

# WOOLSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

To Sign

Minutes of Woolsthorpe by Belvoir Parish Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Venue: Woolsthorpe Social Club at 7 p.m.

Councillors present G. Ward (Chairman)  
P. Hammond (Vice Chairman)  
J. Barber  
M. Bradshaw  
A. Ablewhite  
Cllr T. Packer

Also present District Cllr H. Westropp  
County Cllr M Whittington

Clerk & RFO Mrs Emma Wilson

## Open Session – Public Forum – 7.00pm

The chair acknowledged the member of public at the meeting and they confirmed that they wished to remain as an observer only.

Open session closed at 7.05 pm

## Meeting Opened: 7.06pm

### 1. **Chairman's Welcome Remarks**

The chairman welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

### 2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from District Cllr P. Bosworth and Cllr J. Salmon; the reasons for absence were noted and accepted.

### 3. **Disclosure of interest in agenda items**

Cllr T. Packer, wished to note disclosure of interest in Item 10, Planning as he lives in the part of the property to be discussed in feedback from SKDC Planning Dept.

### 4. **To approve minutes of meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

The clerk highlighted to the meeting that an addendum had been made to Item 5h regarding change of clerk's hours worked per week. The minutes were then agreed to be a true and accurate record; they were passed by resolution of the Council; and were duly signed and dated by the Chairman.

### 5. **Clerks Report**

#### a. Clerks Pay - Update

Clerk informed the meeting that the back pay calculation total was £745; this was to be split in half and paid over 2 months.

#### b. Bank balance

Clerk reported bank balance £5454.03 as at 05/10/17 the most recent statement available.

#### c. Community Cleaner

Clerk reminded the meeting that the basic contract was passed and approved by resolution of council at previous meeting. Cllr Packer shared the new format draft document and the clerk highlighted that the route still needs to be confirmed and agreed. Cllr Barber agreed to put together a list of roads to be covered by the cleaner and it will be discussed at the next meeting. Clerk confirmed receipt of Community Cleaner Grant on 12th Oct at £390-00.

*Action; Cllr Barber to put together route list*

#### d. Standing Orders/adopted Policies

Clerk gave feedback from the meeting with Cllr Ward and Cllr Packer where they discussed the Standing Orders and Policies. It was agreed that the clerk would complete works on the rest of the documentation and then all would be shared with parish councillors prior to approval and adoption.

*Action; clerk to continue with policies and report back when complete.*

TP

e. Telephone Box

Clerk confirmed she had received a small pot of gold paint from Community Heartbeat Trust to paint the crest at the top of the phone box along with the DEFIBRILLATOR signs to go in the top of the box.

Clerk had emailed Jonathan Holdford who confirmed that John Watchorn, one of Belvoir parish councillors painted their telephone box about two years ago. Clerk confirmed that she had contacted several painter/decorators to get quotes and had been turned down by them all. The parish council agreed it was unlikely we would be able to get a professional painter to do the priming and painting of the box. It was agreed we should advertise locally to ask if we could pay someone local to do the job. Cllr Barber agreed to put together a simple poster to advertise this in the village.

*Action; Cllr Barber to create poster.*

f. Playground Signage

Clerk has put in a request to Wicksteed to replace the sign; they have asked for a photograph of the existing sign in order for them to quote accurately. Cllr Hammond offered to take the photo and email to the clerk.

*Action; Cllr Hammond to take the photo and email to the clerk.*

6. Land between Cobleas & Cemetery

Cllr Ward thanked Cllr Packer for his work on uncovering the excerpt from an old Village Magazine Dated June 1950 which detailed that Belvoir Estate did indeed own the land. This had been investigated further by Belvoir Estate and Cllr Ward informed the council that they had subsequently discussed this with him and would like to offer to lease the Land between Cobleas and the Cemetery to Woolsthorpe Parish Council for an annual cost of £150.

The Chairman suggested that a vote was taken, 5 out of 6 councillors voted in favour of taking on the lease. The Chairman confirmed a majority vote in favour and said that he would feedback the decision to Belvoir Estate. It was agreed that the parish council would require vacant possession of the land.

The Clerk suggested that possible grants are available for developing the land for the whole community; suggestions were a Peace Garden or Wildflower area with an orchard.

*Action; Cllr Ward to report back decision to Belvoir Estate.*

*Action; Clerk to look in to funding grant available for developing the land for the community.*

7. Highways update - Cllr Mark Whittington

Cllr Whittington reported that he still had no feedback from Highways following the engineers visit to the village back in the summer to inspect the poor road surfaces and potholes. He suggested that when people are reporting problems to no longer use 'Fixmystreet' but instead to use the official LCC Portal. He said this was a much better way of getting action and it would also provide a record of issues and a timeline of events.

He commented that he had had some success through this route with a similar problem in Sedgebrook. It was reported that the trees were overhanging again on Cliff Hill and if this needed cutting back the parish council should contact the land owner which is Belvoir Estates.

