

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF OCKBROOK & BORROWASH PARISH COUNCIL

HELD AT THE PARISH HALL, OCKBROOK ON WEDNESDAY 4th OCTOBER 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
In attendance	R. Parker (Clerk to the Council)
	Cllr. W. Major
	8 Parishioners

The Chairman welcomed the two new councillors that had recently been elected – Sarah Rigley and Daniel Walton. Both parties signed their acceptance in the register.

Public Participation

A parishioner thanked the Parish Council for arranging the recent meeting regarding Carre Hill Farm which they found most informative. It was confirmed that the business being conducted could carry on until a final decision is made. Complaints were also raised regarding smoke from a local site which created an acrid smell. Lawrence Raynor of Erewash Planning is investigating. It is possible that the allotment holders have been wrongly blamed for recent smoke complaints.

A parishioner asked regarding the future of Ashbrook Youth Centre – she was hoping that the centre would be used for the benefit of all the parishioners and that facilities would be available to children of all ages. Cllr M. Wallis confirmed that all ages and sporting activities are being looked at. He also advised that negotiations for a 50 year lease are now nearing completion. A great deal of work is required to bring the state of repair up to standard and quotations are being sought. The Parish Council are being asked to act as guarantors with regard to the funding and this will be discussed during the exempt stage of this meeting.

A question was asked as to who would be running the Ashbrook Youth Centre when it opens – would it be Parish Council run or by a separate body. Cllr. M. Wallis advised that this was still to be decided.

A request was also made for additional picnic benches to be installed possibly by getting local businesses to sponsor them. She was advised that we already have plans for more benches but they were not cheap and all had to be installed on a concrete base.

Comments were raised regarding the recent open air cinema night as it was felt that the prices were high for the majority of the local parishioners to afford. Cllr. J. Fraser-Burton advised that the event was arranged by a local private group and whilst a profit was made this would go towards creating a special event at Christmas.

The Chairman pointed out that the Parish Council itself was creating many free events for the parishioners throughout the year to which the public could attend.

Cllr. W. Major announced that a new pilot scheme with regard to rates was being considered by Derbyshire County Council. He also announced that a bid had been submitted for a grant of up to £1m which if successful would be used for the prevention of violence against women. There is also a new initiative against emissions and that a new shopping bus service is to be introduced which would be free to gold card holders.

Cllr. M. Wallis as Borough Councillor gave information regarding the Erewash in Bloom, and East Midlands in Bloom which had recently seen Ilkeston and Long Eaton getting gold awards making 13 other awards in the district. It is intended that Ockbrook and Borrowash will contest the events in the future – we are now employing a horticultural expert to improve the appearance of our parish and he will advise us of how to be successful in this competition.

AGENDA

PART 1 – NON EXEMPTION

Cllr. M. White as acting Chairman announced that the existing Chairman Cllr. Mike Wallis was having to stand down following medical advice. He was sincerely thanked for the tremendous amount of hard work that he had put in over the years.

Nomination for a new Chairman was requested. Cllr. M. White was proposed by Cllr. D. Walton and seconded by Cllr. M. Wallis – no other nominations – unanimous acceptance.

Nominations for a new Vice Chairman was therefore required. Cllr. T. Holbrook was proposed by Cllr. D. Webster and seconded by Cllr. J. Fraser-Burton.

Both of the new nominees accepted their new roles and signed the necessary acceptance forms

1/10/17 To receive apologies for absence

Received from Cllr. J. Owens, Cllr. T. Holbrook, Cllr. V. Tumanow and Cllr. R. Parkinson

2/10/17 Variation in order of business

Request received that item 10/10/17 and item 11/10/17 be moved to exempt items – unanimous approval

3/10/17 Declaration of members interest

Both Councillor M. Wallis and Cllr. M White declared an interest in Ashbrook Youth Centre – buildings committee.

Cllr. K. Knapp – allotments committee

4/10/17 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2017

Proposed by Cllr. D. Webster and seconded by Cllr. M. Wain – unanimous

5/10/17 To determine items to exclude public

Items 10/10/17 and 11/10/17 already moved to exempt

6/10/17 Outstanding matters

The artwork for the Parish Flag is now virtually complete – many intricate designs being made.

