

Barkestone, Plungar & Redmile Parish Council

Minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 17 January 2017 at 7:00pm
in Plungar Village Hall

Present: Councillors Barlow, Johnson, Lowther, Parry (Chairman) & Smith
Borough & County Councillor Byron Rhodes

Ref:	Subject:	
156/16	Resolution to sign Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 December 2016	Agreed
157/16	Apologies for absence – Councillor Kemp. Councillor Parry announced that Councillor Kemp had tendered her resignation from the Parish Council due to increased work demands. The Parish Council thanked Councillor Kemp for her time spent on the Parish Council.	Accepted
158/16	Declarations of Interest	None
159/16	Residents Questions	None
160/16	Update from Borough & County Councillors Borough & County Councillor Rhodes gave an update first on the Borough Council. The findings from the strategic growth plan: Housing & Economic Development Needs Assessment for Leicester & Leicestershire will be made public on 26 January. The public consultation in response to the draft submission of the Local Plan has resulted in a lot of comments, not all of which are favourable so a decision needs to be made on what to do next. The mooted Six Hills development is looking more viable with Gladman's (national developer) involvement. They are looking at building circa 2,500 houses on the site. The Borough Council can't ignore the scale of this potential development on the Local Plan as houses are forecast to start coming through in 4 to 5 years. Melton have a balanced budget for the coming financial year despite costs increasing & a reduction in Government funding. Lynn Aisbett, the Chief Executive will retire in July & Christine Marshall, a Strategic Director leaves this week. The County Council's financial situation is more complex. There is a 2% increase to keep up with costs with the Government permitting a further 2% increase for social care provision which has recently been increased by a further 3%. The Council is looking at how best to implement these increases. The budget is balanced for this coming financial year, with the following year almost balanced after that 2019 – 2020 onwards starts to look more difficult. Leicestershire County Council is the worst funded County Council in the country but they implemented cost savings early. Surrey County Council is one of the best funded County Councils & they are looking to increase their Council Tax by 16% this coming year to balance the budget. That level of increase will trigger a referendum. There are other County Council facing the prospect of bankruptcy. Borough Councillor Rhodes provided an update on the Plungar household that has built a motocross track on its land. Change of Use planning application is required.	
161/16	Play Area: (a) Monthly Reports – Councillor Lowther to resume the weekly checks. (b) Resolution to take over the maintenance previously arranged by the (ex) Play Park Committee – Councillor Parry had tried to make contact with Simon Gates to brief Simon on the Parish Council's likely intention but they had kept missing one another. (c) Discuss the outstanding repairs – The two repairs remain outstanding. The weather has been so wet that the wood is saturated making a repair difficult. Follow up on when the repairs will be made. (d) Note that the conifer hedge from the neighbouring property has been cut back & reduced in height	Agreed Councillor Smith Noted with thanks
162/16	Redmile Churchyard: (a) Annual 'shove' test of the memorials & gravestones – to be undertaken by Councillors Johnson & Lowther. Make contact with the Parochial Church Council & need to check with the Diocese about a faculty if any gravestones need to be lain down. Look to write an article in the newsletter, if any gravestones have been lain down, requesting that families come forward as it is their responsibility.	Agreed Parish Clerk
163/16	Financial: (a) Current account balance at 31 December 2016: £12,298.00; Deposit account balance: £10,695.71 (b) Bank statement matches receipts and payment listing (c) Payments required: Sharon Pyke - £449.46 January salary; Sharon Pyke - £4.50 Stationery; Jill Barlow - £42.12 Travel expenses; Alan Buckley - £191.74 Website hosting & domain name renewal for 2015 & 2016; Leicestershire County Council - £657.00 Return the overpayment of grant. (d) Direct Debits: Eon - £122.33 Street Lighting (e) Discuss, agree & finalise budget & precept for year ending 31 March 2018 – The precept was set at £19,979 which reflects the increased level of expenditure on local assets & responsibilities such as the Play Park & the closed Redmile church-yard. This is a significant increase for the parish although the parish's precept is now more in line with other similar sized parishes.	Agreed Agreed Agreed
164/16	Planning: For consideration:	