Cllr Ward mentioned that there were excessive leaves and litter just above 'dry bridge' that needed clearing. Cllr Westropp suggested the clerk report the issue to The Big Clean at SKDC.

*Action; Cllr Whittington to chase up Highways for some action.*

*Action; Clerk to report litter at dry bridge to The Big Clean at SKDC*

8. Playground Update

Cllr Hammond reported the following,

- a) Some litter in corner of the playground that needs picking.
- b) The grass needs cutting so that the leaves are collected as if leaves are left it will kill off the grass.

9. Correspondence— The clerk read out the following to the meeting:

- a. Fairer Funding Deal for Lincolnshire Campaign
- b. Neighbourhood Plan Workshop Invitation
- c. Stamford Christmas Festival

**10. Planning** - S17/1351 application to remove Condition 15 - Feedback from planning

The clerk read out the following response from Colin Wilkinson of Planit-X Town and Country Planning Services Ltd regarding the above.

*"I write with regard to the amendments to the pedestrian/vehicle access arrangements at the Belvoir Hunt Stable development.*

*Construction works are expected to complete by the end of the year. It has always been our intention that to avoid disturbance to the existing residents of the cottages on Belvoir Road/Cliff Road, the residents of the new dwellings should be encouraged to use the Sedgebrook Road access. This will be achieved by automating the existing wooden gates and providing existing tenants with a remote control. We note that the Parish Council support this arrangement. Indeed, both the planning and highway authorities gave their informal approval to these proposals in July 2015. The current application simply formalises that understanding. The removal of the footway on Cliff Road is therefore not a cost-saving exercise, it is simply unnecessary in connection with the new development. Furthermore, the footpath would add an urban feature to an attractive, rural entrance into the village contrary to the objectives of this important Conservation Area."*

Following the above feedback Cllr Hammond wished to have his objection recorded regarding the decision to not develop the footway on Cliff Road. The Chairman asked Cllr Hammond what he felt the benefit of the pathway would bring to the village. Cllr Hammond said he felt that whilst the village do not need a pathway in this location right now, that they may do in the future and that we should not pass up the opportunity to get one now. The Chairman suggested that this was not a requirement of the original plans and that even if the parish council objected it would not force the developers to comply with the request.

A lively discussion ensued and Cllr Hammond was quite passionate in expressing his feelings regarding this. The majority of other councillors felt that it was not necessary to provide the footpath and that it was not the responsibility of the developers to provide a footpath in this location. Cllr Hammond commented that he was concerned that some of the councillors were not objecting to this change because they either worked for Belvoir Estate or lived in a Belvoir Estate property and suggested that this was affecting their lack of support for his objection. Cllr Hammond made particular reference to the Chairman Cllr Ward and commented that he was perhaps not backing the objection because he worked for Belvoir Estate.

Cllr Ward commented that he was personally offended by this implication and confirmed that he did not work directly for Belvoir Estate but that he was employed by an independent contractor that did some work for Belvoir Estate. The discussion became quite heated and some of the other councillors said they felt that Cllr Hammond was being quite unfair suggesting this.

Cllr Barber confirmed that she did not have any affiliation with Belvoir Estate as did Cllr Bradshaw. The Chairman noted Cllr Hammond objection and suggested that as Cllr Hammond felt so strongly about the issue the parish council should take a vote as to whether they should respond again to SKDC about this issue.

Cllr Packer again reiterated his declaration of interest in this item and Cllr Ablewhite also decided to abstain from voting as he works for Belvoir Estate. He said that given the implications being made he felt it was 'safer' for him to not be involved in this. A vote followed and 3 out of 4 voted that further objection was not warranted on the issue of the footway not being developed.

Cllr Hammond questioned the Chairman Cllr Ward once again about his employment and at this point the Chairman Cllr Ward stood and announced that he was not happy being accused of bias opinion relating to this matter and was not going to be spoken to in this manner and was leaving the meeting. He said he was handing over the seat to Vice Chairman, Cllr Hammond to finish chairing the meeting. Cllr Ward then left the meeting.

Cllr Hammond then took the seat as Vice Chair. Nothing further was said on this agenda item.

**11. Accounts for payment**

a. Room Hire	£10.00	100871
b. Clerks Salary 1st Half back pay & Expenses	£592.48 Includes Anglian Water & Stationery reimbursement	100872
c. Clerks back pay 2nd Half	£298.27	100873
d. Grant Thornton	120.00 (previous cheque 100687 cancelled as wrong amount)	100874
e. Anglian Water (included in item 12b)	£15.82 reimbursement to clerk	
f. Stationery (included in item 12b)	£78.53 reimbursement to clerk	
g. Stacey Woodward	£72.00	100875

**12. Any other business - Nil**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

Signed:

*Tom Jace*

Date:

*4.12.11*

Chairman, Woolsthorpe by Belvoir Parish Council