

ELLISTOWN AND BATTLEFLAT PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the Parish Meeting
Wednesday 22nd February 2017
Ellistown Primary School commencing at 7.00**

Present Cllr Keith Merrie (Chairman) Cllr Matthew Pollard (Vice Chairman)
Cllr George Norley Cllr James Pollard Cllr Ruth Willett-Marshall

In Attendance Clerk
Cllr Wyatt
Cllr Harrison
26 members of the public

1. Apologies

None

2. Declarations of Interests

None

3. Minutes

The Council AGREED to accept as a true record the minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2017.

4. County Council Report

None in attendance

5. District Council Report

Cllr Merrie reported that the footpath had been installed at St Christopher's Play Park for the mobility scooters to get around to the Kissing gates which have yet to be installed and the playground equipment on South Street Play Park has been repaired and is waiting for the anti-slip matting to be installed. The Kissing gate at Rushby Road has been installed and there is currently a job request with the County Council to drop the kerb and improve the path near to this gate as it is muddy, grassy and unsuitable for mobility scooters, etc. The County Council have yet to give a date so Cllr Merrie will chase this up.

Cllr Merrie reported that Mountpark and Lockhart who have created the soon to be called 'Penny Wakefield Woodland' are going to pay for and supply 'No Motorbike/Motorvehicle signage at the entrance.

Cllr Merrie reported that the fruit tree planting which took place on 4th February at the Penny Wakefield Woodland was a success. Cllr Merrie gave a representative from the National Forest a guided tour and they were very impressed with it. The owl, kestrel and bat boxes are in situ as are the bug hibernaculans – green mounds that encourage bugs, slow worms, insects, etc.

Chairman's Signature:

Date:

Cllr Merrie was pleased to point out that the Parish Council had 2 articles in the Coalville Times.

6. Police Report

PCSO Tony Gallagher is unfortunately very unwell so is currently not currently working, however the village has a replacement covering at present who was unable to attend the meeting this evening.

Prior to the meeting being adjourned by the Chairman he wanted to give an overview of the situation surrounding the proposed development on Ibstock Road by Gladman Land.

Cllr Merrie explained that he and Cllr Powell had a meeting with a representative from Gladman Land to discuss the numerous issues the village would face, for example increased traffic, no school places, GP's surgeries struggling to cope with the influx of new patients, etc. if this proposed development were to go ahead. The increase of traffic in the village is already a major issue for parishioners, hence the Traffic Safety Working Group being formed, and a further increase in traffic caused by this development would seriously impact Ellistown.

Cllr Merrie stated that the proposal is:

1. Outside the limits for development.
2. Contradicts the current NWLDC local plan.
3. Contradicts the NWLDC emerging plan.
4. The consultation document distributed by Gladman Land was out of date and inaccurate.

He also explained that Gladman Land purchased a lot of land with a view to gaining planning permission to then sell on to developers. Any objections would need to have solid grounding.

Cllr Merrie also informed the meeting that the planning application had been received by the District Council only yesterday – Tuesday – and assured everybody that he will be keeping a very close eye on the progress of the proposal and updating the village as soon as he hears any news.

The meeting was adjourned to allow for public questions.

7. Public Recess

A resident asked whether there would be any bins in the woodland park, to which Cllr Merrie informed them that they had been installed already.

A resident of Rushby Road had been in contact with Leicestershire County Council to request No HGV signs at the entrance to Rushby Road due to the number of lorries which had been turning left out of Amazon and then left at the roundabout straight in to Rushby Road. LCC have refused to install signs, however Cllr Merrie did inform the resident that Amazon should have signs up for HGV's not to turn left.

A resident questioned what the green box on the mound near to the Amazon site was and why was there a flashing beacon on it? Cllr Merrie had also noticed this and has reported it already. Nobody could say what it actually was though.

Chairman's Signature:

Date:

A resident asked how the Neighbourhood Plan was going to stand up against the Gladman Land proposal. Cllr Merrie advised the resident that the Parish Council were discussing it at the meeting tonight and if in agreement it would move on to the next phase of being distributed to stakeholders and then public consultation.

Cllr Dan Harrison – Planning at NWLDC said that he was yet to receive any plans from Gladman Land, however he advised that any grounds of objection to the development would need to have a legal basis and be solid, therefore people need to think very carefully about what their grounds of objection are. If the planning application was turned down and the developer appealed and won this would cost NWLDC a lot of money, he also explained.

