

Desford Parish Council

Minutes of the Desford Parish Council Meeting held on the 17th February 2016 at the Library Main Street Desford commencing at 7.30pm.

Councillors Present - J Minto (Chairman), S Houghton, (Vice Chairman), C Crane, P Crane, B Hutt, A Lewis, M Peel, P Sims, S Wakefield.

In attendance: D Sprason CC, HBBC Cllr B Sutton, Clerk to the Council Martin Broomhead, Interim Clerk to the Council R.A.Lomas

Parishioner's present: one.

MINUTES

1/2016-122 Apologies

Apologies were received from R Camamile, Z Rood and A Stretton.

1/2016 -123 Declarations of interest.

None

1/2016-124 To CONFIRM as accurate the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 January 2016.

These were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting held on 20 January 2016.

1/2016-125 To receive and CONFIRM the recommendations of the Resources Committee - 15th February 2016.

The following recommendations were received from the Resources Committee meeting held on 15 February 2016:

- a) Minutes of the Resources Committee of 18th of January 2016 to be approved.
- b) The Reconciliation sheet for January 2016 was received and agreed.
- c) To note the income and expenditure and also to note that £1,500 had been vired to 'Grants' in the budgets.
- d) To recommend that invoices up to 15th of February be paid. (See Item 6(c) below for details).
- e) To approve and sign off the end-of-year work and training with RBS/Rialtas.
- f) To consider and approve the draft letter to be sent to Sun and Soil Ltd with regard to the financial contribution to be made by the company to Desford PC.
- g) To note that 4 individuals had expressed an interest in acting as the PC's Internal Auditor and that the Council's specification of requirements should be sent to these individuals with a request that they confirm their fees in the light of this. To seek

delegated authority from Council for the Resources Committee to appoint the most suitable individual.

- h) To recommend that a payment of £50 be authorised to Leicestershire CC for a licence to install a new notice board on the highway.
- i) To recommend that posts be installed at the allotments up to a maximum cost of £125.
- j) To note that we are still awaiting prices for repairs to the conical roundabout and the wet-pour surface.
- k) To note that the allotment toilets had been successfully installed. (Invoice figures as per sheet referred to under Item 6(c)).
- l) To note that repairs may be needed to windows in Botcheston Village Hall. A further report will be prepared.
- m) To note that draft Financial Regulations were discussed and these will be presented again in March.
- n) To note that the arrangements for 'Desford in Bloom' have progressed and that consideration should be given to the establishment of a formal Working Group and the process for handling finances associated with this activity.
- o) To recommend that the HMRC payroll system be continued.
- p) To note that the Clerk is investigating the cost of 30mph signs that could be stuck onto wheelie bins.

Council confirmed and adopted these recommendations.

1/2016-126 To NOTE where received the minutes and notes from Staffing & Planning Committees and Allotments and Cemetery working groups.

See individual agenda items below for information on these Committees and Working Groups.

1/2016-127 RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

- a) The Chair of Resources Committee reported on current situation.
- b) The reconciliation sheet for January 2016 and the appropriate bank statements were circulated and these were confirmed.
- c) The following invoices up to the 17th February 2016 were recommended for payment:
 - i. P Crane - Reimbursement for payment for 2 storage boxes - £28.54
 - ii. R A Lomas - Invoice for January - £705.00
 - iii. R A Lomas - Postage stamps - £10.80
 - iv. Severn Trent - Allotments - £40.06
 - v. Severn Trent - Kirkby Road Playing Fields - £52.32
 - vi. Severn Trent - Cemetery - £20.87
 - vii. P Richards - January Dog Bins - £93.75
 - viii. Eon - 7 Stars Road lighting - £56.55
 - ix. RCC - Membership and Community Building Subscription - £50.00

- x. Natsol Ltd - Balance for supply of allotment toilet - £4,679.50
- xi. A M Garden Design - Installation of allotment toilet - £1,392.00
- xii. HBBC - Cemetery Trade Bins - £247.00
- xiii. M Peel - Reimbursement for payment for 3 folding tables - £187.02.

Council resolved that these invoices should be paid.

- d) The Income & Expenditure sheet was circulated and confirmed.

1/2016-128 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

- a) County Councillor D Sprason reported on:

- The County Council's budget which had been agreed that afternoon.
- The situation regarding the library.
- The situation regarding the HGV problems in the village. DS indicated that new signage should be installed very soon and that a review of the signage in the wider area would be carried out.

- b) Borough Councillor B Sutton reported on:

- The HGV problems. (For actions agreed, see Item 11 below).
- HBBC's budget will be discussed tomorrow (18th Feb).
- Developments in Hinckley.
- Garden bins and charges for these. (Clarification required).
- Concerns about the priority given by HBBC to the urban areas rather than the rural ones.

1/2016-129 PARISHIONERS PARTICIPATION

Mr E Lindsay gave an update on progress on the 'Desford in Bloom' initiative. How the finances for this would work was discussed and it was agreed that the Parish Council would use one of their bank accounts to administer the finances for this initiative. (It has since been agreed that Mr Lindsay will meet with the Clerk).

