

Claybrooke Magna Parish Council

MINUTES of a MEETING

held on THURSDAY, 14th December 2017
at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Nicholas Reseigh, Chairman
Cllr Jo-Ann Allcoat
Cllr Michael Lenihan

Mr Peter Jones, Clerk to the Parish Council

Two residents.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were given by Cllr Jan Butcher, Cllr Robin Deacon and Cllr Rosita Page, District & County Councillor.

Disclosure of personal interests. There were no disclosures.

Minutes of the last meeting, held on 9th November 2017, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising from the last meeting

Christmas Tree

Cllr Allcoat had had little success in finding a resident who lived near enough to the tree to enquire if we could use their electricity supply. In the meantime Cllr Lenihan had been exploring other ways in which the lights could be connected, but it may involve the purchase of additional equipment to make the supply and cables safe. It was agreed that Cllr Lenihan be authorised to purchase this equipment if necessary, but the PC acknowledged that the lights may not be able to be lit this year due to lack of time.

Memorial bench

Cllr Lenihan reported that the Woodyard had started construction of the bench.

Chillout bus/Skateboard Park

It was agreed that this may be an option for the village, as an addition to or instead of the Skateboard event, and was worth pursuing for next year. It was also felt that if the Skateboard event were to be run in 2018 then it may be useful to explore different dates including during school terms rather than during the holidays,

Harborough Community Safety Plan

Cllr Butcher had agreed to complete the survey on behalf of the Parish Council and return it to HDC.

Matters raised by District/County Councillor

No matters raised as Cllr Page was not present.

Matters raised by Residents, at Chairman's discretion

Two residents were present and presented a letter regarding trees to the rear of 4 The Paddock and Back Lane, which were overlooking two properties and which needed pollarding work as they were becoming dangerous. The residents asked if the Parish Council would agree to their tree surgeon entering Harrison Field from the gate off Laurel Fields in order to carry out the work of pollarding and trimming. This was agreed by all members and the Clerk would write to confirm.

The Chairman had received a further letter from a resident of a property in Bell Street, who had written to HDC querying the grading of the agricultural land in the field which had recently been given approval for development (17/00593/FUL). The land had previously been designated as Grade 3, which was a high quality soil, and this classification could affect the approval for development. The Clerk would contact HDC and ask to be kept up to date with any developments in this matter.

Finance

Accounts for Payment.

It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Lenihan that the following account be paid:

Royal British Legion – purchase of wreath for Remembrance Day - £20.00

Monthly Budget Report:

The Parish Council had spent approximately 128% of its Precept in the current financial year. This was noted.

Transparency Fund

The Clerk had submitted a request to NALC/LRALC for a grant of £1024.69 to cover the setting up and maintenance costs of the new Parish Council website.

Planning

New/Unresolved Planning Applications

No new applications had been received.

Other/Ongoing Planning Matters

Local Plan/Leicestershire Growth Plan

Cllr Lenihan said that we had submitted our comments on the Local Plan for Harborough, including objecting to the Village being designated a Selected Rural Village, and should also submit similar comments on the Growth Plan when it opens for consultation in the New Year. The Chairman agreed but commented that the Growth Plan was bigger than the Local Plan and involved a large swath of the County, and thus other factors would need to be taken into consideration. It was a matter which should involve all members of the Parish Council and would therefore be deferred until the next meeting.

Magna Park

Both outstanding planning applications had been approved in November, but the second application had since been put on hold as Cllr Page had called it in to the District Council. The re-hearing had been due to be heard on 11th December, but this date was postponed due to the severe weather and would now probably be held on 10th January. All were urged to attend.

Land Adj Seleta, Bell Street – enforcement action

Enforcement action had been taken on various matters pertaining to this application but had been resolved as being within the terms of the approval. However the Chairman asked about the public open space which had been part of the original application, as the PC was not willing to take over the responsibility or expense of this land. The Clerk will write to HDC for clarification.

Correspondence The Clerk produced a letter from CPRE Leicestershire drawing attention to the proposed new Leicestershire Growth Plan and offering help with responding to this, should the PC become a member. The Clerk will obtain further details and report back.

Telephone Kiosk

The public telephone box in the village had not been used for at least a year and some time ago had been offered to the Parish Council for £1. However it now appears that it was not available for purchase as it was not an old heritage red box. The likelihood is therefore that it will remain in service for the present time

Village Hall

Cllr Lenihan advised members that the Village Hall had drawn up a “wish list” of work to be carried out on the building, and would be prioritising the work and seeking funding from various sources including the Parish Council. Costings had not yet been carried out and the Clerk reminded the PC that it was due to set its precept next month.

The Hall was being put to good use and a large number of events were planned including a Burns Night in January.

Playground

The swings have not yet been repaired and were awaiting the spares.

Parish Clerk

The Clerk informed members that he would be retiring from his position at the end of March 2018, after 18 years in the post. He would prepare a suggested advert for his replacement, and the PC would consider what form of contract would be necessary for the new Clerk. Cllr Lenihan remarked that the world had come to an end.

Any Other Business

Cllr Allcoat had had a look at the Data Protection legislation but felt that some training would be advisable. LRALC were running a course in January and the Clerk would book her in.

Cllr Lenihan said that the grit bin would need topping up due to the recent bad weather.

Date of next meeting: 11th January 2018.

**The meeting concluded with festive greetings and mince pies provided by the Chairman,
at 9 pm.**