

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF OCKBROOK & BORROWASH PARISH COUNCIL

HELD AT THE PARISH HALL, OCKBROOK ON WEDNESDAY 5th JULY 2017

Present Cllr. M. White (Vice Chairman)

Cllr. T. Holbrook

Cllr. J. Owens,

Cllr. J. Fraser-Burton

Cllr. V. Tumanow

Cllr. M. Wain

Cllr. K. Knapp

In attendance R. Parker (Clerk to the Council)

5 Parishioners

Public Participation.

Cllr. R. Parkinson had sent his apologies and had also sent in a written report which had been photocopied and distributed.

A parishioner raised the question as to whether the farm on Cole Lane had put in an application for change of use to recycling. A large number of lorries were currently delivering materials to the site on a daily basis. Applications would be dealt with by Derbyshire County Council and as a Parish Council we were not automatically advised when applications were received. The Chairman promised however that Cllr. W. Major would be contacted to enquire regarding the current position and that the parishioner would be advised of any significant details. The case was previously raised in 2008 when the Parish Council were against the application. However nothing more was heard.

Mr. Dave Smith of the allotments association registered his disappointment that no parish councillors attended the hearing for the application for erection of houses at the rear of 12 and 14 Kimberley Road where access would be gained along the driveway to the Elm Street allotments. He was advised by Cllr. T. Holbrook that the Parish Council were still making legal enquiries as to the access road. Mr. Dave Smith also thanked Cllr. K. Knapp for her interest and help with the allotments.

AGENDA

PART 1 – NON EXEMPTION

1/7/17 To receive apologies for absence

Received from Cllr. D. Webster, Cllr. M. Wallis, Cllr. R. Parkinson and Cllr. W. Major.

2/7/17 Variation in order of business

No change deemed necessary

3/7/17 Declaration of members interest

None declared

4/7/17 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2017

Proposed by Cllr. T. Holbrook and seconded by Cllr. J. Owens - unanimous

5/7/17 To determine items to exclude public

The Chairman declared as items 10 and 11 were of a financial nature he felt they should be discussed in Part 2 (exempt items) - agreed

6/7/17 Outstanding matters

The Ashbrook Community Centre negotiations with Derbyshire County Council is still progressing towards a 50 year lease to the Parish Council and is currently awaiting a cabinet decision.

The new childrens play area on Bare Lane Recreation ground will be officially opened on Thursday 20th July 2017 by the Mayor

The design of our new Parish flag has been created and is awaiting final approval.

7/7/17 Clerks report

The Clerk announced that the defibrillator outside the Parish Office had been used in an emergency. As the pads could not be used a second time and the battery could not be guaranteed at full strength these had been replaced. The battery in particular is very expensive and a kind parishioner offered to set up a collection box in the various public houses in the parish to help with the cost of renewals.

Currently there is only one allotment space available and we are awaiting a decision from a new potential lessee. Many of the plots have not been tended recently and are high with weeds and briars. As this is totally unfair to neighbouring allotment holders we have written to the lessees involved with a threat that unless there is substantial improvement they are likely to have their leases terminated. We have also asked Wayne Peapell our new ground maintenance operative to trim certain plots to avoid weeds and briars spreading onto nearby cultivated plots.

The Clerk pointed out that it is normal practice to produce a list of cheques for approval and signing at a Parish Council meeting. However there is no meeting in August and he proposed to e-mail all councillors with a list of cheques on 1st August 2017 with a request that any councillors with an enquiry should contact him within the following week. The cheques will then be signed and dispatched as usual. Proposal to accept by Cllr. J. Owens and seconded by Cllr. T. Holbrook – unanimous.

The Clerk had also submitted full details of income and expenditure during June and enquired if there were any questions. - None.

The Internal Auditor had checked our accounts and found them to be satisfactory.