A request for funding had been raised at the last Parish Council meeting – this had later been turned down as the enquirer was not a parish resident.

7/10/17 Clerks report

The Clerk had sent to the Parish Councillors details of expenditure during September and also items that now required cheque payment after approval. Further lists of these figures are available in the hall – No questions posed.

Cllr. D. Walton asked regarding the notice boards and how often they were changed.

There are four local trusts which have now been resurrected each with some funds which have all been transferred to their own bank accounts at our Bankers. It would seem that these trusts also own some property/land in the vicinity. Comments from our Auditors have indicated that all assets owned by the Parish Council should be properly accounted for. It is the Clerks intention to thoroughly look into the situation which will probably mean dealing with the Land Registry Office.

It would appear that the two houses under construction alongside our Elm Street allotments are considering having gas/electricity installed with access across our driveway. The Clerk intends advising the developers that this will not be permitted. The Clerk announced that he had been to solicitors to make enquiries about taking over the passageway onto the allotments which is currently un-adopted.

The chairman mentioned that certain practices by the builders of the new houses off the allotments were considered dangerous and he had advised the Health & Safety executive and he understood that they had visited the site and gave various warnings.

8/10/17 Chairman's report.

The Chairman reported that the planned meeting with the Canal Society and had to be cancelled. – To be rearranged.

9/10/17 To receive reports from Parish Councillors

Entertainment

Cllr. J. Fraser-Burton gave details of the summer entertainment for local children.

Unfortunately the sports day on the cricket ground had to be cancelled as the ground was waterlogged and could have proved dangerous. The remainder of the functions were very successful. Two Halloween parties had been arranged for the school half term holidays – one at the Wilmot and one at the Royal Oak. Arrangements for the Remembrance Parade are well in hand. The Christmas Light switch on at Borrowash is fixed for 1st December at which time the Ashbrook Community Group have arranged for a Santas Grotto, live reindeer and sleigh the cost of which is to be financed by the community group out of the profits of the recent open-air cinema.

Cllr. J. Fraser Burton also asked for approval for electrical work to be completed by the Co-op amounting to £370 for external sockets for the lights/equipment. Proposed by Cllr. M. Wallis and seconded by Cllr. M. Wain – unanimous agreement

Cllr. J. Fraser-Burton praised the financial support and work involved by the Ashbrook Community Group and asked if the Parish Council would support the evening by purchasing approx. 200 Cadburys selection boxes at £1.09 each – Acceptance proposed by Cllr. M. Wallis and seconded by Cllr. D. Webster – unanimous. These will be available in Santas Grotto by our very own "Santa" (Cllr. Terry Holbrook)

Whilst the Parish Council have a generator a second one would be required which can be hired by the community group - Approval proposed by Cllr. M. Wallis and seconded by Cllr. M. Wain. – unanimous

As there is likely to be great demand for the reindeer attraction it had been suggested that a ticket system be arranged – 150 tickets to be printed which would allow one child per minute over a 150 minute period when the children can visit the reindeers and parents can take photos.

The years charity sponsored by the Co-op is the Fire Brigade and a donation box will be available and also a fire engine and firemen will be on site.

Cllr. J. Fraser-Burton is trying to organise a Home Alone Christmas meal for elderly residents on Christmas Eve and was asked for volunteers to help. She also says that she was planning next summers events and pointed out that this years events mainly concerned younger children and she is aware that the older children should also be catered for.

Environment

Cllr. M. Wallis detailed information regarding the East Midlands in Bloom competition which it was hoped to enter next year. We had already made a start this year with hanging baskets in Princess Drive. He also gave information regarding the dates when the last brown bins will be collected. (Ockbrook on 20th November and Borrowash on 27th November) There has been a waste bin missing from Draycott Road – soon to be replaced.

Burials

Cllr. M. Wallis asked if there had been any response from Dr. Bob Hedley regarding the possible new burial ground off Derby Road. The Clerk confirmed that nothing had been heard and offered to write asking if any progress had been made. The Clerk also mentioned that for many years the grass cutting/maintenance of the Balmoral Cemetery had been in the hands of Care & Repair. This had now ceased and the work will be carried out by our own maintenance team.

