

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on **Monday 6 July 2020**
7.15 pm, virtually via Zoom

Present.

Mr Will Farr (Chairman)
Mr Hatton, Mrs Moss, Mr Greenlay, Mrs Lake
(part), Mrs Arnold (part) and Mr Comber
(part).

In attendance

Also in attendance.

Dr S Lammin (Parish Clerk)
Mrs R Powell (County Councillor)
Mr Keith Fairbrother – public observer

Meeting opened at 19.16 hrs

13277 Any questions or comments from the public: Mr Fairbrother asked that a blanket TPO for the village be considered for mature trees of a certain trunk diameter. (Item 6c on the agenda).

13278 Apologies for absence received from: Mrs Arnold for first part of meeting.

Mrs Moss lost connection 19.19 hrs MEETING SUSPENDED (no longer quorate).

Mrs Moss rejoined the meeting 19.22hrs MEETING RESUMED

13279 Declaration of any pecuniary interest in any matter on the agenda: None received

13280 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2020: proposed by Mrs Moss and seconded by Mr Hatton.

13281 Report from Mrs Rosemary Powell, Rutland County Councillor:

Consultation on RCC's Statement of Community Involvement is now open. It was noted: the consultation commenced on Friday 19 June 2020 and ends at 4.30pm on Friday 17th July 2020. RCC proposes that the final version of the Local Plan, that the Council intends to submit for public examination will be published for a minimum of six weeks. Views will be sought on whether the document is "sound" and legally compliant. The document will then be submitted to the Secretary of State. **The Local Plan consultation is likely to start in late-August/September.** RCC are not currently proposing the review the CIL charging level that was established in January 2016. To manage the consultation process RCC maintains a local plan mailing list. Any individual or organisation can be added to the list at any time by contacting the planning policy team and providing their contact details, preferably electronic.

RCC's Chief Exec. Is due to retire and will be replaced by Mark Andrews, who will act as interim CX for a year in the first instance.

Cottesmore CA site still not due to re-open as Covid19 restrictions can't be managed adequately; the highway is unsuitable for queuing vehicles.

There was no progress to report on the tree/hedging issues in Main Street, apart from new hedging having been planted.

The outline planning application for 66 houses west of the village (from Stapleford Road) has not yet come up for decision. The RCC Planning Committee for July does not have it listed on the agenda.

Mrs Powell requested that the Parish Council designate the parish of Whissendine as a Neighbourhood for the purposes of a Neighbourhood Plan. This matter will be on the (3 August agenda).

19.30hrs Mrs Lake joined the meeting (without a mic.)

13282 Planning matters

a. To consider plans received between 2 June 2020 and 6 July 2020:

2020/0625/PTA: 73 Main Street - Lime tree, reduce crown by 2m; Ash tree raise crown 1.5m over phone lines and reduce limbs 3-4m on garden side. It was commented that: As there is no disease or danger associated with either tree the degree of reduction proposed would be excessive and may affect the health of the trees, as well as visual impact. The Parish Council would be against such radical reduction to either tree. The Lime Tree is particularly prominent in the street scene. It has been noted the Ash tree has a straggly limb growing at an angle towards telephone cables; the Parish Council would have no concerns if this limb were cut back to give a 1m clearance from the cables.

2020/0661/FUL: 9 Oakham Rd – first floor extension to outbuilding for ‘Granny Annex’. No comments offered.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 Site licence consultation:
Greendale Farm Caravan and Camping Park, Pickwell Lane: no comments offered.

b. Planning updates received:

- **2020/0305/FUL** 3 Ashwell Road, rear single storey garden room extension: planning permission granted by RCC with conditions.
- **2020/0306/LBA** 3 Ashwell Road, rear single storey garden room extension: listed building consent granted by RCC with conditions.
- **2019/1361/FUL** Manor Farm, Station Road: planning permission granted by RCC with conditions.
- **2020/0485/FUL** Clover House, West Farm, Stapleford Rd: single storey rear extension; planning permission granted by RCC with conditions.

c. To consider protection of important trees within the village and receive an update from Mrs Moss:

Mrs Moss has contacted RCC's Forestry Officer and other village Tree Wardens. They advised against blanket TPO's. Mrs Moss has started to catalogue trees important to the street scene (or from footpaths). Mature trees abound in the village and are an important asset and part of the character of the village. The sheer number make this a large undertaking so it is intended to catalogue the important trees, moving out from the village centre. Those trees deemed vulnerable or on sites being marketed for sale will be made a priority for assessment.

Mrs Lake acquired her mic.

Mrs Arnold joined the meeting 19.55 hrs

Mr Comber joined the meeting 19.56 hrs

[The Chairman invited any declarations of interest from the late-comers: None]

The notion of a blanket TPO was rejected. It is therefore proposed Mrs Moss will draw up criteria for important trees, based on their impact, location, age and

condition, etc. Volunteers, from WEG and others, will use those criteria to identify 'important' trees. The volunteers will photograph and plot the location of the trees they chose. Mrs Moss will map the trees and create a schedule. It is intended that the landowners who own any of these trees will be contacted. The purpose of the contact will be to determine their views about the best way to protect the identified trees for the future. This protection may include seeking a TPO for a tree or stand of trees.

