

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 12 March 2020

1 Attendance and Apologies

In attendance: Cllr Christine Jackson (Chair), Cllr Gordon Wordsworth, Cllr Tracey Elliott, Cllr Jean Dickinson and five village residents.

Apologies: Cllr John Edge

2 Declaration of Personal Interest

None.

3 Adjournment

- i Concerns were raised by residents about the state of Lady Mary Walk which they considered a beautiful walk but with a dangerous path with debris from the trees. Cllr Elliott explained that this had been discussed at the last Parish Council meeting and she has since contacted the gardener to see what can be done. As the area belongs to DMBC, we are limited in our actions but health and safety concerns have been raised with DMBC and we are awaiting their reply. The gardener currently cuts off extraneous growth around the base of the trees and will plant bulbs. Cllr Elliott asked that villagers contact her with problems and said that concerns about the paths will be addressed.
- ii The villagers asked if we could look at a longer term view of the area and ask for more gravel to be laid. Cllr Elliott said that we can do the costings with the gardener.
- iii Villagers were asked to add their voices to those of the Parish Council and to register their concerns on the "mydoncaster" site, to gain more emphasis and a speedier resolution.
- iv Villagers asked about the fencing which lies between the wood and Lady Mary Walk – Cllr Elliott agreed to contact the golf course.
- v One of the villagers actively reports problems to DMBC, including the broken signs in the village. She had also reported speeding traffic and received a reply which said that road markings are down to the Police. Councillors advised that a speedwatch scheme had been requested and that traffic and speed had been measured but that we believe that Hickleton is not seen as a priority.
- vi On the subject of the Bypass Group and the PC, Cllr Wordsworth had accompanied them to a meeting with DMBC and he advised that we are to get a more up-to-date box to monitor pollution.
- vii Cllr Wordsworth agreed to include in the next Hickleton a plea to villages to not park on the footpaths. He will also include a piece about the compost heap, reminding villagers that it is not for their garden waste but for leaves from Lady Mary Walk.
- viii The footpath towards Goldthorpe is becoming overgrown again making access difficult for pushchairs. The path past Scholey's barn is also getting difficult. This is monitored by Cllr Elliott.
- ix With regard to litter, some villagers pick up litter constantly both within the village and on surrounding road sides. The two ladies present were commended on the work they do picking up litter and debris. The Chair sympathised with sentiments about litter and said there was a lot of apathy. The PC chip away at the problems but villagers could lend their weight by complaining to DMBC.

4 Approval of Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 23 January 2020 were proposed by Cllr Wordsworth and seconded by Cllr Elliott.

5 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- i. Item 3.i.a. Repairs to the path in LMW had been discussed and are ongoing.
- ii. Item 3.i.b. With regard to hedges on the main road, DMBC are not prepared to help with traffic calming issues as they are on private land.
- iii. Item 3.i.c. Councillors have been around the village and have a list of points to be addressed.
- iv. Item 3.i.d. The compost heap in LMW was to be discussed later.
- v. Item 5.i. The matter of the defibrillator was raised at the VHMC meeting and one of the Committee Members is to apply for a machine via an ASDA scheme.
- vi. Item 5.ii. Repairs to the crossroads were now complete.

- vii. Item 5.v. One of the villagers has been asked to give a quotation for an honours board.
- viii. Item 9.i. The missing bollard on the route out of Goldthorpe has been replaced.

6 Report from Hickleton Bypass Action Group

- i. Cllr Wordsworth had, with members of the Group, met with DMBC's Consultant, whose remit was to plot a potential route for a relief road. Part of this was to see if it was a viable proposition, what the likely costs would be and the benefits of the scheme. It is hoped that the first report will be made public in May/June. If it is then deemed viable, the scheme goes onto the next stage where planning incurs bigger costs. The Group had been told it would not be a quick process, at least ten years, and with further complications caused by HS2.
- ii. Discussions took place and it was explained that if the road cost £20 million to build, it would need to attract £40 million of benefit. It was felt that the best hope lies with Sheffield City Region adopting it in their plans. All roundabouts currently cause bottlenecks for the vast amount of traffic using the A635. The case for it is thought to be political, not economic and both Mayor Dan Jarvis and Barnsley MDC are keen to proceed. It was felt that widening the roundabout further along the A635 will cause more delays in Hickleton. The issue of a relief road figures in both DMBC's and BMBC's current plans.

7 Finance

(a) Accounts

- i. Most of the income comes from the parish precept. Of the £12,549.31 available to spend, £8,828.38 has actually been spent with a total of £3,720 left. The new precept will be available at the end of March.
- ii. Payments to the gardener have been £2,705 which is more than budgeted, but it is necessary to keep the village tidy.
- iii. Insurance costs just less than £1,000.
- iv. Cllr Wordsworth recommended the accounts, Cllr Jackson proposed them, seconded by Cllr Elliott.

