

# **Branston & Mere Parish Council**

Notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Branston Hall Hotel, Lincoln Road, Branston on  
**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019** at 7 pm.

**Chairman:** Cllr Richard Naulls.

**Clerks:** Mrs S Stead & Mrs J Naylor.

**Members of the Council:** 8

**Members of the Public & guests:** 64

## **Item 1 Welcome.**

The Chairman introduced himself and welcomed everyone. He thanked the Hotel Management for again hosting the event.

## **Item 2 Galliford Try – Update on the Lincoln Eastern Bypass.**

The Chairman introduced Clare and Tim from Galliford Try and Stuart from LCC to provide an update on the project.

The team provided an overview of the work carried out, from the government descopeing dual carriageways; redesigning the road as a single carriageway and the construction work carried over the last eighteen months; through the Carillion collapse to Galliford Try being awarded the whole contract in January 2018 and the archaeological finds of national and international importance.

The audience was shown a flyover of the bypass route filmed by drone in December; with features pointed out and the scale of the task explained in detail. The route covered 6 junctions; 10 structures and 8 km of cycleway. The roundabouts and structures had been futureproofed in preparation for future opportunities to dual the route to minimise disruption.

One million cubic metres of materials (2 million tonnes) had been moved and 3700 tonnes of steel used to build the bridge over the River Witham. The route also crossed two railway lines, several waterways and land drains and a quarry. Additional temporary 'Haul Road' bridges had been constructed to keep site traffic off the public highways.

Several questions were asked:

- A resident suggested that there would be congestion at the roundabout with traffic backing up on the B1188 at peak times.

The roundabouts had been built larger to deal with future traffic volumes and were considered to be the most efficient way to manage flow.

- A resident asked whether there would be traffic lights on the roundabouts at peak times.

Traffic modelling had predicted traffic volumes for the next 20 years and, due to the size of the roundabouts, lights would not be required. It was confirmed that there would be a short slip lane at the roundabout.

- There was concern about noise from the traffic.

Environmental bungs would manage the noise. There would be a section of barrier fencing north of the Carlton Centre.

## **Item 3 Dan Moss – Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue.**

Dan said that Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue was keen to engage with communities through Response – Protection Prevention & Planning.

They were keen to ensure resident safety to help people retain their independence longer by offering advice on minimum standards of safety, with additional help for the most vulnerable.

Homes involved in recent, high-profile house fires had not been equipped with smoke detectors. The importance of early detection was stressed to give the best chance of escape.

He said that 50% of house fires were cooking related; 20% involved faulty electrical items and 8% smoking materials.

He went on to recommend that new electrical items were registered with the manufacturer, to make notification on product recalls easier; not to leave appliances (washers & dishwashers) on while out or in bed and not to leave chargers switched on; as well as fitting detectors and knowing what to do in the event of a fire.

#### **Item 4 Local Beat update.**

The Beat Manager had provided details of reported crimes since 12<sup>th</sup> September:

Criminal damage	9	Burglary	4
Vehicle crime	6	Theft	4
Harassment	6	Court orders	3
Assaults	10	Sexual offences	2
Domestic assaults	3	Public order	2
Drug offences	2	Dog attack (on human)	1

- The owner of the huskies involved in the dog attack would be summoned to attend Lincoln Magistrates Court.
- Enquiries were ongoing into the recent report of a Branston Academy student being grabbed as she got off a public service bus. A male had been identified as a possible suspect and was not likely to reoffend.
- ASB was zero.

#### **Item 5 Notes from the APM held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 to be approved as the Minutes.**

Acceptance of the notes was proposed by Malcolm Ross and seconded by Peter Lundgren.

There were no matters arising.

#### **Item 6 Chairman's Annual Report.**

This is my first Chairperson's report and I am proud to stand here before you and comment on the activities of your Parish Council during the last 12 months or so.

I am attempting to follow in the footsteps of our previous Chairperson, Peter Lundgren, who stood down from the role last year, having performed the role for a number of years. He is proving to be a hard act to follow but, luckily for us, he has remained a Parish Councillor alongside his District Council duties.

For those of you not familiar with what the Parish Council actually does for you, in simple terms we are a group of local residents who take a pride in our Parish and meet on a monthly basis to discuss issues that directly affect the community. The issues we address can vary from discussing planning applications, running the local library, emergency planning and any issue that impacts our community; with the overall intention of making our communities a safe and pleasant place to live in. We meet once a month at the Pavilion on Moor Lane and invite members of the public to attend, in order to see and hear what is going on within our communities.

