

## WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on **Monday 1 June 2020**  
**7.15 pm, virtually via Zoom**

**Present.**

**Mr Will Farr (Chairman)**  
**Mr Hatton, Mrs Moss, Mr Greenlay, and Mrs**  
**Arnold and Mr Comber** (from item 6).

**In attendance**

**Also in attendance.**

**Dr S Lammin (Parish Clerk)**  
**Mrs R Powell (County Councillor)**  
**Mr Keith Fairbrother**

Meeting opened at 19.16 hrs

- 13266 Any questions or comments from the public: Mr Fairbrother raised concerns about the trees felled on Main Street on 22 May but as it was to be discussed under Agenda Item 6 was content to observe the debate at that time.
- 13267 Apologies for absence received from: Mrs Lake telephoned to indicate she was struggling to join the meeting (19.19hrs).
- 13268 Declaration of any pecuniary interest in any matter on the agenda: None received
- 13269 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2020: proposed by Mrs Moss and seconded by Mrs Arnold .
- 13270 Report from Mrs Rosemary Powell, Rutland County Councillor: The first full Council meeting of RCC was held by Zoom on 20 May. There is no full programme of committees yet but the Growth and Infrastructure Resources Committee is due to meet in June, at that June meeting the draft Local Plan is likely to be discussed and the s19 Consultation is likely to be launched shortly after.
- 13271 Planning matters
- a. To consider plans received between 12 May 2020 and 1 June 2020:
    - Melton BC application:** Holygate Fm, Holygate Rd, Stapleford erection of livestock building for pig finishing, feed bins slurry store, hardstanding etc. – No comments offered
    - 2020/0485/FUL:** West Farm, Stapleford Road - Single storey extension, etc. – No comments offered
    - 2020/0487/FUL** Home Farm, Melton Rd: 125sq m metal framed agricultural shed- No comments offered.
    - 2019/1361/FUL** Manor Farm, Station Rd: demolitions, erection 4 No. dwellings and a conversion, etc. revised plans – No comments offered.
  - b. Planning updates received:
    - i. **2020/0330/FUL** 17 Hall Close, rear extension and front porch: Planning permission granted by RCC with conditions.
    - ii Appeal notification: **2019/0419/06:** Green's Lodge Fm, Stygate Ln, Pickwell, proposed anaerobic digestion plant. Appeal against Leicestershire CC's decision to refuse. It was AGREED that the original comments offered on the application should be reiterated to reinforce the Parish Council's concerns.
    - iii Land behind Walton Close: The Parish Council has received a lot of comments from residents about the nature of the works on the field rear of Walton Close. The

works included felling trees, demolishing agricultural sheds and burning waste on site. A number of agencies attended, in response to complaints: EH attended 7/8 times in relation to smoke from burning, but no nuisance was demonstrated. Planning enforcement visited to look at the rubble and caravan and are considering the evidence. The Police visited but found no grounds for police action.

It was AGREED that should this land ever come forward for planning permission that involved human occupation on the site the Parish Council should bring to the attention of the Planning Authority and the Environmental Health Department their concerns that the land may be contaminated due to the burial of the demolition waste from the sheds that included corrugated sheeting that may have included asbestos cement.

The Parish Council were also minded to write to the landowner to express their concern about the protracted disturbance/inconvenience to neighbours while these works were undertaken. No person at the meeting knew of a contact address for the landowner of the site. If a contact postal address is found within a reasonable time frame the letter will be sent.

#### **19.54hrs Mr Comber joined the meeting**

##### **iv Tree felling at 34E Main Street:**

A significant number of trees were felled on 22 May and 26 May in the garden of a newly constructed house. This was contrary to the permission for reserved matters granted by RCC in 2018 and involves removal of mature trees that were valued by a significant number of village residents and which had been physically protected during the construction process. It is understood the owner had made enquiries of the planning authority and was told that no TPO's were in place and it was not within a conservation area; the advice provided did not mention planning conditions. It is further understood that the planning conditions were not revealed during the pre-purchase land searches.

A Planning Enforcement officer visited on 27 May. He confirmed with the owners that provision of a close boarded fence of more than 1m on the Main Street boundary will require planning permission. Grant of permission is likely to be resisted. It has been agreed that the owners will prepare a planting scheme to include trees and hedging to screen the garden from Main Street and the Green; this scheme will be submitted to RCC's Planning Officers.

It was also discovered that the close-boarded fence provided by the developer along the access drive is contrary to the approval and should be a beech hedge. This is being followed up with the developer by RCC Planners.

The Members went on to discuss the value of TPO's to prevent a recurrence of a similar loss of important mature trees. A blanket TPO for the village was considered and rejected. It was AGREED that key trees in the village should be identified with a view to requesting TPOs. As Tree Warden Mrs Moss volunteered to meet RCC's Tree Officer to learn good-practice for other villages and report back to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

#### **13272 The Banks**

- a. To consider matters of safety affecting the children's play areas: An inspection of the Younger Children's Play area and the Teen Area was to be undertaken during May by a RoSPA inspector. The reports have yet to be received. The play areas both remain closed due to Coronavirus infection risk on the advice of HMG.

- b. Any other matters arising on the Banks: The swings and the handles to the slide have been repainted, as have the screens by the swings. The painting was done by Mr W Milsom and the Parish Councilors extended their thanks to him for his efforts. It was noted new bark has been ordered to go beneath the swings.

13273 Highways and village maintenance matters for report and to agree any necessary action:

Mr Comber reported a pothole on Ashwell Road had reopened. It was on the bend at the bottom of Loodal Lane. The Clerk will report it on Fix-my-street.

Mr Farr noted the hole in the road at Bishops Corner may have played a role in two cyclists falling last week. The Clerk will check the precise location and will report it on Fix-my-Street.

Mrs Arnold reported that Ashwell Rd and Oakham Road are both marked up for patching and edge repairs and the extent suggested that road closures may be needed. The Clerk is to enquire if road closures are planned.

13274 Financial Business

- a) To receive financial report for May 2020: The accounts for May are yet to be reconciled as the bank statements are awaited. There is £26650.71 available within the budget but there are many cheques yet to be drawn, due to Coronavirus lockdown.

- b) To consider invoices received in May and approve payments, as appropriate:

Village caretaking	£ 82.27 (including back-pay)
Banks maintenance	£ 276.00
LRALC training	£ 20.00
Paint and sundries for Playarea	£ 107.25

13275 On-going business not scheduled elsewhere on agenda: None.

13276 Correspondence

13/5/2020 email SBA Team, Littlejohn LLP confirmation receipt AGAR Pt3

13/5/2020 email Came and Co Insurance docs effective from 1 June 2020.

15/5/2020 email forwarded by County Cllr from resident re work behind Walton CI

15/5/2020 email from County Cllr notifying receipt of complaints about lorries

18/5/2020 email from resident(2) re work behind Walton Close (1<sup>st</sup> of series)

26/5/2020 email from resident(2) re trees being felled in Main Street (1<sup>st</sup> of series)

28/5/2020 email from Melton BC re consultation for Somerby Neighbourhood Plan

1/6/2020 email SBA Team, Littlejohn LLP, AGAR Pt3, logged and queued.

1/6/2020 email forwarded by County Cllr from resident(3) re trees felled in Main St.

Meeting closed at 20.36 hrs

Any member of the public may view copies of letters and documents held by the parish council by appointment with the Clerk: whisspcclerk@gmail.com