

# ELLISTOWN AND BATTLEFLAT PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting Held on Wednesday 15th April 2015 at the Primary School, Ellistown, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr P Hyde (Chair)

F Harris, M Pollard and R Willett-Marshall

### In Attendance

Mr P Goodman Clerk to the Council  
8 members of the public  
2 consultants

### 1. Apologies

Cllr Cotterill and Cllr Wakefield

The Chair informed the meeting that this would be the last meeting of the current Parish Council and thanked Cllrs Cotterill and Harris for their contribution to the Council over the last four years.

### 2. Declarations of discloseable pecuniary interest

There were no declarations of discloseable pecuniary interest

### 3. Public participation

- A resident reported that bus drivers are finding it difficult to see people waiting at the bus shelter on Ibstock Road due to other vehicles parking too close to the shelter. The Clerk was asked to write to the County Council and ask if the markings could be painted.
- A resident thanked the Council for helping to improve the emptying of bins and the clearing up of rubbish.
- A resident asked whether the Council had received any more information about the proposed outline development behind Whitehill Road/Ibstock Road.
- A resident asked whether the Parish Council had taken a view and responded to the County Council's consultation on changes to the number of waste sites.
- A resident reported that people are throwing bagged dog excrement into the field at the edge of Poppyfields or just leaving it on the path. It was agreed that the Clerk liaise with the NWLDC Community Focus officer and look into having a dog bin in that area. The Council would alert people to the problem in the next newsletter and on the website. He would ask whether the regular Playground inspector was noticing a problem.
- A resident of Clay Lane, an unmade road, explained that as they are responsible for its upkeep, which is deteriorating, she had tried to get an agreement that all residents join together to pay for the road to be tarmaced. She had received a reasonable quote and all residents bar one are prepared to do so. The Chair explained that this is not a matter that the Parish Council can help with, nor the County Council, and suggested that the residents talk to Citizens Advice Bureau.

#### **4. Report on completion of Our Place**

Gary Kirk reported that the development stage of the project had been signed off by the funders. There had been a delay in the Council receiving some of the funding due to the funders not receiving one of the reporting "milestones". There had been a lot of progress, which had been applauded, but there is still much to do. YourLocale had commissioned a Youth Organisation based in Coalville, Heartlands YFC, to continue for six months, four hours a week, to try to get the providers to work with young people. The youth worker, Lauren Fox, will try to get funding, helped by the NWLDC Community Focus officer, to continue at the end of six months. She will attend future Parish Council meetings. Gary will meet with her every two months until September. The Council thanked Gary for all his work on the Our Place project which had been a brave and honest attempt to resolve a major gap in service provision through innovation and co-operation.

The Clerk explained that the funder of part of the money needed for the Posters on Lamp posts initiative had agreed that if the initiative proves to be impossible to deliver the money might still be used for young people in Ellistown subject to meeting the criteria of the scheme. The Directory of young peoples opportunities had been delayed due to one of the providers not supplying the information. The Directory may have to be delivered in the last resort without that information.

#### **5. Report from Ellistown Young People's Council**

There was no report.

#### **6. Summer activities for young people**

The Clerk explained that, in order to keep the faith and confidence of young people, and in support of efforts to develop facilities at South Street Playing Fields, an approach had been made for qualified staff from Hermitage Leisure Centre to lead some Sports sessions over the Summer holidays. In order to do so the Council needed to agree to spend a small amount of the allocated budget for young people and it needed to be agreed which particular sports the young people would like to have. Some councillors felt that due to the location of South Street some opportunities might be delivered at the other Play areas. The Council should also approach the School about the possibility of opening their grounds, for sports, on a couple of days in the Summer holidays. It was AGREED to ask Lauren Fox to consult with young people over which sports and then to approach Hermitage staff with a view to any activities being spread (ie not just at South Street).

#### **7. Minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th March were agreed (subject to one correction of fact) to be a true and accurate record.

#### **8. Actions from the meeting held on 18th March 2015**

The Clerk reported that the County Council had informed him that the drains on Whitehill Road would be cleared just after Easter.

