

# MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF OCKBROOK & BORROWASH PARISH COUNCIL

HELD AT THE PARISH HALL, OCKBROOK ON WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2017.

**Present** Cllr. M. White (Chairman).

Cllr. J. Fraser-Burton

Cllr. M Wallis

Cllr. M. Wain

Cllr. K. Knapp

Cllr. D. Webster

Cllr. D. Walton

Cllr. S. Rigley

Cllr. J. Owens

Cllr. V. Tumanow

**In attendance** R. Parker (Clerk to the Council)

Cllr. W. Major

Cllr. R. Parkinson

10 Parishioners

## Public Participation

A parishioner asked the Parish Council if there had been any further developments following the recent meeting regarding Carre Hill Farm. Advised that a meeting will be held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November following which a decision will be made. If the decision is that the work on site should cease there will be an opportunity to appeal but work should cease until such time as the appeal is heard and the decision reversed. Cllr. W. Major advised that the officers recommendation was for refusal.

Cllr. D. Walton had received a complaint from a parishioner that the toilets in the car park behind the Co-op were filthy and that there were a number of street lights out. The Chairman confirmed that the toilets were cleaned twice per day. The Chairman also confirmed that there were a large number of street lights within the Parish that were inactive. The Clerk confirmed that faulty street lights were reported to Highways at Derbys. CC on a daily basis. Cllr. W. Major offered to make enquiries.

A parishioner asked for information regarding the progress of taking over the Ashbrook Centre. Cllr. Wallis advised that an application for a grant was being submitted and a steering committee had been formed.

Cllr. R. Parkinson had submitted a written report (attached) – copies were available at the meeting. Cllr. W. Major was aware of an incident in Flood Street when a large lorry had started to reverse and nearly crushed the car immediately behind. He will make enquiries with Highways to ascertain whether any safety measures should be taken.

Wayne Peapell, our groundsman/gardening consultant gave a report on his plans regarding the continuation of the improvements within the Parish. To enhance the appearance of the entrance roads to the Parish he plans to sow wild flower seeds. The area around the war memorial has been replanted and a section of the grass verge nearby has been planted with rose bushes. The intention is that the Parish will look at joining the East Midlands in Bloom competition next year. He was thanked for his endeavours by the councillors and also the parishioners attending. A request was received that more daffodill bulbs be plated in the grass verges.

#### **4/11/17 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Proposed by Cllr. M. Wallis and seconded by Cllr. J. Fraser-Burton – unanimous

#### **5/11/17 To determine items to exclude public**

The Chairman requested that items 10 (standing Orders), 11 Financial Regulations and 12 (Auditors report) be moved to exempt items – unanimous approval

#### **6/11/17 Outstanding matters**

There had been no further information regarding the acrid smoke nuisance which had apparently been looked into by Lawrence Raynor of Erewash BC. Cllr. M. Wallis offered to contact him and get a progress report.

Picnic Tables on Deans Drive recreation Ground – The Clerk had sent out information and quotations regarding various picnic benches – some suitable for wheelchairs. He asked for advice of what to order. The benches should be mounted on concrete bases and advice should be given on numbers, types and position.

Cllr. M. Wallis announced that the design of the Parish Flag had now been completed. A competition had been arranged with local schoolchildren who had been asked to create the design with the theme of Unity. The basic background was similar to the Derbyshire flag with a central area featuring the original Ockbrook & Borrowbrook coat of arms encircled by children standing hand in hand. Unity is detailed in the two parts of the community now united into one Parish. Quotes will now be obtained to have the flags produced.

#### **7/11/17 Clerks Report**

The Clerk reminded the Council that some months ago negotiations had started whereby it was possible that Dr. Bob Hedley might lease an area of land on Nottingham Road which could enable the Parish Council to create a new cemetery. A further meeting had now been requested by Dr. Hedley and the Clerk asked which of the Councillors could accompany him in discussions. Councillors J Owens, T,

Holbrook and M Wallis offered to get involved. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

### **8/11/17 Chairman's report.**

The Chairman reported that the planned meeting with the Canal Society has been re-arranged to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 (7.00-8.30pm)

He also detailed an apple tree giveaway by Erewash BC – 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November on Long Eaton and Ilkeston markets

### **9/11/17 To receive reports from Parish Councillors**

Councillor M. Wallis reminded the people attending that Remembrance Day was on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November and detailed the timings of the activities. He also detailed the Christmas tree light switch on (November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Oak and 1<sup>st</sup> December at the Co-operative store – A special feature this year is that live reindeers will be at the Co-op light switch on thanks to the Ashbrook Community Group and tickets would be available to see Santa (£1 per. Child – on sale outside the Co-op) – many other features

The Chairman advised that the Co-operative Funeral Directors had once again provided at their own expense the Remembrance Day programs – there are probably 500 supplied all to a very good standard. He passed on the grateful thanks of the Parish Council.