The Clerk announced that with the resignation of Cllr. D. Archer we were now down to only three available signatures and all three are required on cheques making it difficult during holiday periods. It was suggested that Cllr. J. Owens, Cllr. J. Fraser-Burton and Cllr. M. White should be available in future. The Clerk to arrange.

8/7/17 Chairman's report.

The Chairman advised that Erewash BC were currently offering grants to private organisations and the application forms were with the Parish Clerk

He also advised that numerous complaints against E M Homes were being received regarding the lack of ground maintenance. Mrs. Carol Hart of Erewash BC has become involved and will be holding a meeting with representatives from E. M. Homes.

9/7/17 To receive reports from Parish Councillors

Cllr. T. Holbrook referred to the list of cheques prepared by the Clerk that required approval and signature. Proposal for acceptance from Cllr. J. Owens and seconded by Cllr. J. Fraser-Burton – unanimous.

Cllr. J. Fraser-Burton advised that a program of free childrens activities had been arranged for over the summer school holidays. Five various events had been arranged and posters will shortly be displayed. It is important that the names of the children wanting to participate should be lodged with the Parish Clerk.

Mr. Wayne Peapell the new ground maintenance operative produced a number of photographs of parts of the Parish where he had been working – it is his intention to improve the appearance of entrances to the Parish and in many cases he has taken over work that would normally be done by Erewash BC. In this respect he has had meetings with Erewash BC who required evidence that he was qualified to work in their areas. This has now been established and he has received permission.

The Chairman asked the meeting to officially approve that Wayne Peapell should be allowed to work on land that was officially the responsibility of Erewash BC. Proposed by Cllr. T. Holbrook and seconded by Cllr. J. Fraser Burton – unanimous.

Wayne Peapell advised that a number of the Parish Notice boards had been damaged by strimming too close to the posts on the grass verges. This had resulted in the bottom of the posts becoming very narrow and thereby becoming dangerous. The worst of these notice boards have been removed and new posts will be added and before refixing the posts will be lined with a metal sheath to prevent the problem re-occurring.

The Clerk announced that a different type of grass mower was required which cost just over £500. Permission to purchase was required. Proposed by Cllr. J. Fraser-Burton and seconded by Cllr. J. Owens – unanimous.

The Chairman announced that there were no current planning applications that caused any concern.

Cllr. K. Knapp said she understood that an application for a house at the rear of 10 Kimberley Road seemed imminent and if the process continued it could prove dangerous to the allotment holders. She also added that the notice boards on the allotments were in poor condition and that the heavy gates on Shacklecross allotments had dropped on their hinges and required adjustment. She had been advised that additional stand pipes for hose pipes were required. The Clerk advised that these can be added and only the exact positions needed specifying.

PART 2 – EXEMPT ITEMS.

10/7/17 To consider quotations for renewal of slate roof over Post Office/Parish Office.

The clerk had produces two quotations for the work both from two local tradesmen. The cheapest of which was from Mr. Jim Bradbery at £7000 against £8900 for a similar specification. It was proposed by Cllr. J Owens and seconded by Cllr. T Holbrook that the work should be approved. – unanimous. The Clerk will ensure that the correct insurances and permissions were obtained. The contractor was also to be asked to confirm that the new slates would comply with planning and conservation authorities. As the contractor is not registered for VAT the Clerk will order the slates on behalf of the Parish Council thereby being able to reclaim the VAT which will amount to approx. £500. The cost of the slates will therefore be deducted from the £7000 quotation.

11/7/17 To consider quotation for electrical repairs.

The smoke alarms had been sounding regularly and as the wiring was also overdue for checking a contractor had been brought in to ensure safety and prevent damage. It was found to be caused by a faulty smoke alarm but the survey also revealed other items that were urgently required. Due to the urgency the normal practice of more than one quote it was suggested should be lapsed. Proposed by Cllr. J. Owens and seconded by Cllr. J Fraser-Burton - unanimous

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Date & Time of next meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 6th September 2017 commencing at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall, Church Street, Ockbrook.

There will be no meeting in August.