This process has already been put into practice in relation to a large Horse Chestnut tree and an adjacent pine on the Main Street boundary of Plot 4 (the unsold plot) at 34 Main Street. The developer remains the owner and is content that the trees be protected. RCC has been requested to apply TPO's.

- d. To receive an update on identification of important heritage sites within the village from Mrs Moss:
Discussions ensued about what heritage sites/artifacts there could be. Mrs Lake has made initial enquiries and has plans in hand to involve volunteers and take this forward. This matter will be on the August agenda.

13283 The Banks

- a. To consider matters of safety affecting the children's play areas and agree any actions arising from the 22 May 2020 RoSPA inspection:
The matters relating to fencing and stiles have been addressed. The matters relating to hedging are reliant on fulfilment of the contract that was let in 2019. The hedging is likely to be cut after the bird-nesting season ends. It was AGREED that although the defects identified on the Swing Basket top bar seem superficial an installers inspection will be requested from Proludic.
- b. Update on fencing on the Banks: The fencing around the kiddies play area, including two stiles, was renewed between 15 and 16 June 2020. The stretch of fence north of the gate on Cow Lane, leading to the stream was renewed at the same time. The work was in accordance with the quote received (19 July 2019) during the tendering process and the invoice amount is as quoted. The work is of a high standard.
- c. Any other matters arising on the Banks:
- Mr Richardson, whose land adjoins the Banks has requested that some logs by the north boundary (near stream) be moved away from his fence line as he fear dogs may use the logs to gain height to jump his 1m stock fence. It was AGREED that the clerk will meet Mr Richardson on site to determine exactly which logs he's referring to.
 - It had been reported that some of the tree saplings, planted in 2019, had died. The Banks was inspected on 30 June 2020 and all saplings were found to be thriving: 2x Horse Chestnut, 3x Oak and a Rowan.
 - The Play Area was cleaned on 3 July and allowed to quietly re-open the next day, in accord with Government Covid19 guidance. Use has been sporadic with no evidence of overcrowding. A notice has been put up advising users to wash their hands when they return home. Given the ages of users, the provision of hand sanitisers/cleaning products is not considered appropriate due to the high risk of harm due to misuse.

13284 Highways and village maintenance matters for report and to agree any necessary action:

The footway crossing the drive to 34 Main Street is uneven and the cover to the telephone connection box is proud. It will be reported via Fix My Street.

The street light in Station Road is covered by foliage so that the light is permanently on. It will be reported via Fix My Street.

13285 Financial Business

- a) To receive financial report for July 2020: The accounts for June have been reconciled. There is £25,923.93 available within the budget. This allows for the £128.11 worth of cheques issued but still to be drawn.
- b) To consider invoices received in June and early July and approve payments, as appropriate:

Village caretaking	£ 56.98
Banks maintenance	£ 276.00
RoSPA Safety Inspection	£ 181.20
Fencing for Playarea, etc	£ 1458.20

- c) To consider offer from Produlic regarding contribution to charity.
Produlic offered £100 to their customer's chosen charity through the '100 Rainbows Pledge'. The charity must support an initiative where key workers will benefit. A debate ensued but no appropriate initiative could be identified.

13286 On-going business not scheduled elsewhere on agenda:

Mrs Moss has reported the public footpath off Walton Close for proper reinstatement – it is no longer visible and has metalwork protruding. Reported via Fix My Street.

13287 Correspondence:

2/6/2020 The Planning Inspectorate: acknowledgement of receipt of representation APP/M2460/W/19/3241616 re Green's lodge Farm
2/6/2020 query from resident about whether tree felling on Main Street debated by WPC 1/6
2/6/2020 RCC confirmation of notification of road runoff (during storm) affecting dwelling on Stapleford Rd
5/6/2020 Query from resident (part of a series) regarding land adj Walton Close and non-response to her email 1/6/2020. [1/6 email linked to previous did not show as new].
5/6/2020 Letter from RCC re Covid19 funding for councils in need.
8/6/2020 email from resident re overgrown footways on Melton Rd [Reported via FixMyStreet].
15/6/2020 TRO from RCC Highways, Whissendine Rd Ashwell (rail crossing) road closed 22:00hrs 20/7 to 06:00hrs 21/7; 22:00hrs 21/7 to 06:00hrs 22/7; 22:00hrs 22/7 to 06:00hrs 23/7; and 22:00hrs 23/7 to 06:00 24/7.
19/6/2020 RCC Statement of Community Involvement, notice of consultation
22/6/2020 PKF Littlejohn LLP request for supporting information for AGAR Part 3
2/7/2020 Request for grant support from British Red Cross. (for August agenda)

Meeting closed at 20.58 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