

Branston & Mere Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Pavilion, Moor Lane, Branston on
Monday 1st April 2019 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs. Messrs Adams, Clarke, Lundgren, Marchant, Naulls, Ross & Tebb and Cllr Mrs Willcox.

In Attendance: Clerks - Mrs Stead and Mrs Naylor.

Members of the Public: Two.

Item 1 a) Apologies for absence and reasons given.

The Council noted and approved the reasons for the apologies of Cllrs Blair, Catton and Newman. Resignations had been received from Cllrs Price and Spittlehouse.

Linda Price had been an active member since September 2008. James Spittlehouse had joined the Council in September 2018. Both would be thanked for their time.

b) Declarations of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interests.

Cllr Marchant declared a non-pecuniary interest in the GP provision.

Item 2 Public Forum.

There were no issues raised.

Item 3 Reports from representatives on outside bodies:

a) Police.

During the period 04/03/19 – 01/04/19 three crimes had been reported:

- 1 Burglary - Dwelling
- 2 Criminal Damage.

b) County Council.

- Cllr Oxby reported that nominations for the 2019 Good Citizen's Awards were open until 3rd May.
- 88.6% of children had been offered a place at their first choice secondary school.
- The Bardney bridge refurbishment would start on 15th April. Diversions and bus time tables had been announced. The bridge would be open for pedestrians, cyclists and motor cycles if pushed.
- The government had allocated an additional £200 million for pothole repairs across the country. LCC spends about £50 million a year on pothole repairs.

c) District Council.

- Cllr Cucksey reported that the 2018/19 Disabled Facilities Grant capital budget had been increased by £78,500 to £825,800 to meet demands on the scheme. Grants would be available to make changes to Council and private homes, to widen doors, install ramps, stairlifts, downstairs bathrooms and heating.
- The Council had a balanced budget for 2018/19 and limited balanced reserves. Risk analysis had been undertaken.
- The NK Plan responded to the main challenges facing the district, ensuring the Council used its resources and influence to deliver priorities and services needed by communities.
- The Council recognised the central role of the NHS in the lives of North Kesteven residents and would continue to work closely with NHS bodies and other partners, to pioneer innovative and cooperative ways of working.
- Cllr Lundgren said that nominations for the NKDC Community Champions had been invited with new categories added.
- Details of the response from NKDC about the s106 contributions from Windmill Meadow had been circulated. Cllr Lundgren said that the same applied to the Station Road site with the expected contribution towards the provision of village infrastructure being lost through variations between outline permission and reserved matters. Contributions to Health, Highways and Education would still be payable but not ring-fenced for the local area.
- Potholes were a problem again and residents were urged to report them to Highways; although their policy now allowed 90 days for repairs.

- Incidents of fly tipping were increasing and should be reported to NKDC. He said that NKDC could support groups undertaking a spring clean of public areas, verges etc with bags, gloves, grabbers and would collect the rubbish.

d) Community Library.

The report had been circulated. The team was commended on the events organised for children during the Easter holidays.

e) Environmental Warden Report.

The Warden's report had been circulated and advised that patrols during the summer would be between 7am and 10pm.

Cllr Marchant had gathered 47 discarded bags during a 40-minute walk. The poor behaviour had been highlighted on Facebook.

Item 4 a) To resolve that the notes of the meeting held on 4th March are approved as the Minutes.

Acceptance of the notes was proposed by Cllr Clarke and seconded by Cllr Lundgren.

b) Matters arising from the Minutes for clarification.

15984 Ref 15693 - The remaining bird & bat boxes had been put up and Lincs Rivers Trust would produce a trail map. Cllr Lundgren advised that there were plans for them to work on the beck between Branston and Heighington.

15985 Ref 15967 - The reference number (14/0208) and details of the 2014 planning application to extend the Co-op car park had been circulated as a reminder.

15986 Ref 15980 – Grants for bus shelters were available from LCC. The new officer needed the background information prior to meeting. Grants for villages not on mains gas was available from Calor but the closing date was 29th April.

15987 72 people had attended the APM.

Item 5 Correspondence:

a) Newsletters and Periodic Publications.

15988 LALC News. Issue 168

b) Letters for information.

15989 LCC – Details of A15 road closures for Eastern Bypass construction.

15990 LCC – Copy of Street Lighting Policy 2019.

15991 Resident – Copy of letter from LCC re an obstruction on the verge.

c) LCC – Heritage Services consultation.

15992 The link had been circulated. Cllr Ross said that the future of the Usher Art Gallery was particularly contentious and encouraged members to complete the online survey.

d) NKDC – Lincoln Road street lighting.

15993 NKDC had advised that there were no plans to upgrade the lighting but as individual lights failed, they would be replaced with LED. The wooden poles were owned by Western Power with cables gradually being installed underground but no projects were scheduled in this area.

