

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on **Monday 7 September 2020**
7.15 pm, virtually via Zoom

Present.	Mr Will Farr (Chairman) Mrs Moss, Mrs Lake, Mrs Arnold, Mr Greenlay, Mr Hatton and Mr Comber.
In attendance	Dr S Lammin (Parish Clerk) County Councillor Mrs Rosemary Powell
Also in attendance.	Mr Keith Fairbrother – public observer

Meeting opened at 19.15 hrs

13304 Any questions or comments from the public: None

13305 Apologies for absence received: None

13306 Declaration of any pecuniary interest in any matter on the agenda: None received

13307 To approve minutes of the meetings held on 3 August 2020: proposed by Mr Comber and seconded by Mrs Moss.

13308 Report from Councillors:

Mrs Rosemary Powell, Rutland County reported that

- RCC's CA Site at Cottesmore is still closed so she was seeking to clarify the barriers to reopening with RCC officers.
- The swapping of a beech hedge for the fence adjacent to 34E Main Street is still subject to negotiation between the householder, developer and RCC Planning Officers. A planting scheme for trees on this site has yet to be received.
- The outline application for 66 houses off Stapleford Rd has yet to be decided.

13309 Planning matters

a. To consider plans received between 3 August 2020 and 7 September 2020 where the consultation deadline has not passed, including:

- **2020/0880/FUL** 7 Station Rd: Conversion of outbuilding to ancillary accommodation: The Parish Council were concerned there should be no overlooking of neighbouring property and wished to stress that there should be no windows on the east elevation of the development.
- **2020/0812/FUL** 4 Stapleford Road: Remove existing flat roof and construct new first floor habitable space, accessed from existing house. Aligning new roof with existing adjacent barn: The Parish Council were concerned there should be no overlooking of neighbouring property and wished to stress that there should be no windows on the north elevation of the development.

b. Planning updates received:

- **2020/0625/PTA** 73 Main street: RCC Decision to refuse permission for: T1 1no. Lime Tree crown reduction by 2m, and T2 1no. Ash Tree reduce limbs overhanging garden by 3-4m. but consent to T2 1no. Ash Tree: crown raise over phone lines to give clearance of 1.5m.

- c. To consider the National Association of Local Councils' consultation on proposed changes to the current planning system (PC 10-20, 10 August 2020) and to agree any responses to the questions posed. This was considered a subject that required in-depth reading to provide a considered response so this item was deferred.
- d. To consider any matters arising from the Government's Planning White Paper, recent legislative changes and reduced consultation periods. The debate was around the complexity and pace of change as well as the potential to impact on the future growth of the village. The Clerk was asked to convey to RCC that this matter should be aired at the wider Rutland Parish Forum as soon as practicable.
- e. To consider Rutland County Council's Local Plan Consultation (27 August – 9 October 2020) including a review of the comments offered on 2 March 2020 (minute 13244) and agree the nature of any response within the constraints of the process. It was AGREED that the response would be: “ the Local Plan is unsound in respect of site (WHA09/09A/09B) H1.18, South of Stapleford Rd, Whissendine. In that due regard has not been given to the historical and environmental importance of the mediaeval ridge and furrow as it has been listed as historically important as a unique example ancient ridge and furrow; inclusion should render the Local Plan unsound; nor has due regard been given to the likely exacerbation of flooding in the centre of the village should this site be developed. The reasons for the response were outlined as: The Parish Council have serious concerns about use of this site for development as its been listed as a site of environmental and heritage importance and is a LE7796 Natural England registered site and Historic Environment Recorded site MLE 24620 with fossilized medieval ridge and furrow surface.

This site acts as a holding site for rain water, with increased surface area due to ridge and furrow. The village is vulnerable to flooding in the centre from the Whissendine Brook due to rapid inundations from high ground around the village and the Parish Council would wish to see as much water-holding land as possible retained to reduce the time it takes the water to reach the flood plain and cause the brook to back up.

Rutland County Council has failed to demonstrate within the Local Plan that they have given due regard to these matters. This site was a late entry to the list of potential development sites, proposed after the details of sites was circulated to the Parish Council for comment. Nowhere in the plan is there a justification offered as to how these environmental and heritage issues were rated or why they were ignored in favor of a recommendation for inclusion as being suitable for development. It is suggested this lack of reasoned consideration causes doubt about the rigour of the process and renders the document unsound.“

It was acknowledged that the response form is rather prescriptive and it was AGREED the Clerk be permitted lee-way in translating the above text making minor additions and editing as necessary to meet the terms of the consultation, providing the evidence in support of the Council's expressed views and cross-referencing the draft Local Plan document as required. The Clerk will circulate the consultation response to the Parish Councillors prior to final submission.

13310 The Banks

- a. Update on fitting the new beam to the saucer ride: The beam was fitted on 11 August 2020.