	<p>(a) 16/00922/FULHH – The Hive Lodge Farm, Harby Lane, Plungar</p> <p>(b) 16/00881/FULHH – 31 Barkestone Lane, Plungar</p> <p>(c) 16/00967/TCA – Castle View, 17 Main Street, Redmile</p> <p>Decisions:</p> <p>(d) 16/00598/TCA – Jasmine, Cottage, Redmile – The Parish Council did not object to the tree works - Approved</p>	<p>No objection</p> <p>No objection</p> <p>No objection</p>
165/16	Update on the Melton Local Plan	No update
166/16	<p>Model Publication Policy:</p> <p>(a) Review draft policy with a view to adopting</p>	Agreed
167/16	<p>Grant & Donation Policy:</p> <p>(a) Review draft policy with a view to adopting – adopted subject to minor amendments being made</p>	Agreed
168/16	<p>Newsletter:</p> <p>(a) Discuss & agree potential topics & timings – potential articles to be circulated by email</p>	Parish Clerk
169/16	<p>Superfast Broadband:</p> <p>(a) Discuss the delay to Plungar – the ducting & cables have been laid. Go live is due by mid-January</p>	
170/16	<p>Footpaths:</p> <p>(a) Report submitted by Footpath Warden – Ken Brockway</p> <p>(b) Discuss the Land Registry search results on the land where the old railway line runs parallel with Grantham Canal at Plungar Canal bridge – seek Ken Brockway’s advice</p> <p>(c) 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 – the access down to the towpath & the trip hazard have been attended to. Send a thank-you to Sean McGinley at the Canal Trust.</p>	<p>No update</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p>
171/16	<p>Highways:</p> <p>(a) Discuss request for traffic slowing measures at both entrances into Redmile – the danger from speeding traffic at both ends of Redmile is further exacerbated by the number of parked cars on Main Street making egress out of the side streets more difficult. There is video evidence of the car crashing out of control when it speeded over the canal bridge & the speeding at the other end is a concern given the proximity to the Primary School. Contact Leicestershire County Council Highways to request their input & advice.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p>
172/16	<p>Plungar’s New Noticeboard:</p> <p>(a) Status of the new noticeboard – due to be insitu by the end of January</p>	
173/16	<p>Parish Council Responsibilities:</p> <p>(a) Status of repairs & refurbishment</p> <p>(b) Contact with the Borough or County Council over local repairs/refurbishment</p>	<p>Deferred</p> <p>Deferred</p>
174/16	<p>Social Media for Communities Workshop – Tuesday 24 January 6pm to 8pm</p> <p>(a) Discuss attendance – Councillors Johnson & Smith to be booked onto the workshop</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p>
175/16	<p>Finding & Bidding for Project Funding – Wednesday 08 February 10am to 1pm</p> <p>(a) Discuss attendance – Councillor Lowther to be booked onto this training</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p>
176/16	<p>Councillors Reports:</p> <p>Councillor Parry: added his concerns too fellow Barkestone residents about the horse chestnut on Rutland Square, Barkestone that has been felled but is subject to a Tree Preservation Order. The Parish Council received no notification from Melton Borough Council. Contact Melton Borough Council to find out the circumstances.</p> <p>Councillor Lowther: there is a meeting on 01 February in Redmile to discuss fund raising for the Church as it is in a poor state of repair. Councillors Lowther & Johnson will be attending</p>	Parish Clerk
177/16	<p>Clerk’s Report:</p> <p>(a) New light fitting in Barkestone defibrillator cabinet</p> <p>(b) Reminder of the Sports Facility survey commissioned by Melton Borough Council that closes 20 January</p> <p>(c) A letter from Plungar Church requesting a donation toward the grass cutting has been received. The letter also outlines a project to restore the church bells & seeks financial support from the Parish Council – Include on February’s agenda.</p> <p>(d) Police & Crime Commissioner’s Commissioning Framework Consultation closes on 10 February</p> <p>(e) Leicestershire Superfast Broadband team have offered to check out connectivity problems if the postcode is sent through to them.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
	Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14 February 2017 at 7:00pm at Plungar Village Hall	