#### **9. Clerk's report**

The Clerk reported that the nominations period for Parish Council elections had passed. There had been six nominations for Ellistown and Battleflat Parish Council so a election will not be necessary. The new Parish Council will come into being on 21st May 2015 after the councillors have signed their Declarations of Acceptance. The Clerk made the Council aware

of training opportunities which are available and which councillors would find invaluable in understanding their role and serving the community over the next four years. Due to the retirement of Cllrs Cotterill and Harris there would be a need to fill their places on the Allotments Committee. It was agreed to advertise the one non-filled position to see if anyone would like to come on to the Council as a co-opted councillor. The Clerk reminded the Council of the forthcoming consultation over Ellistown brickworks. He informed the Council that he has requested consideration of painting the allotments container under the restorative justice schemes. There had been no indication of any interest from the community in forming a group to plan activities in Ellistown at Christmas.

## **10. Finances**

10.i The Clerk made available to the Council records of the payments made since the last meeting (Vouchers 141-154 ). He asked for questions. There were no questions.

10ii The Clerk made available the bank reconciliation as at 31st March 2015. He asked for questions. There were no questions.

10iii The Clerk made available a budget profiling report as at 31st March 2015. He explained three unrepresented cheques. He asked for questions. There were no questions.

RESOLVED that the financial accounts presented are true and accurate.

## **11. Annual Return**

The Clerk explained that the internal auditor had examined the accounts. He his review had found no matters that needed to be brought to the Council's attention but he had made a couple of recommendations which the Clerk had implemented.

The Council confirmed that it had ensured a sound system of internal control including preparation of the accounting statements.

RESOLVED that the Annual Return 2014-15 be submitted to the external auditor and that the Clerk make preparations for allowing the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

## **12. Multi-Use Games Area**

The Chair welcomed Jodie Midlane from Wicksteed Sports. Jodie had visited South Street Playing Fields a couple of months ago and drawn up a design of a possible Multi-Use Games Area. The Clerk confirmed that the Council's preference, subject to obtaining funding, was for the larger of the two options. Jodie demonstrated a sample of the fencing and explained that there are different options available on the number of gates (to allow safer entry and exit). Wicksteed provide a five year guarantee on paintwork and a twenty five year guarantee against structural failure. She invited questions from the Council.

The Clerk explained that the Council was trying to secure funding and hoped to know more by mid June. Subject to finding the funding, the Council would decide which company to ask to provide the Multi-Use Games Area through a closed bidding process (three tenders) as required by Financial Regulations.

The Chair thanked Jodie for her presentation.

## **13. Elton Way green space**

The Clerk reminded Council that at a site visit with District Council officers earlier in the year it had been pointed out that the Elton Way green space which had become the Parish

Council's land would benefit from some horticultural improvement and landscaping. The Sence Valley Environment Improvement fund might provide 50% of the funding. A quote had been received from the District Council for planting a number of shrubs in the space.

AGREED that the Parish Council provide match funding of £310.00 so that the Elton Way green space be planted up.

#### **14. Report on the Community Centre feasibility study and progress of the Neighbourhood Plan.**

Mr Kirk reported that the Planning application had been submitted within the due date. The Parish Council had received all of the funding for the consultation work from the Homes and Communities Agency. The proposal is now out for consultation and the public's views are welcomed. Mr Kirk is hopeful that the outline application will be approved and then work will begin with the Scouts, as partners, to seek out further funding for progressing the project.

The emerging policies of the Neighbourhood Plan had been drafted. Mr Kirk would like to present them to the new Parish Council after its first meeting. Once approved Ellistown and Battleflat would be shaping the future of its own settlement and would be protected against speculative development. Mr Kirk would be meeting with Planning officers to get a tie-in with the District Council's emerging Core Plan.

At this point Mr Kirk left the meeting.

#### **15. Planning applications**

- Proposed new Community Centre at Kendal Road

The Council withdrew from discussion and invited the views of the public. A resident asked what evidence there was that local people and local groups would use such a building? There had been concerns expressed from residents in neighbouring bungalow who wanted to know about parking and about whether the premises would be licensed for alcohol? Cllr Hyde had explained that this is, at this stage, just an outline application and the Parish Council hadn't yet decided whether to proceed. However, it is realised that Ellistown has a real need for a community facility and an office for the Parish Council.

#### **16. Date, time and place of next meeting**

Wednesday 20th May 2015, 7.00pm, in Ellistown Primary School (Annual Meeting of the Council).

RESOLVED - to hold the Annual Parish meeting on Wednesday 27th May 2015, 7.00pm, in Ellistown Primary School.

The meeting finished at 8.55pm