

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present.

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

In attendance

Dr S Lammin (Parish Clerk)
County Councillor Mrs Rosemary Powell

Also in attendance.

Mr Keith Fairbrother, Mr James von der
Voelsungen (RCC's Parking Manager). Mrs
Schofield (Head Teacher, Whissendine
Primary School), Mr M Harman (from Item 2)
Dr John Rawlings (from Item 3), Mr R
Edwards (from Item 5), Mr R Terry and Ms. S
Cave.

Meeting opened at 19. 15hrs

- 13339 Any questions or comments from the public: None (The member of the public who had indicated an intention to speak was not present)
- 13340 Apologies for absence received: from Mrs Lake, by email, after start of meeting (she was unwell).
- 13341 Declaration of any pecuniary interest in any matter on the agenda: None received
- 13342 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2020: proposed by Mrs Moss and seconded by Mrs Arnold.
- 13343 Feedback from the survey on future parking controls in the village from RCC's Parking Manager:
The Parish Council have no powers to resolve the congestion issues around the school and so in October 2019 referred the issue to RCC, as Highway Authority. Their Parking Manager, Mr von Voelsungen, worked up options for parking controls and these were published with an invitation for feedback in The Grapevine in October 2020.
Mr Von Voelsungen reported that in all 44 responses had been received from across the village. Many respondents chose not to provide the Yes/No response requested but offered a narrative response. Some of those responding seemed unaware that the suggestions they offered had already been considered and rejected on grounds of not being lawfully permissible or lacking practicality. There were 33 -Yes's from households (39 individuals) and 11- No's (14 individuals), some households recorded more than one. This represents less than 5% of the electorate offering a view.
Mr Von Voelsungen suggested a way to progress the issue may be to initiate a formal feasibility study. He cautioned that the evidence for a need for controls was weak, as that evidence is based on accident statistics. There have been no relevant accidents officially recorded in Whissendine during recent times. He also suggested an external study may be required to cover a review of the School's Travel Plan, as the issues arose at pupil arrival/departure times.
- Chairman suspended Standing Orders at 19.40hrs to afford Mrs Schofield the opportunity to advise those attending the steps taken by the school-management to address the parking issues associated with the operation of the school.
- Meeting recommenced at 19.43hrs under Standing Orders.

Councillors were aware that the School had tried various initiatives such as the walking-bus, encouraging parents to park/drop off/pick up at the Sports Club on Melton Road, etc. The management of the school have no power to control the behaviour of parents and their efforts at persuasion have not yet resolved the issue.

A debate ensued and the options were considered: do nothing, increase communications with habitual 'problem-parkers', encourage a revision of the School's Travel Plan to see if staggered start-times or another initiative may improve matters, or introduce parking controls (yellow lines). Whether there was a persuasive case for introducing yellow lines from 33 responses, in such a large village was considered debatable. Mr Von Voelsungen was able to advise that should a feasibility study identify a need for yellow lines the matter would still need to go to RCC's Highways and Transport Working Group. At that Group it would be a political decision whether a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) should be pursued. A formal consultation would form part of a TRO legal process.

It was therefore AGREED that Mr Von Voelsungen be requested to undertake a feasibility study and seek the support of RCC's Sustainable Transport officer to assist the school in a review of their Travel Plan, etc.

