

Minutes of the Clarborough & Welham Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on the 3rd April 2017 in the Clarborough Village Hall, Main Street, Clarborough.

Present: Cllr Bowler (Chair), Cllr George, Cllr Baines, Cllr F Robinson, Cllr B Robinson and Cllr Willcock
Others present: W Davies (Clerk), County Cllr Liz Yates, District Cllr Kath Sutton, PCSO Airey

641/17 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and approved for Cllr Gibson and Cllr Avery

642/17 To receive any Declarations of Interest in any items on the agenda

Cllr Baines declared an interest in agenda item 8 – planning application 17/00414/RSB

643/17 Open session for members of the public to speak and to receive reports from the District and County Councillors, PCSO Airey and Mr Oates footpath Warden

County Cllr Liz Yates reported that she is stepping down from her role as County Councillor at the May elections and this would be her last meeting at the Parish Council. Cllr Yates thanked the Parish Council for its support over the years and wished Clarborough & Welham all the best for the future. The Council thanked Cllr Yates for all her hard work over the years on behalf of Clarborough & Welham.

District Cllr Kath Sutton had no report.

PCSO Airey gave his reported crimes of interest for the Clarborough and Welham parish for March

Mr Oates submitted his path Warden's report for April 2017 as follows:

- **Footpath No.1** – the definitive line of the path has now been established with Laura Summers the Rights of Way officer; enabling the Neighbourhood Development Planning Team to proceed with their plans for the wild flower meadow area.
- **Bridleway No.3** – The offending foliage has now been cut back and the passage for pedestrians is now easier and more pleasant. It is noted that some debris has been deposited in the beck, it is hoped the offender will remove it in due course. I have reminder Laura to apply for a grant for resurfacing work in 2017/18 budget.
- **Footpath No. 5** – The stile at the south end is proving to be difficult to climb over by some walkers as the step is quite high from one side. I have asked Laura whether she intends to replace this stile with a kissing gate as part of her maintenance regime. If this is not to be the case, then a working party will be raised to make a simple modification to the existing stile.
- **Spring crop survey** – this survey will be carried out during april to ascertain whether arable fields, through which footpaths cross, have been properly marked out after ploughing and drilling.

644/17 To approve the minutes of the meetings held 27th February 2017

Cllr Willock proposed to approve the minutes of the meeting held 27th February 2017 as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr F Robinson and resolved by the Council. The Chair duly signed the minutes.

645/17 To receive updates from the actions of the meetings held 27th February 2017

- Min 626/17 – Cllr Willock has received an email from the Heart Foundation who own the red phone kiosk on Smeath Lane to see if the Parish Council would like to have it – to put on the next agenda
- Min 626/17 – Cllr Willcock reported that the Parish Council is now members of the National Allotment Association
- Min 627/17 – The Chair reported that Cllr Gibson has attended the meeting of the Central Bassetlaw Forum and he will circulate copy of the minutes when he receives them
- Min 629/17 – The Chair reported that the Village Ventures will send a copy of the public liability insurance prior to holding their summer event
- Min 632/17 – Cllr Willcock reported that 20 people had collected 11 bags of rubbish on the village litter pick
- Min 637/17 – Cllr Willcock reported that the District Council has a new litter bin on the Parish Pasture as no cost to the Parish Council
- Min 638/17 – Cllr Willcock reported that the overgrown hedge on Big Lane has been cut back off the pavement

At this point District Cllr Sutton congratulated the Parish Council on the success of the village litter pick.

646/17 To receive reports from other meetings

Cllr George gave an update on the Village Hall Committee meeting. It was noted that new LED lighting has been installed in the hall and all other lighting will be upgraded to LED as and when finances were available starting with lighting in the entrance.

Cllr Baines reported that money raised from the Christmas event will be put towards a free coach trip to Cleethorpes for Welham, Clarborough and Hayton residents on the 6th July.

647/17 To receive play area inspection reports

Cllr Bowler gave his report on the play area inspections; no actions required.

648/17 To consider planning application, notes any correspondence and decision notices

Application: 17/00359/HSE
 Location: 42 St Johns Drive, Clarborough
 Proposal: Proposed front elevation/alteration to lounge, porch and garage

After consideration of the above application Cllr Willcock proposed not to make any objections; this was seconded by Cllr Baines and resolved by the Council.

Cllr Baines left the meeting whilst the following application was considered.

Application: 17/00414/RSB
 Location: Tievoli, Main Street, Clarborough
 Proposal: Erect of 2 no. dwellings and amended access within the curtilage of the existing property (resubmission of P.A 16/01025/FUL)

After consideration of the above application Cllr George proposed not to make any objections; this was seconded by Cllr B Robinson and resolved by the Council.

Cllr Baines then re-joined the meeting.

