

Minutes of the Stathern Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 12th June 2018 at 7pm in the Plough Inn Function Room

Present: Cllrs. Hourd, Bray, Ramsay, Smith, Underwood. Clerk: S Smart

Members of the public: 12

Apologies: Cllr Byron Rhodes (MBC)

28. Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th May 2018

The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.

29. Receipt of any SRA sub-committee meeting minutes

None. There will be no meetings until after Party in the Park

30. Declarations of interest and dispensations

To be declared during the agenda item where applicable.

31. Correspondence/Planning applications received prior to the meeting.

Correspondence.

- Advance notification of a cycling event on the 24th June which will pass through the village. There will also be a lot of cyclists on the road between Plungar and Harby.
- Request for help from the Council by Truman Contractors who are building the new properties on Birds Lane. They are having problems with people blocking their access to the site. The photos submitted are just people parking outside their homes and should not be a problem if they are entering from Red Lion Street and not up Birds Lane which is unsuitable for construction vehicles. One resident on Church Lane is having heavy vehicles carrying diggers etc pulling up outside her house to reverse down The Green as they do not appear to have adequate turning points within the site. They are also not cleaning the mud from the road. It was pointed out that Red Lion Street has a lot of vehicles parked during the school drop off and collection times which may cause problems for construction traffic but if these are avoided then they should have no problem accessing their site.
- Notification of the parish council liaison meeting on the 19th June.
- Highways have finally replied regarding the repair of the street light in the bungalow complex and said it is definitely not their light and to go back to Melton Borough Council again who were initially approached and also denied ownership.
- Invitation received to the "Flying the flag for armed forces day" on the 25th June.
- MBC are holding another community forum on the 25th June. Poster on the notice board.

Planning Applications

18/00488 - New 3-bedroom house at 6B Penn Lane replacing the application for two bungalows. Cllr Underwood declared an interest. The plan seems to imply that the owner owns the access point from Penn Lane which he doesn't and it was requested this be pointed out to the planning department. Once again there appears to be very little parking provided and no turning area. When the previous bungalow was built, the owners blocked off the access between the field and Penn Lane which is used by others.

18/00622 - New 4-bedroom dwelling attached to the existing cycle workshop with an additional four parking spaces. No objections

32. Payments and Receipts

Mrs J. Bray – Stathern Star Paper	£16.25
E.On ¼ maintenance	£164.16
Waterplus – allotment for last year	£95.36
Clerks Salary (5 weeks)	£552.45
LRALC (playpark training)	£100.00
S. Smart (paper £12.75 & LCR sub £17)	£29.75
The Plough Inn – coffee & tea for Annual Meeting	£30.00
Melton Borough Council – Playpark inspection	£63.00
R. Scarborough – grass cutting & ivy removal from Plough	£430.00
SSE Electricity Bill	£89.79

Parish Council Receipts

E. Gill and Son (additional inscription on memorial)	£70.00
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Playpark Account – Payments

Finding Fitness	£230.40
BHIB – generator insurance for PIP	£56.00

Playpark Account - Receipts

Transfer from SRA for Finding Fitness	£230.40
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33. Allotments – approval for shed and review use of two garden plots

A resident has asked for permission to erect a shed on their plot, where part of the fruit cage currently sits. This will be at the back of the allotment, by the hedge. Approved.

Review of use of two allotment garden plots. This was discussed last year and the tenant assured the council that these would be kept tidy in future. However, they are very over grown again and do not appear to have been touched this year. The tenant stated that work had been undertaken on these and they were tidy but the problem was due to rapid grass growth and the ground being too wet when she was intending to cut. She was however hoping to sort it out at the weekend. It was questioned whether these were too much for her to manage and it was suggested that the council take one of these plots back which will cut her workload down and would be more manageable. The tenant wanted to retain all of the plots. It was decided that these must be tidied up by the next meeting and where it would be reviewed again. The tenant was also asked to cut down the shrubs growing through her fence and flowers urgently as they are now forcing people out onto the road as they are blocking the pavement. This will be done.

