
BURTON PEDWARDINE PARISH MEETING

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MINUTES OF MEETING

Held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 8th April 2008 in the Church of St Andrew, St Nicholas with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Burton Pedwardine.

Present

P Davy, J Davy, T Shepperd, J French, G Webb, R Carr, K Beever, A Gray, B Gray, R Sutherland, A Aylward, R Tilley, M Tilley, M Coy, L Targosz, P Key, C Wood (Chairman)

In Attendance

Cllr D Roberts & Cllr S Ogden, District Councillors, Heckington Rural Ward

Apologies

J Wetherall, H Wetherall, I Allen, C Allen, F Key, A Darley

1. Introductions and Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:32pm and welcomed all those present.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Chairman presented the minutes of the previous meeting, held on Wednesday 30th October 2007, and asked the meeting for comments and/or corrections. There being none, the minutes were approved as a true record by a unanimous vote of the meeting on the proposal of K Beever, seconded by P Davy.

3. Matters Arising

The Chairman provided an update on matters discussed at the previous meeting that would not be addressed as agenda items.

3.1. Highways Matters

The Chairman reported that the Highways works had not started, although they were scheduled for the "Spring". The Chairman was due to meet Rowan Smith, Divisional Highways Manager on the 21st April 2008 to understand when the work would be carried out and would report back to residents.

Mr Coy felt that while the collapsed culvert on White Cross Lane had been repaired, the location of the culvert so close to the edge of the road was still a danger if a vehicle had to move to the side of the road. The Chairman agreed to raise the matter with Mr Smith at their next meeting.

Action: Chairman to raise the issue with Mr Smith at their next meeting.

3.2. Location of Notice Board

The Chairman had been in correspondence with the landowner over the location of the new Notice Board. The landowner had given his permission for the new Notice Board to be sited on his land to avoid locating the Notice Board on the Highway. Mr Davy confirmed that the Notice Board was work in progress and would be completed sometime in the summer.

3.3. Relocation of the Post Box

The Chairman had received a letter from Royal Mail indicating that the matter had been passed to the local Delivery Manager for comment and Royal Mail would respond to the request to relocate the Post Box in due course.

3.4. Change to the Parish Boundary

The Chairman had been in correspondence with North Kesteven District Council over the change to the Civil Parish Boundary. The matter was being looked into, but the Chairman was advised that the process was slow and bureaucratic and would take some time to achieve.

3.5. Future Planning Applications

The Chairman had been circulating details of Planning Applications received via eMail to those residents that had signed up. Anyone else who wanted to receive notification of Planning Applications as they were received was asked to eMail the Chairman.

4. Bus Shelter

The Chairman reported that he had undertaken a written consultation exercise with the following organisations:

Organisation Name	Response
East Midlands Development Agency	No comment to make
Lincolnshire County Council	No objection
North Kesteven District Council	No objection
All Bus and Coach Operators in Lincolnshire	No comments received

In addition, a Public Notice had been put up between 3rd November 2007 and 31st March 2008 inviting comments from members of the public. None were received.

The Chairman went on to report that he had received an eMail from Mr Fraser Key, a local landowner, offering to look into the possibility of taking over responsibility for the repair and maintenance of the bus shelter as Mr Key felt that such a structure would be of use in the future, should bus services to the village be enhanced.

There followed a discussion about the various merits of transferring responsibility for the bus shelter to Mr Key vs. proceeding with demolition.

A proposal was put forward by K Beever, seconded by J French that responsibility for the maintenance and insurance of the bus shelter be transferred to Mr Key as a way of keeping the bus shelter without incurring the associated costs. The proposal was defeated by 5 Votes to 8 with 3 abstentions.

The Chairman reported that he was in receipt of the Insurance Premium Renewal, which amounted to £282.40 inc IPT, as well as a quotation for the demolition of the bus shelter of £250 + VAT (£293.75 inc VAT)

A proposal was then put forward by B Gray, seconded by R Sutherland, to proceed with the demolition of the bus shelter according to the original schedule, at a cost to the Parish Meeting of £250 + VAT. The proposal was carried by 8 Votes to 1 with 7 abstentions.

Action: Chairman to arrange for the demolition of the Bus Shelter by 31st May 2008.

5. Parish Precept Element of the Council Tax

The Chairman had received an enquiry as to why the Parish Precept Element of the Council Tax showed an increase when the actual Precept had remained the same (£350). The Chairman reported that he had been advised by North Kesteven District Council that this was the result of a change in the Tax Base within the Parish, which had fallen from 40.99 Band D-equivalent properties to 39.30. This meant that the Precept had to be distributed across a smaller number of properties.