- b. Update on control of creeping thistle on the Banks: A spot treatment using suitable herbicide has been completed. Farm and Garden kindly did this treatment free-of-charge. The Parish Council expressed their thanks to Mr Jonny Baker.
- c. Any other matters arising on the Banks:
- The Clerk was asked to cost benches and report to a future meeting so the Parish Council can consider if they wish to provide more seating in the teen-area. The minimum free-space required around each piece of equipment will also be reported so that the space available for any additional benches can be assessed.
 - Mrs Moss agreed to ask WEG to consider the implications of managing the slight bank between the teen area and the fence of the small children's area as an area for wild meadow-flowers.

13311 Highways and village maintenance

- a. To consider suggestion from Mr Strick of Main Street for a chicane to be constructed in front of either 89 or 91 Main Street so that the restriction would suppress the speed of vehicles using the road. It was AGREED that Mr Strick's suggestion would not be supported. The reasons for the decision were that the need for such an arrangement was not clear also having regard to Department of Transport guidance the provision of a chicane at this location would be contraindicated. This road is on a bus route and also needs to provide sufficient width for large agricultural vehicles like combine harvesters. Chicanes present a hazard to horse-riders and cyclists of whom there are many who use Main Street. The proposed site is on a narrowed section of road on a bend that affects forward vision from east to west this is likely to increase hazard for motorcyclists. The proposed section is between two junctions where No. 89 Main Street is on the corner of one and 97 Main Street is opposite the other, a chicane in this stretch would create a distraction to drivers/riders exiting those junctions. 89 Main Street is also opposite the front door of the parish church such that any parking outside the church for services (including funerals) would cause congestion so close to a chicane. The guidance also indicates that chicanes should not be placed where there are pedestrian crossing points...this stretch has dwellings 89-95 and the access to Fox Hill on the south side of Main Street whilst the pedestrian pavement and church is on the north side – thus any point along this stretch is liable to be a pedestrian crossing point but steps are specifically provided opposite 93 and 89 Main Street.
- b. To consider a response to Mr Taylor of Main Street who complains of inconsiderate parking in the area near the shop/Wookies coffee shop. This matter was considered despite there being no resolution within the power of the Parish Council. Mr Taylor's concerns reflected some others also voiced recently so that the problem of parking in the vicinity of the shop/ Wookies had been addressed in the September Grapevine. The Parish Council reflected that this issue would form part of the wider parking problem that had already been referred to RCC's Parking Manager. He had advised (following an investigation) there were two choices; either provide yellow lines on Main Street near the school and in selected places on Ashwell Rd or do nothing. These choices have been subject to a preliminary consultation with Whissendine residents/businesses. The report did not go to Rutland County Council in March as responses were still being received. Covid19 then caused a pause. The report is expected to go to the RCC Highways and Transport Group meeting on 15th September 2020. It was AGREED Mr Taylor should be advised of the current position.

- c. Matters for report and to agree any necessary action:
- Gate to Station Rd on footpath through allotments has faulty closing spring.
 - Overgrown hedge on corner Paddock Close has been reported but not remedied.
 - Nettles at edge of footpath on Main Street by corner of Station Rd has been reported but not remedied.
 - Grass cutting appears to be uncoordinated taking several visits with limited equipment used on each visit, eg. Strimming on first visit, then mowing on second. This leads to areas being missed and seems very inefficient.

13312 Financial Business

- a) To receive financial report for April 2020: The accounts for July and August have been fully reconciled. There is £22,388.54 available within the budget.
- b) To consider invoices received in August and approve payments, as appropriate:

Village caretaking	£ 64.54
Banks maintenance	£ 252.00
Repair of saucer ride	£ 693.00 (£577.50 plus VAT)
Street Lighting (2019-20)	£ 1106.99

- c) To consider notice of conclusion of audit of 2019-20 accounts and comments received from the external auditor.

The auditor was content that the information provided was in accordance with proper practice and no matters had come to his attention that gave cause for concern. He commented that the internal auditor had erred in not acknowledging that the Councillors act as trustees for the Poor's Land (Long Clawson) charity and indicated that the Parish Council should satisfy themselves that adequate financial controls are in place for these funds. The charity's funds and annual cashflow are below the threshold for registration. It was noted that the Parish Clerk reports annually to the Village Meeting on the Long Clawson Charity Activity for the previous year; including all rental income, gifts received and grants given. The last report was made 11 March 2020 (minute 15 of 11/3/2020).

- 13313 To consider the obligations under The Armed Forces Covenant and whether the Parish Council is able to demonstrate their commitment to the principles of the covenant in any practical way(s) and whether they wish to sign the covenant. It was AGREED that the Armed Forces Covenant has positive aspirations and the Parish Council would wish to sign up. However, it was noted that many of the actions and practices outlined in the template that could demonstrate commitment were outwith the powers or scope of activity of the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to amend the template to generate a document to reflect those areas the Parish Council could influence/control so that it could be signed.

- 13314 On-going business not scheduled elsewhere on agenda:
Security within the village was raised as a concern due to recent instances of overflying by a drone. The Police are aware (incident 0459 of 06/09/2020).

- 13315 Correspondence: None

Meeting closed at 20.55 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