

# ELLISTOWN AND BATTLEFLAT PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting  
Held on Wednesday 9th December 2015  
at the Primary School, Ellistown, commencing at 7.00pm.**

Present: Cllr Hyde, Cllr Norley, Cllr Pollard and Cllr Powell

Cllr Willett-Marshall was not present

In Attendance

Mr P Goodman Clerk to the Council  
1 consultant  
11 members of the public

## 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllr Merrie who was at another meeting and Cllr Morrell who was delayed due to traffic.

## 2. Declarations of Discloseable Pecuniary Interest

None were declared.

## 3. Signing of cheques for outstanding invoices

Six invoices were presented for payment and duly signed by two councillors.

## 4. Planning consultations

The Clerk informed the Council of two Planning permissions granted. The Council had no comment to make on the Planning consultations 15/01139/FUL and 15/01124/FUL

*The meeting was adjourned for 15 minutes of public participation and comment*

## 5. Public participation and Police report

A resident thanked the Parish Council for the much improved Christmas lighting in the centre of Ellistown (on the Millennium Green). A resident expressed concern about the amount of increased traffic that the Mountpark development would bring and its impact upon the health and well-being of local people. He believed that there must be a firm and implemented Traffic Regulation Plan. Cllr Pollard reported that the developers had been told by the District Council and the County Council that the existing road infra-structure was satisfactory and would cope with the increased volume. Another resident asked about the impact on air quality and the potential for increased airborne pollution. He believed that some authority should be monitoring the levels of pollutants in the local air. It was AGREED that the Clerk would contact the District Council. A resident asked about accessing previous minutes of the Parish Council - all minutes are published on the Parish Council website.

There was no report from the Police.

*The meeting was reconvened.*

## **6. Minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2015**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2015 were AGREED to be a true record.

## **7. Actions from the meeting held on 18th November 2015**

The Clerk believed that the request for the Parish Council to purchase a De-fibrillator was an issue that the Council needed to discuss at a forthcoming "away-day". He had not been able to pursue the possibility of a radar lock at Rushby Road kissing gate due to there not being any electricity supply to the area of the gate. Cllr Powell believed that the whole Council should walk around the village in the Spring and assess the various parts of the village where the Parish Council held responsibility.

## **8. Clerk's report**

- The Clerk thanked those councillors who had delivered the most recent Parish newsletter but it was obvious that there had been some confusion and large parts of Ellistown had not yet received it. He believed that, for the newsletter to be effective and time relevant, there needed to be a much greater understanding and better co-ordination between councillors. He reminded all councillors that he (the Clerk) delivers the newsletters, as a whole, to the Chairman's house but that it is for individual councillors to contact the chairman and collect their own share for delivery. The Clerk continues to deliver in Battleflat and is always available to help out if councillors are having any difficulty.
- It was agreed to produce one more Parish newsletter in February 2016.
- The Clerk and Cllrs Hyde and Powell had attended the recent Parishes Liaison meeting at the District Council offices. The Chair had signed the Parish Charter on behalf of the Parish Council, as had all other Parish Councils in North West Leicestershire. The Charter delivered an act of commitment to improved partnership working with the District Council.
- The Neighbourhood Plan consultant had provided a written update on the current state of play and the anticipated actions that should follow in the New Year. It was AGREED that the Clerk in conjunction with the Chair be authorised to approve any minor amendments that may be required following the receipt of comments from North West Leicestershire District Council.
- The teenagers swing had been delivered and installed at Rushby Road Childrens Play area and the Council had received favourable feedback from a local resident.
- The Council had received confirmation from the solicitor that the Land Registry had completed the registration of Hugglescote Recreation Ground (a.k.a. South Street Recreation Ground) and had transferred to the responsibility to the Parish Council. The Parish Council must now manage the Recreation Ground as a charity trustee and will need separate financial accounts even though its income and expenditure might both be relatively small.

