application.	
141/16	Footpaths:	
	(a) Report submitted by Footpath Warden – Ken Brockway – No report was submitted	
	(b) Status of land & land ownership of the old railway line running parallel with Grantham Canal at Plungar Canal bridge – Advice has been sought from Leicestershire County Council & The Railway Path's organisation both of whom offered useful information as to how to progress this query. The Council approved the cost of acquiring the corresponding Land Registry documents.	Agreed Clerk
	(c) Signing of the licence for the dog poo bin at G5 footpath, Redmile – Both copies of the licence were signed by Councillor Parry & witnessed by Councillor Johnson.	Agreed

- (d) Status of footpath & towpath repairs reported at August's meeting - at G13 the steps to Gypsy Lane at Barkestone, the access down to the Grantham Canal towpath from Gypsy Lane heading toward Redmile & a trip hazard on towpath going up to Jericho Lane at Barkestone – No further update
- 142/16 Parish Council Responsibilities:
- (a) Status of repairs & refurbishment – The repairs have not yet commenced. Councillor Smith to speak with the contractor. Councillor Smith
- (b) Contact with the Borough or County Council over local repairs/refurbishment. Councillor Barlow met with a representative from Leicestershire County Council Highways to discuss a number of small repairs that are needed in Barkestone & Plungar. Awaiting an update to those requests.
- Melton Borough Council have said that they would not grant permission for the metal street name signs to be painted by the Parish Council in Barkestone. A replacement street name sign for Barkestone Lane in Plungar has been ordered.
- 143/16 Councillors Reports:
- Councillor Barlow: asked the Clerk to contact Melton Borough Council to let them know the dog poo bin on the Gas is not being emptied. Also, the Gas Gorilla Bar in Barkestone has closed.
- Councillor Parry: attended a Chester's Charity meeting recently. The charity has been in existence since 1703 with a remit to help the elderly, poor of Barkestone. A number of residents who receive a payment from the charity go on to re-donate the money. Councillor Parry pondered if the money could be put to better use within the parish.
- 144/16 Clerk's Report:
- (a) Countywide Accessibility Policy Review – the Clerk attended a meeting that Leicestershire County Council had called to discuss a reduction to the budget which supports subsidized bus services for the year ending 31 March 2019. This is expected to impact the parish's bus service. There is a second follow up meeting to further discuss this issue. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to start exploring options.
- (b) Request for a donation from Leicestershire branch of Citizens Advice – the Parish Council declined to make a donation instead mention to the work the Citizens Advice undertakes could be promoted in the next newsletter Declined
- (c) Christmas cards – for those who volunteer their time in support of the Parish Council & the services offered. Agreed
- Date of next meeting: Friday 16 December 2016 at 6:00pm in Plungar Village Hall