

Minutes of the Annual Bulcote Parish Meeting
held in Bulcote Farm Committee Room
on Monday 20 May 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present: - Councillors K. Simpson (Chairman), P. Mountain, N. Leaves and C. Springthorpe

In attendance:- District Councillor T. Wendels

A.E.Knowles (Clerk)

1.Apologies

Cllr. A. Washbrooke sent his apologies.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 May 2018.

The minutes were approved.

3. Chairman's Report

Highways & Footpaths

In response to a resident's complaint new litter bins were installed each side of the A612 at its junction with Old Main Road. Following damage to the new bin at the end of The Spinney as a result of mowing activity, a replacement bin was provided following an insurance claim from the Highway Authority. The damaged bin has been recovered and refurbished for use elsewhere once an agreed location has been found.

The issue of speeding on the A612 was raised and a meeting was held with Highways to discuss reducing the speed limit to 30 mph between the Old Main Road crossroad and the Church. This was rejected, but a speed indicator was supplied. Unfortunately, this was only temporary and has now been removed. It is understood however that a reduction to a 50mph speed limit is being considered between Bulcote Church and Lowdham.

A complaint was received that the village sign at the junction of Old Main Road and the A612 was obstructing the vision of traffic approaching from Lowdham. Relevant dimensions and photographs were sent to Highways, but the complaint was rejected.

An overflowing dog bin adjacent Field House was again identified. It was agreed to obtain a larger bin and relocate the existing one. This action is still pending.

Planning Matters

Planning continued to be a significant issue during the year with the Bulcote Farm development still ongoing together with the McCarthy and Stone development on the Burton Joyce Car Sales site.

Bulcote Farm finally came before the Planning Committee in February with a recommendation for refusal on the grounds of inadequate highway access. County Councillor Roger Jackson and the Parish Council both spoke against the proposals. The Committee however deferred the decision in order that a more robust objection could be made as a defence against any subsequent appeal. Unfortunately, this has allowed the applicant the opportunity to review their proposals, therefore further delaying any decision. A meeting recently held with STW's subsidiary Midland Land Portfolio Ltd and Northern Trust revealed little other than they are reviewing the costs of the enabling development with another consultant. The use of the Farm Rooms is likely to continue, subject to an inspection of the electric and water supplies, but it may be that a charge for their use may be made.

The Burton Joyce Car Sales site finally received approval following a limited scaling down of the proposed elevations. The Parish Council's concerns regarding inadequate car parking provision have been ignored and it appears that no monies from any Community Infrastructure Levy will be available via this development.

The residential development adjacent Gable Oaks had been approved on appeal, but the Parish Council questioned the subsequent change to the site boundary. This was rejected and Newark and Sherwood approved it.

Community Matters -

In November we were sad to report the passing of George Fish, a stalwart supporter of the village for many years and former vice chairman of the Parish Council. The Council offered its condolences to his family.

A gate post was damaged during access to mow Ropers Field and was replaced. It was felt that consideration should be given to widening this opening to facilitate easier access for the mowing machinery. This action is in abeyance pending possible access from the top of the field via the farm land.

At the instigation of Councillor Leaves a meeting was arranged to form a Steering Group to develop a Parish Neighbourhood Plan. The meeting was well attended by 14 people together with Helen Metcalfe a planning consultant. The progress of the Neighbourhood Plan has been good and under the chairmanship of Councillor Leaves and the assistance of the Steering Group assisted by Helen Metcalfe a pre-submission draft has now been prepared. Contributions have also been made by Urban Forward Ltd and DSA in preparing a character assessment of the village and a Village Design Guide which is appended to the Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan is currently going through a statutory consultation process until the end of May, which will include two public drop in events.

The planters adjacent the flag pole and The Spinney noticeboard had been damaged apparently by strimming of the grass. Two new more robust half barrel timber planters were acquired and these have recently been planted with summer bedding.

As part of the works in refurbishing the outbuilding at Walnut House, Councillor Leaves kindly arranged to have the telephone box repainted, which is now resplendent in post office red with its gold crowns.

The three commemorative benches have recently been repainted and a request made to also paint the information board adjacent the flag pole.

The General Data Protection Regulations came into force in May 2018 and the recommendations of the National Association of Local Councils was reviewed. The Parish Council felt they were sufficiently compliant as no personal information was held. Subsequently further recommendations were made by NALC regarding the use of personal email addresses by Councillors. It was felt that dedicated email addresses should be used, but this is still to be fully implemented.

Our longstanding Parish Clerk Roger Aston retired on the 31st March 2019 and we were fortunate to be able to employ Annette Knowles as his replacement. A vote of thanks and a retirement gift of a shooting stick and bottle of wine were given to Roger on his departure.

With the likelihood of losing the Farm Rooms as a community facility, consideration was given to the erection of a village hall on the Tall Trees site on the kind offer of the owner Carl Springthorpe. Following further discussions, it was felt that there would be access issues for pedestrians crossing the A612, particularly at night. The Parish Council were also mindful of not wanting to compromise any future development plans for the site by the introduction of a village hall. It was agreed to consider an alternative location on Ropers Field as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. Although Newark & Sherwood District Council are not in favour of this proposal, being within the Conservation Area, the Parish Council will continue to pursue it as an option.

Bulcote Church are planning a flower festival in June and the Parish Council have agreed to support this with a donation and to make part of Ropers Field available for a small marquee.

4. County and District Councillor's Report

These were included in the Council's AGM on the same evening.

5. Parishioners' matters

There was one parishioner present expressing several concerns:

- There may be possible tree contamination in the Bulcote plantation which has a TPO. Councillor Wendels' suggested he apply for formal permission to prune overhanging branches.
- Expressed concerns about vehicles accessing the McCarthy & Stone development and using the verges of Old Main Road. Councillor Simpson suggested the council contact Highways about this and asked him to report any other activity to the council.
- Also expressed concern about the water supply/drainage to the village due to the piling of foundations at the site. Councillor Leaves suggested the council contact McCarthy & Stone to arrange a meeting to discuss residents' concerns.

Councillor Simpson said he received a complaint about the advertising hoarding on the site – to contact N & S D C to confirm if permission is required.

Date of next Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 18 May 2020

Approved:-

Chairman

Date: