

Minutes of the Stathern Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 14th August at 7pm in the Plough Inn Function Room

Present: Cllrs Hourd (Chair), Bray, Ramsay, Underwood, Smith, Daniels and Cllr B. Rhodes (MBC).

Clerk: S. Smart

Members of the public: 14

53. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10th July 2018

A resident asked that item 46 be amended to show that the grass was not cut on the day before the meeting as stated, as some cutting had taken place earlier. The Clerk disagreed, but this amendment was accepted. The resident also stated that she didn't mention she had now found someone reliable to cut the grass. However, all councillors agreed this was said and the change was not accepted. The rest of the minutes were accepted, approved and signed.

54. Receipt of SRA sub-committee meeting minutes

Copies of the minutes were handed out and Cllr Smith talked the meeting through these.

55. Declarations of interest and dispensations

To be declared during the agenda item if applicable.

56. Correspondence/Planning Applications received prior to the meeting

Correspondence

Email from Melton Borough Council to say that there will be changes to bin collections, from the 10th September, as part of the new Waste and Recycling Contract. All residents will receive a 'bin hanger' over the next few weeks and also a letter and new calendar. Details will be on MBC's website from the 20th August.

Email from the PCC regarding work to the church roof which may necessitate the removal of a couple of branches from a Lawson Cypress. This was agreed.

Advance notice that Birds Lane will be closed between Blacksmith End and the new housing development for up to eight days, commencing on the 17th September. This is to allow Western Power to install a new electricity supply. A press release will be sent two weeks prior to work commencing.

Email from the Flood Management Team in response to the request to look into stopping the water pouring across Mill Hill which turns to black ice when cold. They have said that there is no obligation on landowners to prevent naturally occurring surface water or ground water from flowing off their land and therefore they are unable to help. This has already been to the highways department and has now been passed back again. It was asked if Cllr Rhodes would investigate as it is dangerous for road users and in the interests of safety it needs addressing.

The clerk reported a blocked gully a while ago on Mill Hill and has been informed that it will be cleaned shortly.

Email from Leicestershire County Council regarding progress for the delegation or sharing of services to Parish Councils. This work is still on going.

Councillors were forwarded an email from Melton Borough Council containing a link to a survey about Housing Mix and Affordable Housing as MBC are developing a supplementary planning document to the emerging Local Plan.

A letter received from MBC to say that Parish Councils will now have to pay the cost associated with a parish election. The estimated cost for the election in May 2019 will be around £366. Any casual vacancy posts that are contested will cost around £900.

Planning

18/00910 Fell Willow tree - The Old Rectory, 8 Water Lane – No objection.

18/00883 Erection of an agricultural barn - Field 6873 Wood Lane – Cllr Underwood declared an interest – No objection.

18/00879 Detached car port and workshop, 8A Penn Lane – No objection

18/00822& 852- Construct a green oak framed store area/low car-port, Vigornia Cottage, 18 Main Street – No objection.

8/00799– Change dormer roof to dutch barn dormers, The Nurseries, 10 City Road – No objection.

57. Payments and Receipts

Parish Council Payments

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|---|---------|
| R. Scarborough – grass | £400.00 |
| R. Scarborough – allotment hedge | £140.00 |
| Stathern W.I – 59ers lunch contribution | £200.00 |
| Clerks Salary (5 weeks) | £552.45 |
| HP printer cartridges | £76.50 |
| Viking Signs – no fly tipping | £34.88 |
| Wix website | £86.40 |

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|------------------------------------|--------|
| LRALC – Allotment course | £40.00 |
| SSE Electricity Bill | £98.30 |
| E.On – repair to two street lights | £56.33 |

Parish Council Receipts

None

Playpark Account – Payments

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|-----------------|---------|
| Finding Fitness | £115.20 |
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Playpark Account - Receipts

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| Transfer from SRA for Finding Fitness | £115.20 |
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58. Children's Home, The Brambles, Blacksmith End

This agenda item took place at the start of the meeting. The home Manager (Kerry Morley) had been invited to attend and accepted together with the Regional Manager. However, neither of them attended and when the clerk rang Kerry, from the meeting, she said she had forgotten and was currently over an hour away so would not be able to come back. No explanation as to why the Regional Manager had also not attended was given.

