

ELLISTOWN AND BATTLEFLAT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting Held on Wednesday 20th January 2016 at the Primary School, Ellistown, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr Hyde, Cllr Merrie, Cllr Morrell, Cllr Pollard, Cllr Powell and Cllr Willett-Marshall

In Attendance

Mr P Goodman Clerk to the Council
Lauren Fox (consultant)
19 members of the public
PCSO Luke Broughton
County councillor Heather Worman

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllr Norley who was ill.

2. Declarations of Discloseable Pecuniary Interest

None were declared.

3. Signing of cheques for outstanding invoices

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

4. Planning consultations

There were no current planning consultations

The meeting was adjourned for 15 minutes

5. Public participation and Police report

PCSO Luke Broughton reported that there had been three vehicle crimes and one burglary during December. Cllr Powell also reported on an attempted burglary and actual assault. A resident asked about an abandoned car at St Christopher's Road. A resident asked whether the Police could do anything about speeding traffic in Whitehill Road. A resident asked about action to be taken to stop people parking over the bus stop in Whitehill Road thus preventing the bus driver from stopping. Mr Vears (County Council) undertook to speak to the bus company and then to requisition more marking to be put down. A resident asked about dust and noise from the Pipeworks.

The meeting was reconvened

The Chair welcomed and introduced three guest speakers, Cty cllr Peter Osborne (Lead member for Highways), Ian Vears and Jim Newton, who had come to address Parish Council concerns about current major developments.

6. Presentation from Ian Vears, Head of Policy Strategy, Leicestershire County Council

Mr Vears explained that concerns over the course of footpaths could be looked at but that the Parish Council needed to be mindful that Public Rights of Way are enshrined in law and any retrospective changing of direction could open up the possibility of a Public Enquiry which would be very expensive and time-consuming.

Responding to concerns expressed by the Parish Council over the capacity of the surface water drains to deal with the Mountpark development, Mr Vears explained that the County Council has the role to co-ordinate the activities of the other agencies (eg Severn Trent Water authority, Environment Agency). He described the County Council as being very robust on flooding. The responses had been on the County Council website but he was very happy for the Parish Council to have the contact details.

Responding to concerns expressed by the Parish Council about the capacity of the road network, Mr Vears explained that the County Council do not feel that the road network is currently good enough. He explained that the developers will do a Transport Assessment. The County has set up a Coalville Infra-structure Fund and there is lots needed to be done to mitigate the impact of traffic, starting with improvements at Junction 22, then Junction 13, and then going on to address more challenging ones. The County Council will bid for money to make up the shortfall.

Regarding traffic around the village, Mr Vears explained that there is a "construction-routing agreement". Responding to a question from Cllr Powell about danger to life on Beveridge Lane (where there had already been fatalities) Mr Vears offered that the County Council is open to discussion if the Parish Council has any ideas. However, a bridge over the rail line would be very expensive.

Responding to the capacity of the village centre, which is already very congested, Mr Vears explained that the developer cannot occupy the site until the double mini-roundabouts in the centre had been addressed. There is a Master plan for the area and the County Council seeks to deal with the worst problems first. He encouraged the Parish Council, and local residents, to report the registration numbers of any vehicles breaching the Weight limits.

Cllr Pollard asked whether it was true that the County Council had turned down an offer from the developer to replace the railway bridge, citing that it was not necessary? Cllr Osborne stated that the developer had never contacted him and he asked Cllr Pollard for evidence that this offer had indeed been made. Mr Vears said that the County Council are certainly not happy with the bridge and, if there is any money being offered by the developer, the County Council would certainly accept it.

Cllr Pollard asked what would happen if there were an accident on Beveridge Lane. Mr Vears said that traffic would be re-routed. The access to the site will be from a full roundabout.

7. Presentation from Jim Newton, Head of Regeneration and Planning, North West Leicestershire District Council

Mr Newton explained that nine tenths of planning applications are dealt with through delegated powers. The Mountpark application had been a delegated one but the process is the same whether the decision is taken at committee or not. The officers come up with a professional opinion as to whether it should be approved or not. In response to a question from Cllr Pollard as to the speed at which the Mountpark application was put through, Mr Newton replied that the principle of the decision had already been made. The planning

authority has to decide on a range of factors, including the employment opportunities which will accrue to an area.

Responding to concerns that the Parish Council had heard that the developers were not adhering to the agreed hours of operation Mr Newton agreed to check into what these are.

Responding to concerns about pollution, Mr Newton explained that he heads a team which is responsible for complaints about noise and air pollution. The Parish Council pointed out that residents concerns about pollution are not just at the construction stage but also into the future. Mr Newton was very receptive to meeting residents suggestions about where the siting of monitoring equipment might be placed. Cllr Merrie pointed out that the developers are building an acoustic fence around the edge.

The Chair thanked Cty cllr Osborne, Mr Vears and Mr Newton for attending the meeting and at this point they left the meeting.