At this point Cllr Willcock gave an update on the Neighbourhood Plan project & Friends of The Parish Pasture Group.

Notice Board

This is being made by re-using spare timber from the Skate Board ramps. Unfortunately I have not been well and it no work has been done for about 10 days. It will have a development map and a Timeline displayed. Large enough for up to 8 A3 sheets.

Parish Pasture

Wildflower Meadow Management - 2 March at The Gate Inn from 7.30 pm

4 people were present in addition to 3 Councillors. A presentation was held for the outline of the NP proposals. A discussion took place and 2 of the people present agreed to join the group which will be called the 'Friends of The Parish Pasture' group. With 3 of the NP Steering Group this makes a management group of 5 people. On 5 March we all had a very wet walk of the land just to get a feel of what is there. A 3rd meeting has taken place to determine the initial programme of work for 2017.

The Group has agreed to the programme of work suggested by Notts Wildlife Trust in order to prepare the land for wildflower seeding in the autumn of 2017. This programme will cover the whole of the land, including the allotment land. See additional sheet. This programme is supported by all other references with respect to establishing a wildflower meadow.

This has the associated costs as quoted by the company who are covered for spraying etc.

The group has also outlined a series of other activities for the land but there has been no prioritizing of these activities. Once this has been done it will be brought before the Parish Council.

Allotments - 7 March at The King's Arms from 7.30 pm

10 people (including 2 Parish Councillors) were present. 6 allotments were needed. Again a presentation was given and there was a short discussion. Disappointing considering that there were 17 people expressed an interest in September 2015 and all 17 were contacted by me before the meeting. A second meeting was held on 28 March 2017 in order to establish an Allotment Association. This has a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. 7 allotments were needed as a result, including 2 half sized. A public meeting will be advertised in the Village Newsletter but due to the publication date cannot be held until May. This will determine the demand and the number of allotments to be provided.

The low numbers could cause problems for funding bids as some of the basics of any allotment area are fixed eg. road, carpark, fencing, gates – and these are the large expenditures.

I am concerned at some aspects of a rush towards the establishment of allotments before services eg. car park have been determined. We must be careful not to generate another 'skateboard park' or Hillview Crescent situation!

It has been suggested that land should be allocated for 20 allotments, including a number of half-sized allotments, a small delivery area and small social area. This should take just over half of the far field where the PC has already determined that the allotments should be situated.

The PC Chairman has also suggested that the PC should fund the NAS membership application for the AA costing £66.10.

Bonfire

A Broad Gores resident removed trees and burnt them on the land about 3 weeks ago. PC Chairman saw the resident and asked him not to repeat the action. There is still a 1 tonne bag of remains on the land.

One other resident is also using the land for dumping material, but that is on the 'For Sale' land.

Footpath

At last I managed to arrange a meeting with Laura Summers, the footpaths officer who now works for Via East Midlands not NCC.

An interesting discussion took place in relation to the line of the footpath and it appears to be quite different from that on the ground. This was changed in 1977 by BDC. We could go with the 'new' line of the footpath or develop one of our own. This would open us up to having 2 rights of way across the land, both of which have to be maintained. The aim is to have a hard serviced path to increase accessibility across the land in all seasons. The current path is muddy and slippery in wet weather.

Spraying is legal across it provided a closure is implemented. This will take place on 6 April. The Footpaths Officer has put a 5 day closure in place for us to complete the spraying and we have put in supplementary signage to help the public. The spray is non-toxic and only works on contact with plants until it dries. The closure is only precautionary and will last only 2 days.

Finance

The group will submit an application for a grant from the re-cycling company Veolia for £1,000 towards the costs of tilling the land.

BDC are to fund a survey and design study for the land.

Dog fouling

A new general purpose bin has been installed at the south entrance to The Parish Pasture and there are already dog bins bins at the northern end of Broad Gores and via the existing Parish Land near the play area. Despite this provision of bins some dog owners are continuing to break the law by allowing their dog to foul the land. Three posters have been put up near the bins to ask dog-owners to pick-up after their dog. It appears some owners consider the land to be a toilet for their dog!

Friends of The Parish Pasture Group

Possible land preparation programme 2017

Outline - Consultations with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust have indicated that it may be possible to prepare the leisure land for wildflower seeding by the autumn of 2017. This is dependent on getting the first process, weed killing, carried out at the right time.

The land was been walked twice by the NWT Northern Conservation Officer once in an uncut state and once after cutting in January. There are many persistent, strong growing plants which will over grow any wildflowers with which we would seed the land. He states that we need, therefore, to completely remove this vegetation by the application of a total weed killer.

Other literature on the preparation of a wildflower meadow agrees with this assessment.

