

GREAT BOWDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th May 2009

Present:	Parish Councillors:	Jon Almond, Tim Banks, Paul Claxton John Crow, Bruce Gillanders, Michael Jack
	District Councillors:	Alistair Swatridge, Sarah Hill,
	Parish Clerk:	Sherry Clift
	In Attendance:	Forty one Members of the Public

Annual Meeting

01/09 Election of Chairman [Item 1]

The Clerk took the chair whilst the Council unanimously elected Tim Banks as Chairman for the year 2009/10.

Tim Banks took the chair.

The Chairman decided to take Item 7 first.

02/09 Harborough District Council's consultation on the Local Development Framework Core Spatial Strategy Options [Item 7]

Michael Jack introduced this item explaining that Harborough District Council were required by central Government to provide 7,000 additional homes by 2026. This meant building 350 new homes per year. If Penbury was selected as the eco-town then the number of additional houses required might be partially reduced.

Councillor Swatridge advised that consultation on the District Council's Strategy had been delayed due to the forthcoming elections but would take place between 8 June and 20 July when a variety of options would be considered. As yet there were no proposed sites for development only sites where development might be possible at some time within the 20 year time span. Surveys were being undertaken to look at the land identified and some sites would be ruled out as unsuitable. The next 18 to 24 months would be used to collect information but the immediate decision that needed to be made was whether the required new housing should be situated adjacent to the centres of Market Harborough, Oadby and Wigston or Lutterworth which had existing infrastructure or spread throughout the district with new infrastructure developed to support it. After that the land for the housing would be identified.

Councillor Swatridge asserted that both he and Councillor Hill would fight to keep Great Bowden separate from Market Harborough.

The first consultation meeting would take place in the Council Chamber on 9 June and Councillor Swatridge urged members of the public to attend and make their views known.

During discussion of this item the following points were made:

- There would be an article on the Strategy in the next village Newsletter
- All the proposals should be viewed as those sites outside the village may have an impact on the village
- Site M093 was listed under Market Harborough when it was in fact Welham Road in Great Bowden
- Site M007 already had planning permission
- The core strategy had to consider business as well as housing
- Traffic issues raised by the additional housing would be a key consideration for the village
- The Local Development Framework would contain policies that would help to clarify surrounding separation land

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council would seek a meeting with Harborough District Council officers concerning the Strategy and would press to reduce the numbers of houses to the minimum. A letter stating the Parish Council's views would then be submitted.

MJ/TJB

- 03/09 Election of Vice-Chairman [Item1]**
The Council unanimously elected Paul Claxton Vice-Chairman for the year 2009/10.
- 04/09 Declarations of Acceptance of Office [Item 2]**
The Chairman and Vice Chairman signed the declaration of acceptance of office.
- 05/09 Annual Report**
The Chairman's Annual Report was circulated and adopted and is attached to these Minutes as an Appendix.
- 06/09 Accounts and Audit from 2008/09 [Item 3]**
These were circulated, having been approved by the internal auditor. They were signed by the chairman and approved for submission to the external auditor. SC

Parish Council Meeting

- 07/09 Apologies for Absence [Item 1]**
An apology for absence was received from District Councillor Barbara Johnson.
- 08/09 Declarations of Interest [Item 2]**
Paul Claxton declared an interest in Item 5 as a neighbouring resident. Michael Jack declared a personal interest in Item 8 as a near neighbour of the Fernie Hunt stables.
- 09/09 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th March 2009 [Item 3]**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2009 were signed as a correct record.
- 10/09 Matters Arising [Item 4]**
- a) Tin House Farm – Planning**
There had been no further information received and the planning issues would be followed up. MJ
- b) Driving on the Shoulder of Mutton Green**
Work on the posts was not yet complete and would be undertaken at a suitable opportunity. JA
- c) Freedom of Information**
This item still needed to be followed up. SC
- d) Land Fronting 72 – 108 Main Street**
The possible transfer of this land was still being pursued with the District Council SC
- e) Properties creating access to the Recreation Ground**
Information was being sought from the Land Registry on when people had taken up residence. PC
- f) Mowing Contract**
A letter had been received from the County Council requesting that the extra cuts should be undertaken. The mowing contractor should be advised of when the additional cuts should take place. SC/TJB
- g) Contract for Emptying Litter and Dog Waste Bins**
A permit was required before the litterbin could be positioned and this was being pursued. SC
- h) Recreation Ground car park**
The Chairman thanked those who had helped with clearing the entrance to the car park. It was noted that Harborough District Council had paid 50% towards the cost of the repairs to the car park.
- 11/09 Path between Manor Road and Langton Road [Item 5]**
The Clerk had not been able to make much progress with the registration of this path but would continue to pursue it. SC
- 12/09 Highways [Item 6]**
- Traffic Working Group**
The Chairman reported that the working group comprising representatives from the Parish Council and the Compass Group had made good progress and were now arranging a meeting with Mr Howe, the Area Highways Team Manager to discuss the possible alternatives put forward. SC