8. Presentation from Andrew Towleron, YourLocale

Andrew Towleron reported that the draft Neighbourhood Plan had been sent to the District Council and that they were quite happy with it. It needed to have general conformity with the Local Plan and unfortunately the Local Plan had been delayed by two months. He thought that there would be merit in delaying the Neighbourhood Plan. He recommended that the Parish Council use the time by putting the draft plan on the Parish Council website.

The Clerk informed the Council that the delay in the process had made it impossible to meet the funder's monitoring requirements but he had contacted them and explained that this was unavoidable.

9. Street name for the former Little Battleflat Farm access road

The Clerk enquired enquired as to the Council's thoughts on the naming of the Little Battleflat Farm access road. It was AGREED unanimously to put forward the suggestion of Wakefield Way in memory of the late councillor, Penny Wakefield.

10. Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2015 were confirmed to be a true record.

The Council had received a letter from Andrew Brodie, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, acknowledging the Parish Council's concern over the proposed changes to the level of service at Coalville Fire Station. He would be willing to talk to the Council once the decision of the Combined Fire Authority has been made.

11. Actions from the meeting

The Clerk had carried out most of the actions from the meeting but a couple had needed to be deferred due to pressure of work. He pointed out that the deadline for the next newsletter would be 31st January 2016. Cllr Merrie had organised a delivery map and All councillors conferred agreement to delivering a portion of the newsletters.

12. Clerk's report

The Clerk reported some progress with the proposed Knee-rail fencing at the War memorial and would work with Cllr Merrie on the grit bin saga at Battleflat. He asked the Council's view on what to do with a surplus of granite slabs left over from the War Memorial project - it was

agreed to use them in the community woodland setting. The Clerk had visited the Community Transport manager at the Marlene Reid Centre and proposed to invite her to a future meeting of the Parish Council. There had been more complaints from the public about dog fouling.

13. Young People's Council report

A young person from the Young People's Council reported that there had recently been a first showing of a film at the community cinema (St Christophers Church). It had been attended by more than forty people of all ages. The Club would be seeking funding to be able to "black out" the room for future film showings.

The young people had also attended a meeting which had achieved general consensus about having a much more joined up approach to Remembrance Sunday in 2016. This was much appreciated by the Parish Council.

14. Financial update

14i) The Council approved payments 98 - 119.

14ii) The Clerk reported that the Council's accounts reconciled with the bank statement dated 31st December 2015. He asked for questions. There were no questions.

14iii) The Clerk presented a budget report profiling income and expenditure as of 31st December 2015. He asked for questions. There were no questions.

The Clerk had written to the Head of Finance at the District Council informing him that the total budget needed for 2016-17 would be £62,500.00 of which the Precept needed would be £59,743.00 (after receiving £2757.00 in Local Council Tax Support grant).

15. Preparations for Grounds Maintenance tendering

The Clerk explained that preparations were on course and reminded councillors of their responsibility to apply the Quality and Price measurements fairly, transparently and accurately. He reminded the Council that the selection process would take place from 7.00pm on **Wednesday 27th January 2016**. The Chair explained the system of marking the elements of Quality, any bid not achieving 30 marks (out of 40) on Quality to be eliminated.

The Clerk asked for questions. There were no questions.

At this point (9.00pm) Cllr Merrie left the meeting.

Cllr Powell moved that Standing Orders be suspended to allow for the completion of the business.

16. Continued capacity building of the Our Place young people's project

The Council was pleased by the continuing build up in joined-up working around support for young people. It was RESOLVED to engage Lauren Fox for one further full year through the main budget and to re-imburse Heartlands Youth Initiative for her release for three hours per week. However, there is the expectation that this funding will not continue from April 2017 and that the Parish Council should look at options for sustaining support for this initiative into the longer term, should that support be needed.

17. Report on Christmas Social event (Section 137 funded)

Cllr Willett-Marshall reported that the Social event at Christmas had been very successful and she thanked Mrs Parry for all her hard work. Cllr Willett-Marshall had been touched by just how much the activity and the meal had meant to the elderly. She asked the Council to endorse herself working with local organisations to set up a group that might meet up and go on outings occasionally.

RESOLVED to support Cllr Willett-Marshall to pursue the development of activities for older people.

18. Report on a briefing regarding changes at Coalville Police station

Cllr Norley had attended a briefing on 10th December regarding proposed changes at Coalville Police station. The Police Community Support Officers are currently contactable through a hub at the Whitwick Road Council Offices. But due to the cost of running the present Police station proposals are being considered to share the building on Broughton Street, making a large revenue saving and releasing land from the present Police Station in Coalville for sale.

19. Report from County Councillor

County councillor Heather Worman explained that she had a large post bag of queries from Ellistown residents - on parking, on the bus stop at the Midland Road shop and on littering. She had (as a young person herself) been going round local schools with a film warning young people of the potential dangers in Social Media usage. She was also concerned about the capacity of the existing schools network to accommodate a growing population.

20. Date, time and place of next meeting

Wednesday 17th February 2016 at Ellistown Primary School, starting at 7.00pm.

The meeting finished at 9.10pm.