

4.9 Representative for the Pavilion Fete

It was reported that the Fete was now unlikely to go ahead.

4.10 Flooding in Manor Road

Anglian Water Authority had been informed of the problem and had investigated the drains at the Chater Close end of Manor Road. The County Council Highways Department were responsible for the rest of Manor Close and had been notified.

5 Path between Manor Road and Langton Road

Noted that assistance with pursuing the claim for this path as a Right of Way had been received from Ms Jacqueline Endersby.

RESOLVED:

That a claim should be made for the path from Manor Road to Langton Road to be a Right of Way.

6 Budget and Precept 2009/10

Updated information on spending to date, projected spending to the year end and a proposed budget for 2009/10 was tabled

The Chairman introduced the proposed budget and explained that the village maintenance budget for the next year included grass cutting and leaf collection. The budget for trees had been reduced to cover additional costs in this area. It was suggested that £300 be allocated to the cost of lighting and annual subscriptions be amended to include the cost of membership to the LRALC. A contingency budget of £1,000 was included in the proposals. The budget for the Clerks salary had been increased to reflect the extra hours required.

It was proposed that the Precept should be set at £16,000 for the coming year this represented a 5% increase to cover increased costs.

RESOLVED:

That the Precept be set at £16,000 for 2009/10

7 Mowing Contract

Two quotations for the mowing required by the Parish in 2009/10 had been received and had been previously circulated. One of the quotations was from Spendlove, the existing contractor, and the other quotation was to fulfil the contract via the District Council's grounds maintenance service contract. During discussion of this item the following points were made:

- Spendlove's quotation was significantly cheaper than the option provided via the District Council
- The District Council's contract would also incur management costs
- Spendlove's previous work had been of a good standard
- The District Council's contract was for seven years with an option to extend for an additional seven years and this was thought to be long

RESOLVED:

(i) That the contract for mowing in the Parish for the year 2009/10 should be awarded to Spendlove Contracting, subject to clarification that the Council reserved the right to vary it should it be necessary to reduce costs during the year.

(ii) That a letter should be sent to the District Council informing them of the Parish Council's decision.

SC

8 Traffic Survey

It was felt that Great Bowden is being used as a rat run and as a result of this a traffic survey had been carried out in March 2008. The survey covered a 12 hour period from 7am to 7pm and showed the following number of vehicle movements: 802 in Leicester Lane, 1137 in Burnmill Road and 1885 in Dingley Road. Langton Road and Station Road had not been monitored.

A speed check had been requested and a short check had taken place as part of a training exercise but a full check was due to take place during the second week in February following which a report would be available. It was hoped that this would provide sufficient information to present to the County Council. It was suggested that the traffic through the village would increase following developments such as the Airfield Farm and Peaker Park.

It was proposed that a Working Group be formed to formulate suggestions for discussion with District and County Councillors. It was also suggested that the Compass Group would be invited to be represented on the Group as they had shown interest in the problem.

Councillor Swatridge reported that during discussion of the Local Development Framework he had raised the issue of the traffic run from Lubbenham to Corby and requested that it be included in the traffic assessment for the Framework with the aim of keeping that traffic on the A6.

RESOLVED:

TJB

That a Working Group be formed, including representatives from the Compass Group, to make recommendations as a result of the Traffic Survey and Speed Check report.

9 Freedom of Information

A provisional outline for the Council's 'Guide to Proactively Published Information' had been previously circulated. It was suggested that it might be possible to learn from other Council's who had undertaken this work.

RESOLVED:

That policies prepared by other Council's should be circulated before the next meeting. SC

10 Planning Applications

The progress of Planning Applications 08/01522/FUL and 08/01523/CON to build on the site that was currently the Fernie Hunt Stables was discussed. It was reported that consideration of the application by the District Planning Committee had been deferred as Leicester University Archeological Unit had raised new issues. Councillor Michael Jack had sent a letter to the District Council seeking their response to a number of points prior to the application being considered again. These included concerns over possible encroachment onto the common land, incorrect statements over the trees on the land and incorrect claims about ownership of the land. It was suggested that the Parish Council apply for membership of the Open Spaces Society, which would provide access to legal advice and relevant documentation.

The Chairman thanked Mr Jack for his work on this issue on behalf of the council.

The Council was concerned that the application had been allowed to progress to this stage given the comments of the County Highways Department.

It was suggested that a Working Group should be formed with co-opted members to consider public areas and Rights of Way within the Parish.

RESOLVED:

(i) That a Working Group, which included co-opted members should be formed to consider public spaces and Rights of Way within the Parish MJ

(ii) That the Council apply membership of the Open Spaces Society.

Progress on other current planning applications in the Parish was reported.