A resident pointed out about a Stakeholder Advisory Group having a 65 page document explaining why developments shouldn't go ahead when the proximity to electric pylons is too close.

A resident asked Cllr Merrie if he knew what the timescale for the building plans, if passed would be, to which Cllr Merrie said he was unsure.

Cllr Michael Wyatt advised that Gladman Land were not a developer but a company which bought up land, gained planning permission for the land and then sold on to developers to build on. He suggested Ellistown should seek a independent traffic assessment due to the concerns over excess traffic using the village now.

One resident suggested if the proposal went ahead that Ellistown could possibly be bypassed.

Another resident claimed there was also subsidence in the area which may affect the plans being passed.

Parish meeting reconvened

8. Gladman Land Development Proposal

The Parish Council were all in agreement that they would object strongly to any plans for this proposed development due to the very negative impact that they feel it would have on the village.

9. Traffic Working Group

Cllr Merrie was please to report that the group has had 3 more volunteers join and that information was going to be put on the Parish website promoting the group. He also said that there were a lot of ideas being discussed and evidence would be needed to put proposals in to Leicestershire County Council on ways that traffic could be better managed in the village.

10. Planning

APPLICATION REFERENCE 17/00060/ADC

Proposal: Display of three internally illuminated advertisement signs

Location: Interlink Way East, Bardon, Coalville, Leicestershire.

No comment/No issues

Chairman's Signature:

Date:

APPLICATION REFERENCE 17/00088/FUL

Proposal: Erection of first floor side extension

Location: 28 Channing Way, Ellistown, Coalville, Leicestershire.

No comment/No issues

11. Clerk's Report

Report No.3 from the Clerk was received and copies handed to all Cllrs.

12. Finance

- a. It was agreed by all to pay invoices provided by the Clerk, cheques were signed, bank statements were checked and signed by the Chairman and financial reports were handed to all Cllrs to check.

13. Grounds Maintenance

Cllr Pollard reported that he had spoken to Wayne Hadley from Brian Mee and that Wayne had requested a cherry picker be provided by the Parish Council for his operatives to trim high hedges at the end of Rushby Road/Beveridge Lane. The suggestion that the provision of a cherry picker already appeared in the Ground's Maintenance contract was incorrect as Cllr Merrie had checked the contract and no provision was in place. Therefore the Parish Council would need to get quotes for hedge cutting elsewhere or hire a cherry picker. It was noted that when the contract was up for review this was a provision that needed to be added.

Cllr Pollard also stated that grass verges throughout the village were being parked on and subsequently churned up. Cllr Merrie suggested that this was something the Traffic Working Group could discuss, with a view to possibly installing bollards as a preventative measure.

14. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Merrie asked if there were any comments regarding the Neighbourhood Plan, to which there were none. It was agreed that Your Locale would be contacted asap and the next stage, being pre-submission beginning. This would be the distribution of the plan to stakeholders, for example District Council, County Council, British Gas, etc. and then a public consultation.

It was at this point that it became apparent to Cllr Pollard that a Non-Pecuniary Interest should be declared for the next Agenda item.

This was noted and accepted.

15. Litter Picking/Rubbish Collection

It was AGREED that litter picking and rubbish collection should initially begin as a quarterly activity due to the large cost involved to the Parish Council. LRP Solutions would be the preferred contractor to carry out this work.

Chairman's Signature:

Date:

16. Consultations

Two consultations were distributed by the Clerk to Cllrs prior to the meeting to enable them to contribute individually if they so wished. No comment was made, however Cllr Merrie was going to look in to the Leicestershire Minerals and Local Waste Plan as District Cllr.

17. Date, time and venue of the next meeting

Wednesday 22nd March 2017 – 7.00pm at Ellistown Primary School, Whitehill Road, Ellistown, LE67 1EN

The meeting was closed, by the Chairman, to the Public at 8.05pm due to the confidential nature of the final item involving personnel matters.

18. Personnel Matters

It was AGREED by all that Cllr's Merrie and Pollard would represent the Parish Council at the upcoming Clerk's Job Role Evaluation on Friday 7th April, 2017.

Cllr Merrie requested a change of date due to work commitments.

Chairman's Signature:

Date: