



BILSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Bilsthorne Parish Council Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday the 13th November 2023

Present: Cllrs; Ross Stoneman (Chair), Tim Holloway, Arthur Pinnick, Steve Kemp, Flo Mitchell, Cris Cooper, Hannah Iwanejko, Brian Jackson, Rhona Holloway (also NSDC Cllr), & Alan Ward

Also present: V Arkell (Clerk & RFO)

146/23 Welcome & opening comments

Cllr Stoneman welcomed the Council to the meeting. He informed the Council that the Brazier had now been installed and thanked A. & V. Squires Plant Co Limited for donating their time and equipment for the installation. He also informed the Council that he had installed the defibrillator at Brookside Garage and the Clerk confirmed that the defibrillator is registered and online. Finally, he thanked everyone who had helped organise and attended the Remembrance service on Sunday the 12th November.

147/23 Apologies for absence

Cllr Pestell sent her apologies

148/23 Declarations of pecuniary and/or personal interest

None

149/23 Due to the nature of the business to be discussed it is recommended that agenda item 165/23 requires the exclusion of public and press under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 1(2)

The Council resolved to exclude the public and press for item 165/23 as its contents were covered under GDPR

150/23 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th of October 2023

The Council resolved to approve the minutes as accurate

151/23 Reports from District and County Councillors

District Cllr R Holloway reported the following to the Council;

- 1) The vehicle movement and speed tubes have been positioned on Brackner Lane and will be there for approximately a month.
- 2) I have liaised with NCC over setting up a village flood defence community team and have received information from them about next steps. Councillor Steve Kemp has agreed to take on this initiative and will be reporting as part of this meeting.
- 3) NSDC have set up the new grant scheme for the next year, this funding is aimed at local groups and charities but excludes Parish Councils from applying.
- 4) I attended the recent Planning Committee meeting to speak on behalf of the applicants over their recent planning application where Planning. Officers were recommending refusal of the application. As this application had been approved by the PC, I was able to call it in to the planning Committee to be heard. The final decision was 7 for refusal, 5 for approval and 1 abstention. I spoke to the applicants after the decision, and they will be submitting an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.
- 5) I have not heard anything back for the landowner re my enquiry about land for allotments.
- 6) During flood Babette, several properties were flooded out and damage caused. I have received information from several homeowners in the village and I have forwarded those on to NSDC who are coordinating flood grants and liaising with residents to provide support.
- 7) I have put residents on Scarborough Road in touch with Dr Mark Guy at NCC regarding overgrown trees on Stoneyfield Lane that are encroaching into residents' gardens where the height and width make it difficult for residents to manage on their side. Dr Guy has agreed to cut these back.

152/23 Questions from the public

There were no public present

153/23 Correspondence - to note receipt and agree on actions

Correspondence was received from Mr Wiggly's Book emporium informing the Council that after the success of the book hunt in October, she will be organising a Christmas event called "Give the gift of reading this Christmas". The Council discussed the request however, due to the Councils donation policy, the Council is unable to give a donation to the same cause twice in the same financial year, so would be unable to donate on this occasion. The Clerk to contact Mr Wiggly's Book emporium to let her know.

154/23 To consider financial matters

a. To review the bank reconciliation and to note the financial/budget status at October 2023

Cllr Stoneman reviewed the bank reconciliation and signed to confirm it matched the bank statements. The Council noted the financial summary. The Clerk explained that in looking at the mid-year projection, and considering the plans for the rest of 23/24, she had discussed the option of earmarking some funds with Cllr Holloway and Cllr Kemp. It was recommended adding the funds that have not been used for the village hall project into a reserve fund to pay for new village welcome signs. The Council agreed that £10k should be shown as a reserve for new village signage taken from the 23/24 budget.

b. To review the pre-approved payments and income received in October 2023, and to authorise any payments for November 2023

Cllrs T Holloway and Kemp reviewed the October invoices on behalf of the Council. Cllr T Holloway queried the paid invoice for the Remembrance Day soldier cut outs, as 4 wooden soldiers were received instead of the 6 ordered. The Clerk to contact the supplier to rectify.

The Council authorised the payment of the outstanding invoices as presented.

c. To appoint an auditor to complete the 23/24 internal audit

The Council resolved to appoint Amanda Rickett as the auditor for 23/24.

d. To consider the draft 2024/25 budget

The Council noted the draft budget. The Clerk requested that any further changes required be sent to her before the next meeting agenda is to be published so the precept calculations can be completed using the final budget.

e. To note the pay agreement for 2023/2024

The Council noted the pay agreement for 2023/24 and requested the Clerk arrange backpay to the 1st of April 2023 for any staff that require it.