Speed Survey

PCSO Sleath had undertaken the speed survey at 3 sites on 3 days. The stretch where traffic travelled fastest was on Station Road. However, it was found that no vehicles exceeded 40mph on any day. The survey would form a useful benchmark if more traffic were found to be using the village in future years.

New Ordnance Survey Maps

Mr Hunt had written to the Parish Council alerting them to new ordnance survey maps, which had changed Welham Lane to Welham Road. When this was queried Mr Hunt had been advised that if Welham Lane was to be maintained the people who lived on the road would have to be surveyed for their views. SC

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council should write to the residents of Welham Lane seeking their views on the name change. SC/PC

13/09 Planning Applications [Item 8]

Fernie Hunt Kennels Development Planning Applications 09/00035/FUL and 09/00043/FUL

An update had been requested on the outstanding applications by the Fernie Hunt. The District Council had advised that they were waiting for an archaeological report and an agricultural report.

Mushroom Farm, Nether Green

It was noted that the demolition permission for the mushroom farm at Nether Green would expire on 23/05/09 and there had been no application to upgrade the outline permission to full planning permission. Harborough District Council had been asked to look at the site as a statutory nuisance due to thefts from the site and the disrepair of the buildings. They had found that there were no dangerous structures but that the site needed securing. It was still felt that the site was unsafe and this would be pursued with the District Council. MJ

Nether Green Development

Andrew Granger & Co, representing local residents, were suggesting writing to the Planning Ombudsman concerning the District Council's handling of the Fernie Hunts application for dwellings on the site of their stables. They were seeking the Parish Council's support for their complaint.

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council supported Andrew Granger & Co in their letter of complaint over the District Council's handling of Planning Applications relating to the Fernie Hunt's Stables at Nether Green. A check would be made regarding cost implications and if it was satisfactory the Chairman would sign the letter on behalf of the Council. MJ/TJB

7 Knights End Road

It was noted that the Appeal to build a dwelling in the garden of 7 Knights End Road had been upheld.

The Chapel

The issue of the gate at the rear of the Chapel flats had been raised with Planning Enforcement, as had the potential number of unsightly TV aerials on the side of the building. It was noted that the property remains unfinished. The building works would be reviewed. PC

The kerbstones on the footpath outside the Chapel had been disturbed and the County Highways would be requested to repair. SC

10 Main Street

It was noted that the single store extension at the back of this house had no planning consent. MJ

14/09 Recreation Ground [Item 9]

Pavilion Accounts and Expenditure

The pavilion accounts were tabled. These provided an overview of the 3+ years that the Crickets Playgroup were hiring the Pavilion rather than reflecting the year-end position. As the Crickets Playgroup was no longer operating the Parish Council and the Cricket Club were currently the only groups hiring the Pavilion. The Pavilion Management Committee were trying to ensure that the Pavilion covered its' costs and the Cricket Club would be invoiced for their use of the Pavilion. The Cricket Club had agreed to cover the major PC/SC

expenses of the Pavilion including electricity, PAT testing, rates, cleaning and part of the insurance costs. However, window cleaning still needed to be agreed with the Club. It was hoped to find additional people to hire the Pavilion in the coming year. The rental was £6 per hour and this information would be put on the village web site.

Gate to Car Park

FOCSA the new contractors for Grounds Maintenance were not locking the gate as closure of the toilet block and the gate had not been included in the tender. Discussion was taking place with District Council officers to try to resolve the problem.