1/2016-130 UPDATE ON REVIEW OF COMMITTEES

A spreadsheet was circulated regarding this issue and it was agreed to defer discussion to a future meeting.

1/2016-131 UPDATE ON STANDING ORDERS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

These documents had been previously circulated to all councillors and Council agreed to adopt both of these documents.

1/2016-132 UPDATE ON TRAFFIC ISSUES INCLUDING PROGRESS TO PREVENT THE ACCESS OF HGV's THROUGH THE VILLAGE AND TO REVIEW THE SITUATION RE SPEED WATCH

The Chair referred to the substantial amount of publicity that had been generated as a result of councillors and residents raising this issue with the local and national media.

It was agreed that M Peel would write to the County Council expressing the Council's concerns on this issue and that the Clerk should write to the Local MP, David Tredinnick, to gain his support on this issue.

1/2016-133 UPDATE ON THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION RE SOLAR FARM

A letter had been received from Sun and Soil Solar Farms Ltd regarding their offer of a sizable donation to the village. S Houghton had prepared a draft response and both the original letter and the draft response were circulated for comment.

Council confirmed that the draft letter should be approved and dispatched.

1/2016-134 PLANNING COMMITTEE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP

- a) P Crane gave details of planning applications that had been received and considered by the Planning Committee.

Concerns were expressed about possible development of the old Red Lion. A Planning Notice had been noted near to the site. This would be checked out.

- b) P Crane updated the Council on the Neighbourhood Plan. A meeting had been held and officers had been appointed. John Preston of the RCC would be coming to the next meeting to help progress the plan.

P Crane indicated that she and M Peel were part of this Working Group, but that there ought to be a third PC member. S Wakefield indicated that he would try to come to the next meeting.

1/2016-135 CEMETERY WORKING GROUP

C Crane said that there hadn't been a meeting of this WG since the last Parish Council meeting. He said that an issue had been raised about scattering of ashes and that the WG would have to revisit the cemetery regulations to address this issue.

However, he indicated that there had been significant concerns expressed by both councillors and residents about moles and mole-hills in the cemetery.

After discussion, it was agreed not to appoint a pest controller but to sweep away the mole-hills and monitor the situation in the coming weeks. In the meantime, C Crane will investigate the cost of appointing a pest controller.

1/2016-136 ALLOTMENT WORKING GROUP

P Crane indicated that the Allotments WG hadn't met recently, but it was noted that the new toilet had been successfully installed.

1/2016-137 PROCUREMENT WORKING GROUP

M Peel updated the council on this issue. 17 tenders had been received for this work and these had been considered at a meeting of the WG on 15 February.

However, it was agreed that, before proceeding, the Clerk should seek advice from the LRALC about whether or not the work could be split between tenderers.

1/2016-138 PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

P Crane proposed that a Parish Council Newsletter be prepared. This was agreed and various topics were suggested for inclusion in the newsletter. Photos of the Councillors and Clerk will be taken at the next meeting and these would be included in the newsletter.

1/2016-139 CLERKS REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

a) Request from Burbage Parish Council

The Council has received a request from Burbage Parish Council to ask for our permission for them to use an amended version of our blank ground-care tender documents. (Specifically for their cemetery and churchyard maintenance work).

Council agreed that this wouldn't be possible until advice had been sought as per Item 16 above.

b) HBBC Protection of Public Open Space Consultation

Hinckley and Bosworth BC have issued a consultation document about the possible introduction of Public Open Space Protection Orders. These orders are intended to tackle dog fouling, irresponsible dog owners and the use of 'intoxicating substances in public.

Council asked the Clerk to liaise with P Sims regarding this issue.

c) Police UK Website Development Request

HBBC have asked if members of Council would be interested in supporting the Police in the task of improving access to data on the police website. This follows discussion at the Parish Forums meeting.

Council agreed to express an interest in this issue.

d) Overhanging Hedges

There have been a number of recent comments about overhanging hedges in the Parish. If these are overhanging public highways (including footpaths and bridleways), the Clerk recommended that they are reported directly to the County Council Highways Department via their website. This creates an audit trail to try to ensure that action is taken, where appropriate.

Council accepted the Clerk's advice on this issue.

e) HBBC's Environmental Improvement Programme

Council asked the Clerk to forward this to all Councillors.

f) HBBC's Review of Community Health Services

S Houghton indicated that Desford Councillors were already taking part in this review.

1/2016-140 STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Chair of Staffing Committee indicated that there had been no meetings of this committee since the last Parish Council meeting.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Council should resume the use of HMRC's PAYE system to pay salaries from now onwards. It was noted that it hadn't been necessary to go into a confidential session regarding this issue.

1/2016-141 INFORMATION EXCHANGE (not for debate or decisions)

C Crane indicated that he and the Clerk would be looking to update the website and consider other improvements.

A Lewis stated that she was pursuing the issue of Christmas lights in the village.

B Hutt asked for minutes and agendas to be added to the website.

S Houghton thanked Roger Lomas for his work and involvement in the Council's business in his role as Interim Parish Clerk.

P Crane said that A Lewis was organising the Speedwatch initiative in the village and that A Stretton and J Minto were also involved.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.23pm.

Martin Broomhead
Clerk to the Council