13344 Reports from Councillors:

- a. Report from Mrs Rosemary Powell, Rutland County Councillor:
Mrs Powell focused to the progress towards a neighbourhood plan (see minute 13346 below). She also noted that currently briefings are provided weekly by RCC's CEO to parishes. These are circulated by the Parish Clerk. She attended the online NHS Transformation meeting for Leicestershire and Rutland (see also 13344bii below).
- b. Reports of meetings attended by Parish Councillors:
 - i. Parish Forum report from Mr Comber: Mr Comber attended the Rutland CC Parish Forum on 16th November 2020. Janet Underwood (Health Watch) and RC Councillor Alan Walters presented on LLR CCG proposals to transform acute hospitals and maternity services. The second presentation concerned "Planning for the Future": the White Paper and changes to the current planning system". The immediate changes involve changes to assessing housing need, securing first homes through developer-contributions pending transition to a new system, temporarily lifting thresholds below which developers do not need to contribute to affordable housing, and extending the current 'Permission in Principle' to major development.
 - ii. Health Service consultation event report from Mrs Moss: The meeting was attended via Zoom. There is £450M fund to transform the hospital system in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. There is planned re-organisation of the Leicester Hospitals involving separating emergency and planned care, with emergencies to Leicester Royal and planned care focused on Glenfield Treatment centre, including the stroke unit and midwife-led birthing unit, etc. They are looking at neighbouring counties' resources for on-going care, e.g. Peterborough, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Rutland Memorial Hospital is not identified for closure. Plans include 'Home First' and step-down to cottage hospitals as part of care services. There are more services at Rutland Memorial including a respiratory clinic. Travel challenges to reach the major hospitals is likely to remain an emotive issue in Rutland. Some primary care issues affecting Oakham were aired.

13345 Planning matters

- a. To consider plans received between 3 November and 6 December 2020, not yet determined by RCC:
 - i. 2020/1220/PTA: 1no. Large Lime crown to be raised by 6m all round and 3m reduction by house. The applicant had requested to make representations on this matter but was not present during the call for question/comments from the public at the beginning of the meeting. It was therefore AGREED that the comment already submitted to the Planning Authority be endorsed: "This tree is in the same row of trees as a previous application, but from a different householder,

permission was refused on the other tree in this group following the Parish Council's response that they considered the work too severe. The work to this tree seems also to be too severe. The crown is already raised to a suitable height and already allows for 3m access for general maintenance and therefore does not appear to need the pruning work requested."

- ii. 2020/1208/PTA: 1no. Horse Chestnut crown reduction 1m The Elms Melton Rd.: closing date for comments was 3 December two Parish Councillors have recommended permission not be granted. The meeting AGREED with that view.
- iii. 2020/1276/FUL: Polytunnel land east of Stapleford Rd: The Parish Council would not wish to see a poly-tunnel, or other significant structures/roadways/ hard-standing developed on this field. The reasons are: The proposed building is just above the flood plan on a field that regularly floods to a significant width along the stream-boundary. This flooding can persist for significant periods, days and sometimes weeks. [The village streams drain into this same flood-plain and at times of peak flow/overtopping the stream backs up and floods Cow Lane, the Nook and most importantly Main Street from the bridge (occasionally the road both sides of the bridge) up to The Green/Whissendine Cottage Boundary rendering the only road traversing the village impassable.] A building of 8mx36m and associated hard-standing is likely to increase rapid run-off to the stream on the east boundary (especially as there are believed to be land-drains within the site draining to the stream) and there-by exacerbate the flood problem in the village. The Parish Council are of the view that any drainage schemes in this area that rely on use of local water courses will exacerbate the flood problem.

In addition to the volume of run-off the Parish Council have concern about the quality of run-off. The intense growing of fruit in a poly-tunnel is normally associated with deployment of chemical fertilizers and biocides. Given the limestone substrate and the inclination of the field towards the eastern stream it is deemed likely that any spillages/run-off is likely to find its way to the stream. This stream is Whissendine Brook a tributary of R Eye and part the R. Wreake catchment so that any contamination could be expected to have a significant environmental impact.

The third area of concern about this development is it's likely high-visibility to the cluster houses on the eastern-spur of the Stapleford Road at the edge of the village – where previously there was an arable field that formed part of the broad patchwork of arable fields/pasture-land that form the backdrop to the north-west of the village of Whissendine.

b. Planning updates

2020/0880/FUL conversion of outbuilding 7 Station Rd: Granted by RCC with conditions; use integral to existing dwelling, not openings facing No 5, etc.

2020/1030/FUL rear extension 1 Foxhill: Granted by RCC

2020/0992/FUL replacement conservatory 26 Foxhill: Granted by RCC

2020/1116/PTA T1 Ash Tree 29 The Nook, reduction all round by 4m granted by RCC.