TJB

Additionally while the Cricket Club were locking the gate when they left the Tennis Club were often leaving it open they had been approached to ensure the gate was closed and the matter would be followed up with them.

BG

Replacement Play Equipment

The repair on the potential trip hazard had been carried out. A second quote had been received for an alternative piece of play equipment to replace the log play and a third quote would be required. The Welland Trust and Great Bowden Village Trust would help make the applications for funding.

BG

An area for future consideration might be the positioning of the play equipment in the Recreation Ground.

15/09 Trees [Item10]

All the trees in the Recreation Ground had been surveyed and only one horse chestnut was found to have low boughs overhanging a garden and the Tree Warden did not feel that this was a cause for concern. A tree near the river was broken which might require attention. The lower branches of trees in Sutton Road were obscuring the streetlights and the landowners would be contacted.

SC

Trees on the Greens, Sutton Road and Manor Road would require strimming annually along with the trees in the Recreation Ground. A quote would be obtained for the work.

SC/TJB

Some plants in the Community Wood had been accidentally cut down during mowing the area to be mowed would be clarified with the contractor.

MJ

It was noted that trees on Main Street had epicormic growth that endangered traffic this had been reported to the Highways Department,

SC

16/09 Finance [Item 11]

Receipts an Payments

These were noted and approved as shown below

Receipts to 14 ^h May 2009		Payments to 14 th May 2009	
Interest to Reserve Account	11.48	Clearing Rec entrance (already paid as agreed at March meeting)	125.00
HDC Precept	8000.00	EON pavilion electricity	637.48
Cricket rent for March	483.00	Insurance renewal	886.43
HDC payment towards car park repairs	290.00	Bowden Cricket Club redecoration of pavilion	600.00
		L & RPFA payment for course	17.50
		Spring Clean for pavilion	46.00
		March cleaning for pavilion	97.57
		Mowing 4 th Quarter	1688.36
		LRALC Clerks finance & audit training	20.00
		Reimbursement for tree loppers	51.06
		District Council rates for pavilion	474.99
		Clerks salary and expenses April & May	453.10
Total	8784.48	Total	5097.49

SC

RESOLVED:

That a donation of £25 should be made to the Open Spaces Society

17/09 Correspondence [Item 12]

A further letter had been received from Mr Prentice of 7 Knights End Road in relation to the tree on the Green outside his house.

RESOLVED:

That a letter should be sent to Mr Prentice referring him to the Council's previous letters regarding the tree

SC

18/09 District Councillors Reports [Item 13]

Councillor Hill encouraged people to respond to the Core Strategy to shape the future by attending the Have Your Say meeting on 9 June.

Councillor Swatridge reported that Leicestershire was prepared should there be an outbreak of swine fever. The eco-town consultation was concluded and the Government was now considering the issue and their response was expected in July. The District Council's new waste contract was in the main working well and a kerbside collection of food waste would be trailed probably in July and August. Unemployment was being monitored and it had been noted that within Great Bowden it had increased by 3%, which was well above the average for the County.

TJB

19/09 Urgent Late Items [Item 14]

Faulty Street Lights – It was noted that two streetlights in Welham Road and Manor Road had not been working for some while. The matter had been taken up and a response was expected shortly from E.ON.

Overgrown hedges –The hedge on the allotment on the corner of Langton Road and Main Street needed attention and so did a hedge on Station Road in the area of Countryman Mews. The owners would be approached to prune them back

BG/JA

Graffiti at the Park entrance Anti-graffiti aerosol spray would be obtained to deal with this

BG

20/09 Questions from members of the public [Item 15]

Cemetery Gate - The cemetery currently has only one gate allowing animals to stray into it. The gate had gone to the District Council for repair six months ago. The District Council would be asked to return it.

SC

Water wastage – The water feed pipe that runs under the cemetery footpath is emptying into the ditch and wasting water. The District Council would be asked to attend to it

SC

Station Road Sign – The road sign was missing and this would be reported to the County Highways Department.

SC

21/09 Dates of Future Meetings [Item 16]

Future meetings of the Council will be held on 23 July 2009 and 17 September at 7.30pm

Meeting Ended 9.35pm

Chairman