6. Planning Applications

6.1. Criteria for Responding to Planning Applications

The Chairman presented some advice that he had received at a recent Planning Training Event organised by the Parish Partnership on Material and Non-Material Factors that Planners use when determining planning applications.

6.2. 07/1341 and 07/1508 – Changes to Electricity Lines in the Parish

The Chairman advised that Central Networks East were planning to enhance the security of the Electricity Supply in the Parish during the late summer. As a statutory utility, Central Networks East did not have to apply for Planning Permission as they had a statutory right to carry out such work. However, the work would further secure the Electricity Supply in the Parish. In addition, local landowners would also benefit as pylons that were in the middle of their fields would be relocated to the edge of the field in line with industry best practice.

6.3. 08/0088 – Bungalow at Sixteen Yard

An application had been received to erect a Bungalow at Sixteen Yard. The Applicant and his family had been living in a mobile home for the past three years in line with the original planning conditions. The meeting felt it was able to support the application for the following reasons:

Visual Impact

The Applicant had carefully considered the visual impact of the development by opting for a single storey dwelling. The proposed location is well away from Heckington Road and the boundary of the site is screened by mature hedging. By opting for a single storey dwelling, the Applicant has ensured that there is no impact on the skyline and the building would sit well in its surroundings. The Meeting approved of the single storey design rather than a house or other dwelling in excess of one storey in height, due to the visual impact that a taller building would have.

Crime Reduction

The Applicant operates a very successful Landscaping Business from the site and has a requirement to store materials and plant at the site. Therefore, there is a need for a permanent presence on the site to ensure the security of those materials and plant. There have been a number of thefts in recent months of plant and materials from nearby locations in Burton Pedwardine, demonstrating the need for the Applicant to have a permanent presence to protect his business assets.

Economic Impact

The Applicant's business has flourished since it was established in Burton Pedwardine and now employs several local people. These jobs may well be lost if the Applicant was forced to relocate his business elsewhere because he is unable to have a permanent presence on site to protect his business assets.

Sustainable Development

The Application represents a sustainable development within the Parish, which is consistent with the desire of the Parish Meeting to see Burton Pedwardine grow in a slow but sustainable manner.

A proposal was put forward by P Davy, seconded by B Gray, that the meeting should approve and support the application for a Bungalow at Sixteen Yard for the reasons given above. The proposal was carried by a unanimous vote of the meeting.

Mr Coy asked Cllrs Roberts and Ogden why it appeared that NKDC went against local opinion in such matters? Cllr Roberts advised that Planning Policy C1, which covers development in the countryside, was not always being interpreted by Officers in the way that Councillors had intended. Therefore a redrafting process was underway to try and ensure that the needs and wishes of local residents were more fully considered.

Mr Gray was of the opinion that local democracy was under threat if the Parish Meeting was overridden and local wishes were ignored. Cllr Roberts responded that Councillors were mindful of this fact but also had to consider national, regional and local planning policy which could, in extremis, lead to the District Council losing a Planning Appeal and having costs awarded against it that could run into many tens of thousands of pounds.

7. Burton Pedwardine Parish Plan

The Chairman circulated a leaflet on Parish Plans and the benefits a Plan would bring to the local community. By creating a Parish Plan, the residents of Burton Pedwardine would be more able to influence what happened in their community and would have their views backed-up by a written document that would be circulated to all key stakeholders. Cllr Roberts added that District Councils had to take greater notice of local wishes when making decisions and Parish Plans would form a key aspect of the consultation process.

Mr Davy asked whether there would be funding available to support the creation of the plan. The Chairman reported that the initial three-years of funding from Government had ceased effective 31st March 2008. However, he had been in contact with Community Lincs about other sources of funding, which would become clearer in June/July. In the mean time, a number of agencies, such as NKDC, were offering funding in kind.

The Chairman proposed that a Steering Committee be created to look into the construction of a Parish Plan, which would take approximately 12 months to complete and invited participation from the meeting. Expressions of interest were received from M Tilley, M Coy and P Key. Mr & Mrs Gray also offered to help, depending on commitments.

Action: Chairman to arrange inaugural Steering Committee Meeting

8. Neighbourhood Watch

The Chairman reported that there had been two incidents of graffiti along Asgarby Road in recent weeks; both of which had been reported to have the offending remarks removed. Cllr Roberts advised that if evidence of a culprit was forthcoming, Heidi Ryder (heidi_ryder@n-kesteven.gov.uk or Tel: 01529 414155 Ext. 2686) at NKDC's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit should be contacted who can take the matter up with the offender.