155/23 To accept the Section 115 licence for a replacement bench on Kirklington Road outside of Maid Marion Park

The Council accepted the section 115 licence. Cllr Stoneman and Cllr Iwanejko signed the agreement on behalf of the Parish Council

156/23 The Village Hall; to review and discuss:

a. Next steps for the rebuild of a community space

The Council had a meeting with NSDC on the 6th November to discuss the next steps in the project. Cllr T Holloway explained that he had offered to take the lead in drafting a location feasibility study to complete phase 2 of the planning process, to then be validated by a professional company. The next meeting with NSDC will be held on the 18th December.

b. The planning permission application for demolition

The planning department had requested more information for the planning application to demolish to be considered. One of the items was an Ecological and Protected Species Assessment. The Clerk had obtained 3 quotes for the study. The Council resolved to appoint Artech to complete the assessment.

The planning department had also requested more information on what the Council propose to do with the land once the building has been removed. The Council reiterated that they are reviewing the options rebuild the Village Hall and no further information would be available until the next phases of project planning had been completed.

157/23 To discuss the recent flooding in the village, the response from outside agencies, and how the Council can plan to deal with any flooding event for the future.

Cllr Kemp asked for support to form a group of volunteers to become flood wardens who are supported by the Parish Council. The volunteers would attend a training course to ensure they have the knowledge involved to close roads and erect signage. The Council were happy to support the initiative where it could

and requested Cllr Kemp return to the Council with what support was required after the details had been confirmed.

158/23 To review the litter and dog bins as well as the litter picking provision within Bilsthorpe to ensure they meet the needs of the village

The Council had received complaints about increased litter in the village with “the crescent” being a particular problem. As a temporary measure, the Clerk had requested the Parish Council employed litter picker, empty the smaller bins around the crescent if they needed emptying between the NSDC weekly collection. The Clerk reported that the litter picker had found trade waste within the bins including out of date food from the nearby shops. The Council requested that he monitor this and report back if it is a regular occurrence. The Council asked for the Clerk to contact NSDC to ask if a larger bin can be installed to help combat the increase in litter.

159/23 Proposed works on Maid Marian Park:

a. the addition of an additional wheelchair accessible picnic bench

Cllr R Holloway previously circulated a proposal to install the picnic bench and the costs involved. The Council resolved to accept the proposal and the costs involved. The Council authorised a spend of £1000 for the purchase and installation of the bench.

b. the installation of a free-standing steel goal post and net

Cllr R Holloway previously circulated a proposal to install a free-standing goal post and net. The Council resolved to accept the proposal and the costs involved. The Council authorised a spend of £1250 for the purchase of the goal, net, and installation at Maid Marian Park.

b. the installation of CCTV to monitor the park

The Clerk to request the permission required to install additional socket and CCTV on light column 13 on Kirklington Road as this would give a full view of the park.

160/23 To agree the installation of additional Christmas lights

Cllr Pestell previously circulated a proposal to add 9 Christmas illumination lights around the shops near the miners welfare and outside the shops in the old village.

The Council resolved to approve the one off light column conversion costs of £2600 and the ongoing installation and removal costs of £2925 per year, for 3 years (Christmas 2023-Christmas 2025).

161/23 To purchase and install 4 Hanging Flower Baskets, 2 for Maid Marion Park and 2 for the beacon on Sparrows Green

Cllr T Holloway submitted a proposal to purchase the additional hanging baskets which will be provided and maintained by Marie Purdy as part of the Maid Marian maintenance costs. The Council approved the purchase of 4 hanging baskets at an approximate cost of £500. The Clerk to check if any additional permission is required.

162/23 To agree to explore the replacing of the village welcome signage and to obtain costings for purchase and installation

The Council supported Cllr T Holloway investigating the purchase of 4 new village signs.

163/23 Councillor reports

Cllr R Holloway wanted to gauge the interest to enter Bilsthorpe into the 2024 Britain in bloom competition. The Council were keen to know more and requested more information when the application opens.

Cllr Kemp explained that he is investigating a way to improve to the base of the brazier to aid both structurally and aesthetically. Cllr Kemp will return to Council with a proposal when he has costings.

Cllr T Holloway informed the Council that he has put up the lamppost poppies and erected the wooden soldiers at the war memorial. He also explained that he has completed litter picking within the village

Cllr Ward explained that the defibrillators had been checked and that there was still one out for repair. A loan defibrillator had been ordered by the Clerk but had not yet been received.

The Council thanked Cllr Pinnick and his wife for their hard work surrounding Remembrance Day and the decoration surrounding the memorial.

164/23 Date of the next monthly meeting – Monday 11th December 6.30pm, Burton Court

The Council noted the next meeting as 11th December at 6:30pm

165/23 Staffing Matters

The Council viewed the documents circulated by the HR Committee and agreed to publish the job descriptions for maternity cover as drafted.