Preparation Process

This process involves:

- Allowing the current vegetation to begin to grow in the Spring to about 40 – 50 mm. (Any longer and wildlife, including ground nesting birds could be present);
- Spray with total weed killer over all the land – 6 April is planned, weather permitting;
- Allow weed killer to act;
- Plough and harrow – early/mid May;
- Allow residual vegetation to regrow;
- Respray and allow to work – July / August;
- Re-harrow as seedbed preparation;
- Roll – late September;
- Seed the wildflower area – October / November;
- Reroll.

This process, up to and including the second re-spray would apply to all the land. The remaining 4 stages could just apply to the wildflower area.

Costings

Quotes have been received for each of the processes as below:

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|-------------------------|-----------|
| • Ploughing | £450+VAT |
| • Harrowing | £500+VAT |
| • Weed control/spraying | £1000+VAT |
| • Rolling | £350+VAT |

In order to follow the programme above the **maximum cost would be = £4150 + VAT**

The cost of the spraying can come out of the NP Award for All grant but there may need to be up to £2,000 committed from Parish Funds to ensure the remainder of the processes are carried out.

NB

1. Costs could be reduced by leaving land preparation for the allotments to the Allotment Holders.
I think this would be mean!

2. Confining the area re-harrowed to the wildflower meadow would also slightly reduce costs probably without materially affecting the allotment area.

This would all be subject to obtaining grants from various sources.

Further Work on the land

Other suggested items for inclusion on the land are:

- Tree Planting – a number of native Nottinghamshire large trees eg Oak, Chestnut
- Decorative Tree Planting eg flowering Cherry
- Bulb and smaller wild flower planting – eg daffodils, snowdrops, primroses, cowslips
- Repair to existing hedge and planting of new hedge species – this is intended to widen the number of species in the existing hedgerow and a new hedge on the southern boundary
- Creation of wildlife corridors and refuges
- Bird and bat boxes
- Creation of a hard surface footpath
- Fencing around the site – knee-high to prevent vehicle access
- Seating and tables
- Removal of canal side wire fencing
- Keep-fit equipment for adults
- Activity equipment for young people
- Community Orchard

Some of these ideas are small and relatively cheap to introduce once the land has been prepared and seeded. Decisions as to the inclusion of any of this, prioritisation or a timeline for these activities has not yet been discussed.

Grants and/or donations of bulbs would be sought as would access to hedging species. It is hoped that much of the work involved will be through Community Action Groups.

Any other suggestions from Councillors would be welcomed.

649/17 To receive any updated on flooding issues

Cllr Avery was not present to give any updates.

It was noted that the Rights of Way Office had reported that the Environmental people have contacted landowners with regard to clearing their dykes out to prevent flooding.

650/17 Finance – to approve payments and grants for the church and parish newsletter for 2016/17 and to receive financial update

Cllr Willcock proposed to approve the following March payments; this was seconded by Cllr George and resolved by the Council.

- a) Parish Clerk March wage £187.79 (1960)
- b) P Gibson – expenses £28.22 (1961)

The Clerk circulated copies of the February year to date finances, budget figures and bank statements for the Councillors to view.

Cllr Willcock proposed to approve the grant for the church grass cutting of £500 for the 2016/17 period and the grant of £500 towards the Clarbrough Welham IT Group for the 2016/17 newsletter printing; this was seconded by Cllr b Robinson and resolved by the Council.

- c) St John The Baptist Church £500.00 (1962)
- d) Clarborough & Welham IT Group £500 (1963)

651/17 To approve additional signatories for the bank

Cllr George proposed that the authorised signatories in the current mandate, for the bank account be changed to include Cllr Willcock and Cllr Avery as additional signatories and the current mandate will continue as amended; this was seconded by Cllr Baines and resolved by the Council.

652/17 To consider work to be carried out on the Welham notice board or purchase a new one

After consideration of prices for new notice boards; Cllr B Robinson proposed to purchase a new notice board for £89; this was seconded by Cllr Baines and resolved by the Council. It was agreed to put the new notice board lower down on the wall.

653/17 To receive an update on the National Tribute and WW1 Beacon Lighting event 2018

Cllr Bowler reported that he has not received the information as yet; it should be sometime in early April.

654/17 To report any Highways/Rights of Ways or service faults

Nothing faults received.

655/17 To receive any items for information and future agenda items

The Chair read out a letter from Cllr B Robinson and Cllr F Robinson giving advance notification that they are both stepping down from the Council at the May meeting. The Chair thanked them for the many years of service.

Cllr Willcock reported that the Scouts will be starting their litter picking in May.

656/17 Time and date of the next Parish Council Meeting.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will take place at 7pm prior to the Parish Council meeting 15th May 2017.

The **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council** will take place at 7.15pm on the 15th May 2017 at the Clarborough Village Hall, Main Street, Clarborough.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.05pm.