### **Entertainment**

Cllr. J. Fraser-Burton gave details of two free Haloween parties (Royal Oak and Wilmot Arms) which were very well attended. Christmas trees will again be supplied by the Parish Council together with brackets if required. Prices to be announced.

### **Cemeteries.**

Cllr. J. Owens also welcomed the potential of a new cemetery offered by Dr. Hedley and was also pleased that the council had approved the new fencing for Belmont cemetery.

### **Finance**

Cllr. T. Holbrook asked how the payment to the roofing contractor was made up. The Clerk advised that the slates and scaffolding had been paid directly by the council because the contractor was not VAT registered and by the council paying it meant that the VAT will be reclaimed – probably in the region of £500. A question was also raised as to the value of the slates removed from the roof. The Clerk advised that the slates were porous and very old and to dispose of them would have meant another skip being hired. The old slates had been removed by a landscaping contractor that intended to smash them into small pieces and use them for laying as paths etc.

Cllr. M. Wallis advised that voluntary groups could go to a mornings course run by Foundation Derbyshire which would give guidance on applying for grants.

Approval of cheques for payment was proposed by Cllr. T. Holbrook and seconded by Cllr. M. Wallis – unanimous.

### **Planning**

Very few applications have been going through recently. The application to build another house Adjoining Elm Street allotments has been approved. The Clerk has spoken to the agent and owner of the other two houses recently built advising them that they may have a right to travel over the allotment land to the houses but they do not have any right whatsoever to lay services such as gas/electricity/water and drainage across the allotment land.

### **Allotments**

Cllr. K. Knapp confirmed that two extra water standpipes are due to be installed with Wayne Peapell digging the trenches in preparation for the plumber. Following the recent complaints regarding bonfires she has continued to follow up further reports.

### **Correspondence**

Information had been received from a specialist company regarding the cleaning of war memorials. Agreed that this might be considered next year.

Request for an extra dog bin as dog walkers are leaving doggy poo-bags in the hedge.

Request for £100 re-imbusement towards the cost of lowering the height of a hedge adjoining Balmoral Cemetery. It was pointed out that as the bird nesting season had only just finished the Parish council could not have done the work much earlier and the applicant should have asked before ordering the work to be completed by a contractor.

Fire Safety training – agreed that the Clerk should attend

Application by scout group to plant Kimberly Road/Elm Street to plant crocus bulbs. No objection Agreed that Wayne Peapell work with the group to organise

Application to supply and fit a memorial bench on Balmoral Road cemetery – No objection.

## **Part 2 – EXEMPT ITEMS**

### **7/11/17 CLERKS REPORT CONTINUED**

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the expenses allowances should be reconsidered if there was a change of Chairman. After some discussion it was agreed that the allowance should remain at £1500. Proposed by Cllr. J. Fraser-Burton and seconded by Cllr. J. Owens – unanimous. The chairman asked if £50 of his allowance be reserved for a thank-you drink for the organisers of the light switch-on. A £100 should be added from Parish Council funds

Being aware of the need to create a budget prior to claiming the precept the Clerk had given full information of income/expenditure for the first seven months of the current financial year to the Chairman

### **8/11/17 CHAIRMANS REPORT CONTINUED**

The Chairman spoke about the recent HR report prepared by Zoe Lukic which detailed various recommendations. Whilst the proposals could be expensive he felt that they were very beneficial and should be taken up as soon as possible. Proposed by Cllr. J. Owens and seconded by Cllr. J. Fraser-Burton.

### **10/11/17 STANDING ORDERS**

The Chairman had checked the existing the Standing Orders and felt that they were still satisfactory. A copy will be forwarded to all councillors. It is proposed that they are fully checked every two years and that they should be raised once a year for a brief inspection

### **11/11/17 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

The Chairman had acquired a copy of the last edition of the regulations which would be thoroughly checked and an amended version produced by consideration of a sub-committee chaired by Cllr. T. Holbrook

### **12/11/17 REPORT FROM GRANT THORNTON – AUDITORS**

Criticism had been detailed by the auditors which included

- Lack of annual budget

- Lack of full list assets owned exclusively by the Parish Council

- Lack of up to date financial regulations, standing orders or code of conduct

- Evidence of members acceptance of office

- Officers of members/members training

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

The next meeting of Ockbrook & Borrowash Parish Council is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 7.00 pm in the Parish Hall, Church Street, Ockbrook DE72 3SL

