

Barkestone, Plungar & Redmile Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting from Thursday 21st May 2021 at 7:00pm
via **ZOOM**

Present: Councillors Lowther (chair) Greaves, Evans Parry, Smith and Grant

Officer Present: Parish Clerk

Borough & County Representatives: 3

Members of the public: 3

Ref: Subject:

001/20 Elect the Chairman of the Parish Council and to receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office form and to elect the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council and to receive the Vice-Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office form:

Councillor Lowther agreed to take the Chair and was proposed by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Grant. Councillor Evans agreed to be Vice-Chairman and was proposed by Councillor Parry and seconded by Councillor Smith. Both Councillor Lowther and Councillor Evans signed the declaration of acceptance of office form and will return these to the Clerk.

002/20 Apologies for absence - There were none.

003/20 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

004/20 Resolution to sign Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Thursday 23rd April 2020:

The Minutes were accepted and signed. The Clerk expressed her thanks to Councillor Greaves who took the minutes at the previous meeting, in her absence.

005/20 Residents Questions:

Residents, in attendance, had interest in Agenda Item 014/20 and one in 009/20 and remained for these items. There were no additional residents' questions.

006/20 Update from Borough and County Councillors:

Councillor Evans was in Attendance.

Cllr Steadman advised that Melton Borough Council had a new Planning Committee with a number of councillors coming from rural areas.

Councillor Byron Rhodes advised that Social Services had been the main focus of the County Council to ensure that as many people as possible could remain in their own home and that independent providers had been providing a good service. Stocks of PPE are being held at County Hall. 200 schools had remained open during COVID to support Care, NHS and Key workers. 2000 children were attending at the moment and there were no known problems. The County Council support the opening of all schools in June.

Councillor Rhodes advised that Melton's Household Waste Site was now open with a booking system in operation, pot holes were being filled in when highways were able to, the bus services had been maintained during COVID but not many people were using them. The County Council had managed to keep most services open.

007/20 Planning:

Applications received for consideration:

(a) 20/00455/NONMAT – The Chaff Barn, 20 Post Office Lane, Redmile – no objection

Applications approved:

(a) 20/00373/TCA – Castle View, 17 Main Street, Redmile

(b) 20/00374/FULHH – Shire Barn, 2 Easthorpe Lane, Redmile

008/20 Overfields, 1 Belvoir Road, Redmile:

(a) Planning Application on the Barn – The planning application has now expired and no work has been undertaken. Councillor Lowther proposed that the Parish Council write to MBC to ask what they proposed to do about that, whether there was a specific procedure to follow and would an extension be granted due to COVID. The Parish Council would request where the legislation could be found. This was seconded by Councillor Grant. **ACTION: Clerk to write a letter to MBC.**

- (b) Tree Application in Conservation Area – 20/00439/TCA. Numerous parishioners and the Parish Council have been in contact with the Case Officer at MBC in relation to this application. Currently, the orchard has been taken out of the application and it was proposed by Councillor Lowther and seconded by Councillor Parry that the Parish Council write to MBC requesting that the Hawthorne tree be retained as there is no reason for its removal and it is not going to affect the building. The Parish Council are happy for all the other tree works to be undertaken in line with the Case Officer's observations. Councillor Greaves advised that many of the parishioners in Redmile were against any of the trees being removed but acknowledged that this was a Tree Application in a conservation area and that the Parish Council had been advised of the application 'For Information Only'. **ACTION: Clerk to write to MBC requesting the non-removal of the Hawthorne.**

009/20 Down Grading of Byway, Church Lane, Redmile:

- (a) The Clerk had been advised by the department of Environment & Transport that they could not recall any previous downgrading applications being instigated by Parish Councils and that the majority of applications of this nature tend to come from the owners of the land through which the highway runs.
- (b) The Clerk advised that one Parish Council had responded to the request for information in the LRALC weekly round robin.

The Parish Council believe that LCC would want the byways to be in a useable condition and it was proposed by Councillor Parry and seconded by Councillor Lowther that the clerk write to LCC to enquire how the Parish Council could obtain a temporary Traffic Regulation Order, how they are enforced, who is responsible for maintaining the track and the time duration that this would be effective. Secondly, the Clerk was asked to write to Belvoir Estates, who are the landowners, to see if they can offer their support. **ACTION: Clerk to write to LCC and Belvoir Estates.**

010/20 Redmile Church Yard Trees:

- (a) The Clerk advised that 3 organisations had been contacted to provide the Parish Council with a quote for the tree works. At the time of the meeting, only one had submitted a quote. **ACTION: Clerk to contact 2 other organisations to provide a quote.**
- (b) The Clerk advised that she was in communication with the Diocese of Leicester and that they had requested a substantial amount of information from the Parish Council in order that the works could go ahead. **ACTION: Clerk to contact the Diocese to ascertain the purpose of the information and to provide what was requested within a reasonable time frame.**
- (c) The Clerk advised that when permission had been received from the Diocese, a planning application would need to be made to MBC prior to the work being undertaken.