Cllr Rhodes had received various complaints from neighbours of the property and several emails which he has been asked to act upon. He had been in touch with the Planning Department who have reviewed this and confirmed that no additional planning consent was required. Therefore, from the planning perspective, there is nothing Melton Borough Council can do. He has spoken to the Director of Children's Services at County Hall who have looked into it this and have visited the home. However, because the children are not from Leicestershire, the County Council has no powers to act as they can only support children from their region. The Police have received numerous complaints and the Chief Constable is aware. Alan Duncan MP has also been made aware of the issues. Ofsted seem to be the main body who have the powers to investigate and the Director of Children's Services has been asked to forward information to them. Cllr Rhodes will also talk to some other local authorities. It was stressed that any residents who are affected need to contact the police and Melton Borough Councils' Anti-Social Behaviour Officer.

It was agreed that the Parish Council also write to Ofsted raising their concerns.

Non-attended by EslandCare had not helped matters and it was requested that someone more senior be invited to attend the next meeting (Kerry will not be available in September) and this is to be added to the agenda again.

59. Allotments: rent review, inspection and review of two allotment gardens

Cllrs, Ramsay, Underwood and Bray declared an interest.

It was agreed that the rents would remain the same.

A member of the Allotment Society attended to assist the Clerk with an annual inspection. He was impressed with the way the allotments were looked after and in the quality of gardening. The only comment he had was that there was no rain water collection from greenhouse roofs or sheds and suggested the owners of these might consider this.

It was asked if there was any way of obtaining cheap water butts and the Clerk to check.

The tenant of the two allotments stated that the plots and beds had been cleared and she now had two more beds to go in. It was asked that she get a plan in place by spring and it was agreed to continue to rent these plots to her but it was stressed they must be kept neat and tidy. To be reviewed next year.

60. Conversion of street lights to LED

The Clerk had now received a quotation from the County Council to convert the old sodium street lights to energy efficient LED lights of £24,050.71. Two lights are not included in this cost. This option allows for the parish council to have all the lights converted at once and pay back the cost over a 5-year period. They will also take over the supply of electricity and maintenance. Eon, who currently provide the maintenance will charge £420 per light so around £16,800. Lights can be converted a few at a time or all at once but payment would be required immediately. An electricity provider will still be required and Eon will continue to provide maintenance which reduces by about £14 for each converted light. The lights will have to be replaced at some point in the future as the old bulbs are no longer being used and consume a lot of electricity. The new LED bulbs use around 73% less energy. Councillors were given an information pack to review.

61. Clearance of overgrowth around a street light

The light by the Church footpath entrance on Church Lane, near Dalliwell, is partially covered by overhanging shrubs and twigs. A quotation was requested to clear these but has not been received yet. Cllr Ramsay will have a look.

62. Deed of Release

Our solicitor had requested the document for signature so that it could be signed at this meeting but nothing has arrived so this is to be carried forward to the next meeting.

63. Replacement cable for the Speed Camera

Cllr Bray is having problems downloading data from the speed camera and it may be a problem with the cable. He has asked Computer SOS to have a look first to confirm it is the cable and not his computer. Radarlux have quoted 99 Euros to send us a replacement which is very expensive. The cable is an old 7 pin connector and Cllr Bray has been unable to find one on the internet.

64. Damage to the dog bin on Tofts Hill

The dog bin had been knocked over, possibly by a tractor. Cllr Ramsay had re-concreted this in.

65. Village Matters

Cllr Underwood asked if we had heard back from MBC regarding the issues on Birds Lane with the trucks backing onto site. They had replied that because the site was quite constrained by the tight roads, backing the vehicles down The Green and into the site was the safest way to access the site. A resident then added that the vehicles are now driving forwards into the site and turning on the site so this issue should now be resolved.

The clerk had spoken to a stone mason recently regarding the cost of putting up some of the fallen headstones in the cemetery. It would cost a minimum of around £200 for a straight forward headstone and at least £500 - £600 for a kerb depending on the work. The council confirmed it was not their responsibility to put up headstones as these are owned by, and are the responsibility of, the families not the council.

The WMI had forwarded copies of their accounts for the year ending 31st October 2017 which were handed to all councillors.

Cllr Ramsay asked if the clerk had received any feedback from a tenant regarding access along the pathway. Nothing further had been heard.

Cllr Ramsay had had to make an emergency repair to the main allotment gate pillar.

It was asked when the pathway outside 2 Harby Lane would be repaired as this has been in a bad state for some considerable time now. The clerk was asked to chase highways again and find out what the legal position would be if someone tripped and hurt themselves. Another councillor believed this may be in hand.

Meeting finished at 20:53.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 11th September 2018