## **9. Report from the Young People's Council**

Lauren Fox on behalf of the young people thanked the Council for positive coverage given in the most recent newsletter. The young people had met on 24th November and had asked whether it might be possible to have a page on the Parish Council website? Following the recent tragic murder of a teenager from Measham the young people wanted to start a local campaign working with the Police to raise awareness of public safety in Ellistown as a priority. The young people had recently been interviewed and represented themselves, and the support of the Parish Council, very well on BBC Radio Leicester. Cllr Pollard asked what might be done to improve usage of the new MUGA? Lauren Fox believed that it would take

time for word to get round, that its opening had unavoidably been at the back end (and most inclement time) of the year, and that there are plans abroad to put in some structured activities next year, including the support for any adults prepared to be trained and volunteer as Sports leaders.

## **10. Financial update**

10i) The Council approved payments of vouchers 82-97

10ii) The Clerk reported that the Council's accounts reconciled with the bank statement dated 30th November 2015. He asked for questions. There were no questions.

10iii) The Clerk presented a budget report profiling income and expenditure as of 30th November 2015. He asked for questions. There were no questions.

## **11. Parish Council budget 2016-17**

The Clerk explained that, following last month's consideration of the Parish Council needs for 2016-17, it was now time to agree a budget for next year. The Council had had time to consider its priorities for next year. This included the continuing capacity-building of the Young People's Council for one year. With one exception - that the Council needed to increase slightly the amount needed for contingency - the draft budget as previously outlined was accepted. The Council AGREED unanimously that its budget requirement for 2016-17 is £62,500 and that the amount that would be needed to be raised through the combination of the Precept and the Council Tax Support Grant is £62,000. The Clerk would now submit this information to North West Leicestershire District Council as the Precepting authority.

## **12. Preparations for Grounds Maintenance contract selection**

The Clerk informed the Council that copies of the Tender document had been sent out to six potential bidders/providers on a "Closed List". The documents include the timetable and the grounds for selection (based upon a 40/60 split - out of 100 - quality/price criteria, any bid not achieving a minimum 30 marks on quality to be eliminated). The Chair reminded the Council of its obligations to respect Confidentiality and transparency over Conflict of Interest. The solicitor's scrutiny of the document vouched for the legality of the process.

It was AGREED to hold an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Council on Wednesday 27th January 2016 for the purpose of opening the bids and selecting the provider that the Parish Council wanted to commission from 1st April 2016.

## **13. Invitation to County Council Lead Member for Highways**

Further to previous discussion and the views now being represented by residents from St Christopher's Park it was agreed that the Council should invite the County Council's Lead member for Highways to an extra-ordinary meeting as soon as possible. The meeting would be open to the St Christopher's Park committee and should also include the District Council Planners.

It was AGREED that the Clerk contact County councillor Peter Osborne and set up a meeting once his availability is confirmed.

## **14. South Street Childrens Play Area**

Cllr Hyde explained that he had noticed recently the absence of some security fencing at South Street Childrens Play area and believed that the Council should investigate the cost of installing metal fencing at around three feet in height as a measure to make the play area safer for young children and keep it free from dogs.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should obtain three competitive quotes and report back to the Council.

#### **15. Noticeboard at South Street**

Cllr Hyde reminded the meeting that the young people had requested a noticeboard at South Street on which to share information about opportunities and be a voice for their own projects. This would be a good location given the recent addition of a Multi-Use Games Area to the existing younger childrens play facilities.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should obtain three competitive quotes and report back to the Council.

#### **16. Response to Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Services consultation**

Cllr Pollard believed that the proposed reduction in Fire Service cover from Coalville greatly compromised the ability of the service to respond to future fire and rescue situations within Ellistown and Battleflat. He cited recent examples of where the service had been unable to cope due to the already low water pressure in the area and he believed that increasing numbers of houses and businesses would only make the situation worse.

It was AGREED to write to the Lead Member for the Fire and Rescue Service and to County councillors Coxon and Wyatt and ask them to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council to address these concerns.

#### **17. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor**

Both County councillor and District councillor had sent their apologies and there were no reports to be given.

#### **18. Date and time of the next meeting.**

Wednesday 20th January 2016 at Ellistown Primary School, commencing at 7.00pm

The meeting finished at 8.48pm