In addition, Councillor Lowther advised that there were at least 10 leylandii that, again, required chopping back to the play park boundary to 2.5 metres in height and there is a Hornbeam tree hanging over the play park sandpit which requires attention. **ACTION: Clerk to obtain 3 quotes for this work and write to MBC for planning permission.**

011/20 Flooding In Redmile:

- (a) Councillor Lowther advised that he had been in contact with LCC Highways to request the installation of a grill at the entrance of the culvert. **ACTION: Clerk to contact Severn Trent to see if this something that they would be able to do.**

012/20 Sustrans – Update on Licence Acquisition for Railway Path:

The Parish Councillors have agreed, in conjunction with Sustrans, minor amendments to the proposed licence and Councillor Parry agreed to send the amended licence to the Clerk for her signature. Once signed, this will be sent to Sustrans. **ACTION: Councillor Parry to forward amended licence to the Clerk.**

It was proposed by Councillor Parry and seconded by Councillor Evans that a sub-committee is set up to renovate and maintain the railway track. The Parish Council believed that a number of residents would be willing to offer their assistance.

013/20 Barkestone-Le-Vale:

- (a) Councillor Parry advised that he had submitted a licence for the benches on Fishpond Lane together with replacement border posts around the war memorial and a cultivation licence for the planting of shrubs around the war memorial. He advised that LCC had come back to him requesting he be more

specific about where everything is going and what the specifications were including. Councillor Parry had sent a proposal to Councillors outlining these details and the Councillors approved the proposal. The Parish Council thank Councillor Parry for his efforts.

- (b) The overhanging trees on Barkestone bus shelter have now been removed and the repairs will take place in due course.
- (c) Councillor Evans will be sourcing a notice board to the cost, design and specification of the previous one agreed by the Parish Councillors.

014/20 Plungar:

- (a) Progress on Planning Appeal against site on Barkestone Lane, Plungar:

The Parish Council and the parishioners have not yet received a date for the Appeal. It was agreed that, upon receipt of that date, action would need to be taken and our response to the appeal would need to be submitted without delay. A number of parishioners, in attendance at the meeting, made several suggestions as to what could be included in the appeal and how MBC might be in a position to assist but, at present, there is no specific action to be taken. Councillor Grant suggested the Parish Council write to MBC asking if they intended to employ a barrister to defend the Appeal so that we, the Parish Council, would have some idea of their potential financial exposure. This was agreed by all Councillors. **ACTION: Councillor Evans to draft a letter to MBC.**

015/20 Redmile:

- (a) There is an obstructing tree on Church Lane and an obstructing hedge on Bakers Lane. The hedge on Bakers Lane had been reduced but the Parish Council agreed that this needed to be taken back to the boundary. **ACTION: Councillor Lowther to contact the resident on Church Lane and the Clerk to contact Belvoir Estates in relation to the hedge.**
- (b) The Parish Councillors are in receipt of the results of the Housing Needs Survey. MBC have advised that they will respond to the communication from the Parish Council.
- (c) Councillor Evans has received a response from Stathern Parish Council in relation to the Parish Council's enquiries into Activated Speed Signs.
- (d) The Clerk has been contacted by Severn Trent Water who would be willing to visit the play park site to look at the viability of installing a water fountain. **ACTION: Clerk to arrange a suitable date and time for a site visit.**

016/20 Severn Trent Water supply:

- (a) The Clerk has written to the CEO at Severn Trent outlining the issues that have arisen during the past few months and the lack of response to the communications sent by parishioners and the Parish Council.
- (b) Certain water supply issues are still in existence and, hopefully, these can be addressed in the near future.

017/20 Parish Council Website:

Councillor Parry identified a number of anomalies on the new website. In addition, he offered his assistance to the Clerk in maintaining the website if it is required. The Clerk thanked Councillor Parry. **ACTION: Clerk to undertake housekeeping of the website.**

It was suggested by Councillor Smith that all Parish Councillors send to the Clerk a synopsis about themselves that can be put on the website. **ACTION: Councillors to send the Clerk information for the website.**

018/20 Actions Required from Previous Meeting:

- (a) A letter has been sent to MBC in relation to the Plungar Housing Needs Survey (194/19)
- (b) The licence between the Parish Council and Sustrans has been modified (196/19)
- (c) The siting of a traffic mirror in the grounds of Redmile Church (199/19) **ACTION: Clerk to write asking for permission**
- (d) An application for a licence for siting of picnic benches at Barkestone has been submitted
- (e) A new notice board for Barkestone is being acquired
- (f) Newsletter – **ACTION: Clerk to allocate newsletter items to Parish Councillors**
- (g) A response has been received in relation to Vehicular Activated Signs
- (h) Redmile Play Park Equipment Inspection – **This is on hold due to COVID**

(i) Push test on grave stones in Redmile church – **This is on hold due to COVID**

019/20 Financial:

(a) Current account balance at 30.04.2020 - £2,272.04; Deposit Account balance - £14,764.02

(b) Payments required for May 2020: Came & Company - £774.13 – Annual Insurance;

G. Richardson - £10.00 – Plungar Memorial

(c) Direct Debits: E-on - £118.50 – Street Lighting (May)

All Parish Councillors agreed to the payment of the above.

020/20 Councillors' Reports:

(a) Councillor Smith advised that cyclists who were riding two/three abreast were causing problems for motorists throughout the Vale of Belvoir. **ACTION: Clerk to write to Leicestershire Police Headquarters advising them of the problem**

(b) Councillor Lowther advised that he had been in conversation with Voluntary Action Leicester who advised that they may be able to assist the Parish Council with grant applications

(c) Councillor Greaves advised that he had sent Parish Councillors photographs of an overgrown hedge on Main Street, Redmile and an overgrown hedge on the footpath between the play park and the church that was making the footpath unusable

021/20 Clerk's Report:

The Clerk advised the internal and external audit dates had been extended due to COVID. She would be in contact with the internal auditor within the next couple of weeks.

022/20 The next meeting will be held on Thursday 18th June at 7pm via ZOOM.