It was noted that in relation to the application for 10 Main Street there had been no response on the structure that was to be erected. It was agreed that this should be followed up. MJ

The position with the Planning Application relating to 71 Station Road should also be clarified. SC

11 Recreation Ground

11.1 Pavilion Accounts and Expenditure

The Pavilion accounts were tabled. It was noted that there was currently a surplus of approximately £600 in the budget. It was agreed that the accounts should be monitored over the next three months to ensure that the Pavilion, while not making a profit, was self-financing.

11.2 Lockable Car Park Barrier

The Chairman reported that, with the help of the District Councillor Alistair Swatridge, a meeting had been held with the staff that were required to lock the gate and their managers. The staff had requested a second sign in the car park to be provided at their expense. It would be necessary to liaise with the Tennis and Cricket Clubs about its'

closure in the evenings during summer months.

11.3 Replacement Climbing Equipment

Following a medium risk assessment for the log climb play equipment Wicksteed Playscapes had been asked to provide costing for five different play options. Removal the old equipment and making good would cost £1,000. After discussion it was decided to look at replacement with new equipment.

Further work would be undertaken on consideration of the equipment and possible sponsorship.

BG

12 Trees

12.1 Tree Survey

There appeared to be no apparent problems with the trees due to the weather. The tree survey would be updated.

MJ

12.2 Community Wood

The Parish Council's permission had been sought for the installation of a marker stone for the Community Wood.

RESOLVED:

That the installation of the marker stone for the Community Wood should be approved.

SC

13 Finance

13.1 Payments and Receipts

These were noted and approved as shown below

Pavilion Rental June/July 08	588.00	Eon Pavilion electricity	464.70
		ICP Pavilion Cleaning Nov 08	99.69
		ICP Pavilion Cleaning Dec 08	73.16
		Pavilion window cleaning Aug/Sept/Nov	9.00
		Spendolve Contract Mowing Q3	
		Replace bin in concrete	
		Collect and compost leaves	2809.16
		Sign for car park gate	63.25
		Repair to car park gate	88.13
		Repairs to notice board	700.00
		External Audit fee	350.75
		Christmas lighting	41.95
		(to reimburse Mr John Hunt)	212.95
		Clerks training	10.00
		Clerk's Salary & Exes	437.21
	Total 588.00		Total 5359.96

13.2 External Audit 2007/08

It was noted that the Audit was now closed and the closure had been advertised on the notice board. As the Audit had not been completed by 31 October the Auditors had required the Annual Return to be displayed marked 'Subject to Audit' along with their letter regarding the deadline. This had been done.

13.3 Amendments to the Bank Mandate

The bank had returned the mandate with the new signatures as they felt the arrangements for signing were too complex. The Council agreed that they should be simplified.

RESOLVED:

That Mr T J Banks, Mr P Claxton, Mr M Jack, Mr B Gillanders, Mr J Crow and Mr J R Almond should be authorised signatories and that any two of the authorised signatories should be required to sign all cheques and bank transfers but for amounts over £2000, the Chairman plus one other signatory should be required to sign.

SC

14 District Councillors Report

Councillor Alistair Swatridge drew the Council's attention to two forthcoming events, the Local Development Framework Workshop on 4th February and the Parish Meeting on 3rd March 2009.

Councillor Barbara Johnson reported that the County Council Highways Forum had received an update on the School Travel Plan Scheme, which might prove a possible way forward offering grants for sustainable travel. As Robert Smythe School were not

involved in the Scheme the School Governors had been asked to consider it. It was noted that Great Bowden Primary School had a travel Plan in place since March 2006.

15 Urgent Late Items

15.1 Mud Wall on Sutton Road

It was noted that there were two pantiles missing from the mud wall on Sutton Road and this was leading to the erosion of the wall. It was suggested that ownership of the mud wall should be confirmed and repair to the wall discussed with them.

BG

15.2 Long term parking on the Green

It had been noted that four vehicles had been parked for several weeks without moving at the lay-by on the Village Green. It was agreed that the owner of the vehicles should be contacted and asked to remove them.

SC

16 Questions from the Public

16.1 Traffic issues and pedestrian access

A representative from the Compass Group was in attendance and offered the help of the Group in addressing issues of traffic and pedestrian access. The Chairman thanked him and agreed to discuss these matters with the Group

TJB

16.2 Dog Waste

The problem of dog fouling and the use of litter bins for dog waste was raised. The Dog Warden was putting up additional dog fouling notices. It was suggested that additional bins around the village for dog waste, along with more regular emptying of litter bins might help.

Possible funding for additional dog waste bins would be investigated.

SC

17 Dates of Future Meetings

Future meetings of the Parish Council would take place on 12th March and 14th May 2009

Meeting Ended 8.45pm

Chairman