Finance

The Clerk had issued a full list of recent expenditure and of cheques that required approval and signing. He asked if there were any questions that he could help with – None. Proposed acceptance by Cllr. D. Webster and seconded by Cllr. M. Wain – unanimous.

Planning

The Chairman announced that there was very little activity on the planning front at the moment. Cllr. K. Knapp mentioned that an application for building a bungalow on land on the west of Home Farm Close had caused some concern with local residents and that they had invited her to attend a meeting.

Allotments

Cllr. K. Knapp gave details of the very successful local gardeners show which she had attended. She also mentioned that some letters had been forwarded by the office to allotment holders where there was either non-cultivation or bonfires. - These items will be followed up.

10/10/17 Fence to Belmont Cemetery

Moved to exempt items

11/10/17 Approval of Guidance Procedure

Cllr. M. White declared that a grievance procedure had now been finalised and copies had been distributed to the Staff and Councillors. Further discussion would be held in the exempt section of the meeting.

12/10/17 Report on Summer Play Scheme

Already included in response given by Cllr. J. Fraser-Burton

13/10/17 Defibrillator at Wilsons Chemist

Two quotes had been received for the electrical work in installing the defibrillator.

It was proposed by Cllr. Wallis and seconded by Cllr. J. Fraser Burton that the lower quote of £290 plus vat by Derby Electrical Services be accepted – unanimous

14/10/17 Carre Hill Farm

A very well attended meeting had been held on 20th September 2017 to enable parishioners to understand the current position. A copy of the presentation details by Derbyshire CC has been received but a final decision is to be awaited.

15/10/17 Correspondance

The Chairman said that there was only one item of importance which was the flood meeting at Matlock. He couldn't go and other Parish Councillors had not volunteered. It was left that our maintenance operator Wayne Peapell and the Clerk should attend.

The chairman closed the ordinary part of the meeting

PART 2 – EXEMPT ITEMS.

16/10/17 Road Sweeper

Cllr. M. Wallis pointed out that in previous years the Autumn leaves had caused problems becoming slippery and blocking drains. In an effort to cure this problem and keeping our streets clean at other times of the year it was suggested that a road sweeper should be purchased. A suitable second hand machine had been sourced by Wayne Peapell our maintenance operative which would cost in the region of £2700 Proposed by Cllr. M. Wallis and seconded by Cllr. M. Wain - unanimous

10/10/17 Belmont Drive Fencing

Two quotations have been obtained for the renewal of the fencing between the cemetery and Belmont Drive :-

Steelcraft £6950 plus VAT

Jacksons £4415.30 plus VAT

Cllr. M. Wallis said that he had been involved with the changing of the closed cemetery into a garden of remembrance and was aware of the wall and fence which had been damaged by vandals. Cllr.M. Wallis stated that the quotation by Steelcraft was a bespoke design and he had shown the alternative quote to Steelcraft who had described the alternative as cheap and nasty and used inferior materials. Acceptance proposed by Cllr. M. Wallis and seconded by Cllr. D. Walton – unanimous. The Clerk will arrange to have the old fence together with the briar and ivy coving it removed by our own maintenance operatives

11/10/17 Approval of Grievance Procedure.

As a result of organising the grievance procedure it had been recognised that the Parish Council were weak on HR support – he had two people in mind – one is DALC and the second is an excellent HR consultant who would charge in the region of £200 to look into our case and make suggestions. It was proposed by Cllr. J. Fraser-Burton that the consultant be employed – seconded by Cllr. D. Walton - unanimous

17/10/17 Ashbrook Centre Funding

Cllr. M. Wallis and Cllr. M. White left the room whilst the subject was debated.

Cllr. D. Walton informed the meeting that a lease from Derbyshire County Council to our Parish Council was being considered. It would require an agreement by the Ockbrook & Borrowash Parish Council that they would act as guarantor for the expenditure required to carry out the necessary repairs, improvements etc which had been assessed at £35,000 over 3-4 years. Agreement was proposed by Cllr. D. Walton and seconded by Cllr. J. Fraser-Burton - in favour except 1 abstention

Date & Time of next meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 1st November 2017 commencing at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall, Church Street, Ockbrook.