(b) Projected Budget

- i. This year's budget includes £4,000 to spend on the village gardener and other such matters in the village.
- ii. The budgeted bank balance is £4,000 and, together with the parish precept of £6,450, leaves a total of £10,450 to spend. Of this, £7,984 has been allocated, leaving a prospective £2,466 year- end balance.
- iii. Cllr Jackson proposed the budget and Cllr Elliott seconded.

(c) Payments

- i. Room hire of £18 was proposed by Cllr Jackson, seconded by Cllr Elliott.
- ii. Payment to the gardener of £2,705 was proposed by Cllr Jackson, seconded by Cllr Wordsworth.
- iii. Adobe rental of £21.14 for the website was proposed by Cllr Jackson, seconded by Cllr Elliott.
- iv. Purchase of Edinburgh Crystal tumblers for £15 was proposed by Cllr Jackson, seconded by Cllr Dickinson.

8 Open Spaces

- i. Most matters already covered within the agenda.
- ii. The compost heap on Lady Mary Walk was discussed and whether to empty it and start again. Cllr Elliott agreed to report it to DMBC as fly tipping to be removed as much of what is being put in there is not compostable.
- iii. Much of the litter on Red House Lane, Lidgett Lane and Barnburgh Lane is being cleared as pipework is being laid.
- iv. Cllr Elliott had asked the gardener if he was able to work on the two bankings near the crossroads, but he feels it is too dangerous. He has cleared the pavement and will monitor the path to the Church. He has removed a lot of moss and ivy from the wall backing on to the Winston Churchill Memorial Garden and will look at the church steps.
- v. Cllr Elliott will ask him to blow the leaves off the wood and to not cut off flower heads. If anyone is thinning out bulbs or has spares, they could be incorporated into a bulb planting day.

9 Highways

- i. There have been two accidents since the last meeting: one at 5pm on Thursday 27 February at the crossroads and one at 10.45 am on Wednesday 5 February at the Lidgett Lane Junction.
- ii. Cllr Edge to be asked if he collates the information and passes it to the Police.

10 Neighbourhood Watch

- i. Cllr Dickinson reported on a Neighbourhood Watch meeting she had attended in Barnburgh on 2 March 2020, a meeting arranged by Cllr Ransome as a result of a number of burglaries and incidents of anti-social behaviour in Barnburgh village. Police Inspector Adrian Luscombe and Sergeant Kelly Hope were there, as well as Lisa Swainson from DMBC.
- ii. We were told of plans to increase the team managed by Kelly in our area from 4 to 7 Police Officers and 4 PCSOs and of the dedicated burglary team that has been set up for the first time in years which is making use of covert patrols. Burglary figures for February were 14, mostly in Sprotborough, 2 in Barnburgh, 1 in Clayton and 2 in Hampole.
- iii. Extra measures are being taken to tackle the problem of nuisance vehicles, including off-road vehicles.
- iv. With regard to speeding, a Community Speedwatch operation between villagers and the Police is soon to operate in Cadeby with offenders receiving warning letters. After the meeting, representatives of other villages were invited to express interest in a similar operation within their neighbourhoods and this was requested for Hickleton.
- v. The question of litter, and in particular drug detritus, was brought up and it was pointed out that this is an issue for DMBC. Lisa Swainson noted concerns, as well as the ones in Hickleton which include the re-erection of two major road signs on the A635.

11 Joint Rural Parishes

- i. There had been no further meetings of the JRP.

12 Village Hall Report

- i. The Village Hall is currently operating on a profit.
- ii. Events are planned – the 75th VE Day celebrations, Afternoon Tea on Mothers' Day and a flower arranging session.
- iii. Repairs are planned for a section of the roof, the guttering and some rendering to the chimney.
- iv. The building will be closed for elections on 7 May but elections may be abandoned in light of the Coronavirus issue.
- v. Bookings are good, mainly for birthday celebrations and christenings, and show that the Village Hall is being used.
- vi. There is less than a year left on the lease and concerns about renewal but we remain optimistic that Halifax Estates will grant a renewal.

13 Any Other Business

- i. It had been mentioned at the recent VHMC meeting that the PC could be asked to pay for commemorative coins for children. Cllr Wordsworth had already looked into this and found that only one was allowed per household, making it impossible to order sufficient.
- ii. The Ken Keen Award is to be advertised with nominations requested by 30 April.
- iii. It was agreed that planning applications received from DMBC be discussed and minuted in the meetings to record decisions made.

14 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on ??? at 8.15 pm in the Village Hall.