34. Playpark

Cllr Ramsay and Smith attended a training course on how to assess playpark equipment. 21 years of records should be retained which we don't have.

All guidance is based on best practise which we should be following. Currently, equipment is inspected monthly with an annual inspection by ROSPA (recently undertaken in May) but there should also be weekly inspections. An operational inspection also needs to be undertaken on a regular basis i.e between one and three months. This covers how the park is used and it is not something that we can do as it must be done by a qualified person. Costs are expected to be about £200 per year.

Software to keep a track on inspections and maintenance is available from PSS Limited who would charge £3 per inspection so about £156 a year. This can be loaded onto an ipad or phone and the records are held on their servers.

It is therefore anticipated that it would cost between £400 and £500 to ensure the park was fully inspected and records retained online. It was proposed and agreed that the software only would be purchased and the clerk to get quotations for the inspections.

This would also be discussed at the next SRA meeting.

35. Severn Trent Donation

Severn Trent have been holding a series of open days following on from the water outage earlier in the year. As part of this, they have pledged to give each parish council £500 to spend for the benefit of the community. They would also like to know what this has been spent on. Any suggestions should be forwarded to the clerk.

36. Approval to purchase no fly tipping signs

The clerk has a couple of quotes for signs at around £20 each. It was agreed to purchase two initially to go onto the fence by the old recycling centre.

37. Red Lion ACV update

The clerk received a letter recently from Melton Borough Council to say this had been granted for the entire complex and not just the pub.

38. Neighbourhood Planning

Cllr Underwood updated the meeting. Many other villages have gone for a neighbourhood plan. It can guide future development but not prevent development. It would help in the design and location of new homes but not in the numbers. The plan can also be quite broad and can include transport, recreation etc and can be for a 5, 10 or 15 year period. It has to meet the basic requirements set out in planning law and tested by an independent examination. The main issues would be around costs and time as it would likely take two years to put together and cost around £10,000. We would need a team of 10 people with four or five committed to do a lot of the work. An organisation called Locality have been recommended with experience in this area and Cllr Underwood would be happy to speak with them. The Parish Council would have to lead this but it would need commitment from the village and must be community lead as the plan would belong to the village. It was suggested three parish councillors and 5 or 6 people from the village would be a good starting point. Cllr Bray pointed out that this must align to the Melton Plan, which changes regularly at the moment and it is really only useful for defining things like open spaces rather than housing and could be an expensive waste of money and time. It was also likely we would struggle to get people interested. Cllr Underwood said that other villages have brought in consultants to help and it may be an option worth looking out. She, together with a resident who attended a recent event on this subject, will meet with Carole Brown who was involved in the Clawson Neighbourhood Plan and will provide an update at the next meeting.

39. Village Matters

Cllr Underwood brought up the field off Moor Lane which is in a bit of a state with the remains of the field shelter in the cemetery and two old baths which need emptying. The hedges also need cutting and the field needs some attention if we want to rent it out again. Currently the land is not suitable for horses due to the number of buttercups and it will need some work before it would be suitable for sheep. She was concerned that this is an asset that is not being looked after. Cllr Hord (interest declared) stated that the tenant would be giving up the field shortly. The shelter has since been removed back into the field and is up for sale. The fencing and damage to trees is being repaired this weekend. The hedges, which are the responsibility of the parish council, will be cut back when the cemetery hedge is next cut.

The lane that runs by the field also needs attention and it was asked if we knew who owned it. The hedges will be owned by Mr & Mrs Chandler, the Parish Council and Mr Allsop but it is not known who looks after the path.

Deed of Release – this is now being progressed by both the council's solicitor and the owner.

Mr Widdowson has completed the spraying in Moor Lane cemetery.

Hands Charity – the clerk gave out a copy of the year end statement.

Allotment Training – the clerk has noticed there is a course run by LRALC on the 25th June. If there is space could she attend? Cost would be £40. Agreed.

Meeting finished at 20:39.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 10th July 2018.