During the last year we have had a number of changes on the Council and have welcomed James Spittlehouse and Matt Adams to the team and I am pleased to say we currently have a full house of councillors.

We have had a change of Assistant Clerk and I am pleased to welcome Joy Naylor to our team.

We are extremely lucky to retain the services of our Parish Clerk Sarah, who most of you know. Sarah cements our Council together, keeps us in order and goes above and beyond what is actually required of a clerk.

Lesa Appleyard continues to coordinate the volunteers running our Library and we are proud of what they achieve. The Library is pretty much a flagship for other communities as to what can be achieved and is on the shortlist to become a Co-op Community Champion.

Rick Wilkinson continues to work as our village handyman, trying to keep things tidy within the Parish and we are also grateful to the unsung heroes who look after the verges outside of their homes and to the 'wombles' that clear the litter that other people very kindly deposit.

Your Parish Council has been really busy over the past 12 months and continues to work for you. A few examples of what we are currently working on include:

- Trying to make our roads safer - we are currently obtaining quotes from companies for the installation of illuminated speed signs for the B1188 and white gateways at selected entrance points
- Neighbourhood plan - This is now at an advanced stage and is an attempt to protect the character of our community.

- A new Community building on Moor Lane - The current building is not fit for purpose and with the growth of our community we need to ensure that we have sufficient areas for recreation and meeting opportunities for groups
- Lack of Post Office. - We now have no Post Office so we are looking at what other options are available to us to try and ensure we have some form of postal service within the community.
- Due to the previous success of community events such as the Christmas Market, we are holding a beer and gin festival on August 31<sup>st</sup> on the recreation ground on Moor Lane. A number of councillors are hard at work ensuring you have access to some fine ales and Gin, so keep your eyes on our website, Facebook page and local newsletters for further information.
- During the course of the year we have built up a good relationship with the Lincolnshire Rivers Trust, who have worked on the beck at Waterwheel Lane, building berms into the banks to create meanders that have increased the depth and flow, cleaning the bed and supporting fish. They will be returning soon to plant the berms up. They have also recently undertaken activities within our community which include children building bird boxes and creating a bird box trail through parts of Branston.
- Heaven forbid the Waggon and Horses closes, but if that ever occurs, we have ensured that there is something in place whereby the community has an opportunity to purchase and run the pub.
- National Citizen Scheme – young people have worked in the Jungle and Wildflower meadow in recent years but last year organised a social for the senior members of the community – on the wettest day of the summer – the only wet day. They are back again this summer and may be looking for your support at short notice.
- We continue to maintain a strong relationship with our Neighbourhood Policing team and really appreciate the work they do within our community with the limited resources they have available.
- The Parish Council continues to monitor the situation at the local Doctor's surgery and have engaged with representatives from the practice and their governing bodies and will try to support them where possible to improve the situation.

I will not take up anymore of your time, other than to thank you once again for your attendance this evening and to encourage you to talk to us at any time when you have any concerns over issues that could affect the community in which we live.

I hope you have found tonight informative and I look forward to working for you for the remainder of my term as chair.

#### **Item 7 Public Forum.**

- Mrs Minshull took the opportunity to provide an update on the success of the Food Voucher Scheme. The scheme aimed to provide vouchers during the summer holiday, for families whose children received free school meals during term time. It had been proved that many children missed the nourishment essential for physical and mental development and returned to school lethargic.  
Mrs Minshull said that the group had been able to provide vouchers, redeemable at the Co-op, for all children registered for free school meals. She thanked all who had given donations and supported the fundraising events. She went on to say that the group had been awarded £559 through the Co-op Community Champion Scheme and their application to the Bishop's Social Justice Scheme had been successful meaning that they would be able to issue vouchers during the summer – and the Easter and Christmas holidays. The group was committed to making the scheme sustainable in the long term. The next fundraising event would be a Craft Exhibition on 15<sup>th</sup> June.
- A resident raised an issue with the hedge between her property and the Community Academy. The report would be passed to the school for their attention.
- Mick Wood & Phil Adams said that they had been between them, served on the Parish Council for 70 years and considered that the current council was doing an excellent job.

No further issues were raised.

The meeting closed at 9.13pm.