13346 Neighbourhood Planning: To review progress of the establishment of a Steering Group

It was confirmed that an exploratory Zoom meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 9 December 2020. This meeting has been advertised in the Grapevine and on whissendine.net; in addition to individual email invitations circulated to those who have already registered an interest.

13347 The Banks: To consider any maintenance issues arising: None

13348 Provision for Burials:

- a. To agree the establishment of a task group to locate land suitable for acquisition for a future extension to the burial capacity for villagers: The Parish Council is acting as a statutory burial authority and the potential need was described in terms of the time involved in finding suitable land, negotiating terms for transfer, obtaining planning permission for the change-of-use and making the area suitable to accept burials. There was no firm understanding of the time-frame before the present extension was exhausted of space. It was AGREED that the Clerk should write to the PCC to ask for their estimation about the timing of a likely need for more space.
- b. To consider a request for from St Andrew's Parochial Church Council that the Parish Council effect a remedy to a slippery slope leading into the present graveyard extension in Station Road: The history of the site was confirmed. The site was acquired by the Parish Council about 20-years ago and necessary permissions and preparations made for it to be suitable to accept burials. The site was then transferred to the PCC to manage. It has been, and continues to be, managed by the PCC and still accepts burials, for which burial-fees are payable. The Clerk questioned whether granting the PCC's request could be ultra vires. The basis of her concern was that the Local Government Act 1894 expressly prohibits councils from spending money on maintaining or improving church property. However, subsequent legislation appears contradictory as s214 of the Local Government Act 1972 permits a parish council to contribute towards the expenses incurred by any person in...maintaining a cemetery. There remains a difference of legal opinion whether s214(6) of the Local Government Act 1972 overrides the provisions of the 1894 Act. The national guidance is that any council considering giving financial assistance to a church should seek specific legal advice. It was AGREED that the Clerk should seek necessary legal advice. It was further AGREED should the council be advised they may lawfully act to assist the PCC, the Clerk should seek estimates of the work necessary to remedy the slippery path and the likely cost involved.

13349 Highways and village maintenance: None

13350 Financial Business

- a. To consider financial report for November
The details of expenditure were received: as of 30 November 2020 the Parish Council will have £14912.17 remaining in the budget after settling the expenses incurred, the accounts are reconciled. There are sufficient funds for planned expenditure. VAT has been reclaimed up to November 2020 but monies have yet to be received.
- b. Invoices received in November and approval of payments:

Village Caretaking (November)	£ 82.98
Christmas Tree	£ 187.50
Village Hall room Jan/Feb/Mar	£ 48.75
Grapevine (publishing public info.)	£ 502.00

13351 On-going business not scheduled elsewhere on agenda

- a. Review of the Council's standing orders: It was AGREED no change required.
- b. Review of the Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures. It was AGREED any change required to comply with NALC Document LTN22 of November 2019 following the High Court decision R(Harvey) v. Ledbury Town Council [2018] EWHC 1151 Admin. should be made.
- c. There was discussion about acknowledging the efforts of the operators two village businesses, the Village Shop and the White Lion Pub., in assisting villagers this year, during Coronavirus restrictions.

13352 Correspondence

2/11/2020 Jennifer Lee/Blockley requesting s137 grant (amount unspecified). Details of the organisation requesting support unclear; more information requested but no response yet.
13/11/2020 Richard Drabble (multiple) re TPO's and Willow Close
18/11/2020 Email from a resident regarding obstruction of footpath 29 The Nook.
22/11/2020 Richard Drabble request for copy of WPC response to RCC's draft Local Plan (supplied)
25/11/2020 Sarah Furness, Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland re: 'Dying Matters in Rutland'
26/11/2020 Lucy Stephenson, RCC Portfolio-holder for Highways, Transport, ...etc.: re RCC refreshing Parking Strategy and requesting info. on parking.
30/11/2020 Email from Bob Terry re deferral of RCC's decision on the outline application for land off Stapleford Rd.

Meeting closed 21.13hrs

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