A number of residents had reported seeing a large number of dead birds scattered along the road from Screddington, through the village, and down Asgarby Road to the A17. No one had seen the offender(s), but several residents expressed their concern about such actions. Cllr Roberts advised that contact should be made with PC Kevin Henson (Tel: 01529 240057) who is the Local Area Wildlife Crime Officer for Lincolnshire Police or Nina Camm (nina_camm@n-kesteven.gov.uk or Tel: 01529 414155) at NKDC's Environmental Services Department.

9. Highways Matters

The Chairman reported that the Asgarby Road sign at the junction of Helpringham Road had finally expired and a replacement had been requested from Lincolnshire County Council, which would be added to their "To Do" List for the current financial year.

North Kesteven District Council was consulting with Parishes on the need for any additional footway lighting. The Chairman asked if there was any requirement for additional footway lighting, reminding residents that any additional provision would have to be funded by the Parish Meeting. No requests were received.

Action: Chairman to reply to NKDC and request no additional footway lighting.

Mr French asked Cllr Roberts why, when environmental issues were at the fore, street lights were habitually left on throughout the night. Cllr Roberts responded that the District Council was very mindful of the situation and the matter was being looked into, perhaps with a view to having street lights switched off in the early hours. However, the District Council had to consider the possible negative impact of dark streets and roads at night before making any changes.

10. Election of Chairman / Clerk

The Chairman advised that it was proper practice for the Chairman / Clerk to the Parish Meeting to be elected at the AGM. Since he had only taken office on 1st September 2007 for a one year term, he was proposing that the next Chairman / Clerk serve from 1st September 2008 until the AGM in 2009, with all future elections being for a 12 month period from one AGM to the next.

The Chairman indicated that he was willing to have his name put forward to serve until the 2009 AGM and invited anyone else to come forward who wanted to take up the post. There being no other candidates, the current Chairman was unanimously re-elected to serve until the 2009 AGM on the proposal of Mr French, seconded by Mr Gray.

11. Bulk Buy Initiatives

Mrs Davy had organised a bulk buy of Heating Oil in the autumn of last year which several residents had been able to take advantage of. This had resulted in a saving of 1p per litre (£10 per 1,000 litres). However, there was some difficulty in getting everyone's buying needs coordinated to gain the maximum benefit. The Chairman therefore recommended that a series of dates be published throughout the year when orders for oil would be placed, thereby allowing residents to coordinate their buying.

Mrs Tilley offered to act as Heating Oil Coordinator and would publish dates for the future by eMail. Those not on eMail were asked to contact Mrs Tilley directly for the dates.

Action: Chairman to forward eMail addresses to Mrs Tilley

Mr Davy then outlined contact he had had with a number of companies that serviced Oil-fired Boilers as part of his work. At least one company had expressed an interest in providing a coordinated servicing scheme to residents, thereby minimising travel and other costs.

Action: Mr Davy to coordinate scheme with Mrs Tilley

12. Q & A Session with District Councillors

There followed a discussion with Cllrs Roberts and Ogden about a number of matters:

Police Authority Precept

Cllr Roberts outlined the situation with the Police Authority Precept that was likely to be reduced by the Government to an increase of approximately 30% rather than the almost 80% requested by the Police Authority. This would result in rebilling costs for the District Council that would be recouped from the Police Authority, but this would ultimately come from Council Tax Payers.

Refuse Collections

Mr Davy asked whether it was possible to have a weekly black bin collection during the summer months. Cllr Roberts advised that this had been considered but would cost the District Council approximately £40,000 per annum, equivalent to 1% on the Council Tax. The District Council therefore recommended that all waste in the black bin should be bagged to avoid flies getting in.

Several residents asked about the Green Recycling scheme and whether NKDC made any money from the proceeds of the recycled materials? Cllr Roberts advised that the reason why NKDC had the highest recycling rate in the country was because the scheme was simple. Everything went into one bin. The downside was that the recycling contractor had to sort the materials at their depot, which added additional cost. These costs were funded by the revenue from the materials that were recycled. NKDC put great emphasis on recycling and even subsidised larger Green Bins for residents, which were available for £15 (real cost £45) by contacting the Council's Customer Services Centre (customer_services@n-kesteven.gov.uk or Tel: 01529 414155).

13. Any Other Business

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9:31pm.

Post Meeting Note: Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Burton Pedwardine Parish Meeting will be at 7:30pm on Tuesday 7th October in the Church.