
BURTON PEDWARDINE PARISH MEETING

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MINUTES OF MEETING

The Burton Pedwardine Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday 13th September 2004 at 7:30pm, in the Parish Church. The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all those present.

Present

Mr and Mrs Lawson, Mr S Dutchyn, Mrs J Buckle, Mrs G Dakin, Mr F Key, Mr and Mrs R Tilley, Mr and Mrs Waddington, Mr C Bird, Mr P Backsmall, Councillor D Roberts, Mr J French.

Apologies

Mr P Key

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 31st March 2003 were read and approved on the proposal of Mr Dutchyn and seconded by Mr Bird.

1. Matters Arising

1. Church Footpath. The Chairman Reported that the paperwork had now been completed, and the application was in the hands of the County Council.
2. Grit Bin in White Cross Lane. The Chairman reported that the legal position remains unclear, but the application has not been withdrawn, nor has the bin been provided by the County Council.

2. Correspondence

1. The Chairman reported that a large amount of correspondence and publications had been received from North Kesteven District Council, Lincolnshire County Council and the East Midlands Development Agency. None of it (apart from that relating to planning applications) was of any interest to the village.

3. Financial Report and 2005 Precept

1. Copies of the Financial Report were given to those present. As at 31st March 2004 there was a balance of £211.26. The payments made this year were: Cornhill Insurance £192.97, Heckington Car Service £50, Citizens Advice Bureau £25 and the Auditors Fee £58.75. Receipts were: Precept £280 and Interest £1.97. The sum of £162.78 was added to the Bank Account in the Year 2002/3 (there being no other account for the village) representing the profit from a Hog Roast held by village residents to celebrate the Golden Jubilee. This sum is held in reserve for the provision of the village notice board and does not constitute part of the general funds.

2. Mr Tilley proposed that the accounts be adopted and Mr Dutchyn seconded.
3. The Chairman sought approval of the Meeting to apply for the precept for the year 2005. He explained that the amount required could not be accurately ascertained until the level of the insurance premium was known (the insurance premium taking up the largest part of the precept) and that he would like the Meeting to authorise a precept of not less than £250 and not more than £300. Mr Lawson proposed that the upper figure should be £350 and this was seconded by Mr Bird. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the precept application.
4. The meeting discussed the bus shelter, as the insurance costs appear to be disproportionate to its value to the community. It appears that the bus shelter is very little used. The school bus picks children up outside their houses and the only scheduled bus enters the village along Asgarby Road and leaves by Screddington Road, so it does not even pass the bus shelter. Some people spoke in favour of removing the bus shelter, but Mr Key proposed that as the cost to each household was minimal and that the shelter might be more useful in the future, it should be retained. Mr Bird pointed out that the land on which it is built belongs to North Kesteven District Council. The Chairman undertook to try and persuade the District Council that the Shelter belongs to them and that in future they should bear the costs of insurance. There is uncertainty as to the legal position concerning the liability of the Parish Meeting for losses caused by the shelter, as if it is true that the Meeting can not be sued, nor can it hold property, it should not need to insure the bus shelter. It was agreed that the shelter should be retained, but that if it were accidentally destroyed, it would not be worth rebuilding.
5. Statement of Assurance for the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2004. The Chairman read the statement from the return; Mr Tilley proposed the passing of the Statement and Mrs Buckle seconded. The meeting passed the motion.

4. Appointment of Chairman and Clerk

1. The Chairman asked if anyone would like to take this position. No one volunteered and Mr Bird proposed (and Mr Lawson seconded) that Mr French continue as Chairman/Clerk.

5. Neighbourhood Watch

1. Mrs Buckle wished to resign as Co-ordinator and Mr Waddington kindly agreed to take on the position.

6. Car Lift Service and Citizens Advice Bureau

1. The Chairman reported that the Heckington Voluntary Car Service were asking for a purely nominal contribution (suggesting £5) as use of the service by residents had declined significantly. The Meeting agreed to the donation. The Meeting decided not to make any donation to the Citizens Advice Bureau.

7. Planning

1. Councillor Roberts explained the District Council's attitude to planning applications from the village. The draft structure plan has a presumption against any further houses being built in the village, but he pointed out that the Planning Committee will sympathetically consider applications that are supported by the residents, as it wishes the smaller villages to remain sustainable. Mr Key pointed out that it is very difficult for local employers to attract employees to the village, as there is no affordable housing in the village. He asked if it would be sensible for the village to prepare its own "structure plan" to encourage development that would be supported by the residents. Councillor Roberts felt that that would not

help at the moment, but that when the next amendment of the District Structure Plan is considered the Meeting should propose amendments to allow more development than is permitted at the moment. Councillor Roberts said that the kind of development which the Planning Committee probably would allow would be similar to those permissions granted recently (to Mr Key and Mr and Mrs Tilley in Asgarby Road); it would not grant permission for cul de sacs or small estates.

2. A general discussion took place and it was agreed by all those present (no one dissenting) that the village would be improved by the addition of a few individual houses, as in-fill along the roadside in Asgarby Road between White Cross Lane and Screddington Road; provided that the houses were in keeping with the rest of the village. It was agreed that the land in Helpringham Road between Hawthorn Cottage and The Glebe should not be built on as it would obscure the view of the church, and Mr Bird said that the land in the village which is the site of the abandoned village should not be built upon because of the historical interest in those sites.
3. It was agreed that in the event of a planning application for an individual house being submitted in accordance with the views of 7.2 above, the Chairman will support the application before the Planning Committee. If an application is made for two or more houses a Parish Meeting should be called. The chairman stressed that a village meeting would be called if any planning application seemed contentious, or if anyone in the village voiced objections to any application.

8. Village Signpost

1. It has been agreed at the AGM several years ago that a display cabinet should be built on the grass verge opposite the old Kings Head for the Millennium Carving, and for a glazed notice board to be placed next to it. It was agreed that the carving did not merit such display and that in any event any such cabinet would soon become dirty and shabby. It was agreed that the carving should instead be placed inside the bus shelter. There would be enough in the village funds (£162.78 raised by the hog roast and £48.48 under spend in 2003/4) to commission John Davy to build the notice board.

9. Any Other Business

1. BT Phone Box. The Chairman informed the meeting that BT had indicated that it intends to remove the telephone box as it is so little used. He had written to BT objecting to this and BT has said that it will consider the objections in a review of all underused boxes in the area. This will take many months because of the number of objections received.
2. Village Speed Limit. Jennifer Waddington has written to the County Council asking for consideration of the introduction of a speed limit in the village. The Council is considering this but it could take up to a year to introduce such a limit. The meeting agreed that the speed of vehicles using the village as a "rat run" needs to be controlled and the Chairman will write to Lincolnshire County Council supporting the need for a limit.
3. The Meeting agreed (proposed by Mr Bird seconded by Mr Key) that the Chairman should join the Society of Local Council Clerks, the joining fee and subscription (currently £35 but possibly to increase by a small amount in January 2005) to be paid by the Meeting's funds. The advantage to the village is that the society provides a book of the law applying to Parish Meetings and a service to provide advice to Clerks on law and procedure.

The Chairman thanked those attending and the meeting closed at 9:00pm.