NKDC's budget for new lighting was limited but a quote would be obtained from LCC.

e) NKDC – Community Champions Award.

15994 Details of the ten categories had been circulated. The deadline for nominations is 5th August.

Item 6

15995 Planning Applications & Tree Applications:

a) Planning decisions received.

Planning permission had been granted on the following applications:

19/0036 Variation of condition 2 to extend solar park operation to 40 years.

Mere Rd - Sleaford Rd

19/0062 Outbuilding

Beck View, Paddock Lane

b) Planning Applications received.

19/0298 Single storey rear extension

Inglemere House, Potterhanworth Booths

No objections.

19/0341 Single storey rear extension & garage

57 Station Road

No objections.

c) Tree Application Decisions received.

None received.

d) Tree applications received.

19/0419 Crown lift Ash - remove 3 stems & reduce 3 stems.

29 Sleaford Road.

No objections.

Item 7 Other Reports:**a) Community benefit from new developments.**

15996 Cllr Lundgren said that the outline permission for Windmill Meadow had been approved in 2014 with an off-site contribution of £270k and an acre set aside for a community facility. The developers had submitted a variation on a minor point that had allowed them to renegotiate the conditions and contributions under the new Local Plan, in line with national policy and that had resulted in the loss of all off-site community benefit. Cllr Lundgren said that he had raised it with planning officers but it was unclear what could have been done to retain the community benefit or how to prevent the same happening at the Station Road site.

b) Update on the New Pavilion project.

15997 Cllr Ross spoke about the indicative design provided by LK2. With reference to Item 7a, he said that the loss of community benefit from the Windmill Meadow development had serious implications for the Pavilion project. An update on the potential grants available had been requested and would determine how much of the scheme's wish list would be affordable.

c) To confirm preferred speed reduction measures.

15998 The Chairman had received responses from all members with the final preference being for white UPVC with the B1188 and B1190 at Branston Booths being the priority sites. He was working towards getting agreement from LCC Highways and a site meeting with the gateway company to secure a quote. The speed device had been repaired and was back in use.

d) Update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

15999 Cllr Lundgren reported that funding was being sought for an independent technical review. He said that it was important to ensure that the wording of the policies allowed no loop holes and avoided the problems that other communities had encountered.

e) Emergency Plan update.

16000 Cllr Marchant said that there were 65 emergency volunteers. An open evening on 24th April would give others the opportunity to find out more about the plan. It would be followed by a Red Cross First Aid course.

f) Update on arrangements for the Beer Fest & new sockets.

16001 Cllr Clarke gave a positive report on arrangements. The entertainment had been booked and a management plan in place. Tickets would be online via Eventbrite.

16002 The electrician had provided a quote to install 2x16amp sockets. A second quote would be sought.

g) Feedback from the 4 Parish Cluster meeting.

16003 Cllr Newman had provided a report on the meeting. The group had discussed possible congestion at the roundabouts and issues would be monitored in due course. There had also been concern about the condition of the cycle paths to Lincoln from the villages.

16004 A letter expressing the Cluster's concerns about the provision of GPs had been sent to NKDC.

Item 8 Governance Review –**a) Risk Assessment.**

16005 No change.

b) Social Media interaction and the NOLAN principles.

16006 The revised NKDC Code of Conduct had been circulated and would be on the next agenda for adoption. With reference to social media, the Code of Conduct also covered member's interactions on social media when acting in the capacity of councillor. NKDC would also be reviewing the Social Media Policy.

Item 9 Finance:**a) To approve payments to be made.**

16007 Approval of the payments was proposed by Cllr Naulls and seconded by Cllr Ross.

T Mobile	Asst Clerk Mobile	11.29
Staff payments	Wages & expenses	3688.70
HMRC	Tax & NI	657.14
NEST	Pension	300.76
Michael Cummins	Dog Warden	210.00
C B Ground Maintenance	Grass cutting	345.00
LALC	Annual Subs	706.64
LALC	Training scheme	156.00
LALC	Training - lunch	8.50
Branston Hall	APM Refreshments	68.00
Octagon	Annual hosted e-mails	216.00
Portland Tools	Misc	29.16
Branston Bowls Club	Grant Aid	300.00
LIVES	Grant Aid	1000.00
U3A Croquet	Grant Aid	300.00
Brad Matthews	Deposit - BBF	50.00
Blues Boy Kings	Deposit - BBF	100.00
	Total Payments.	8147.19

b) Fourth quarter report.

16008 The report had been circulated. Areas showing overspend against budget had been identified in the second and third quarter reports and were covered by underspends elsewhere. A report on the movement of ear-marked reserves would be produced as part of the annual accounts.

Item 10 To consider movement on issues from previous agendas:

a) Loss of the Post Office.

16009 Post Office Ltd had not received any interest from a retail partner in taking over Post Office provision in Branston. The option of an outreach service would be explored but was dependent on an existing postmaster being willing to take it on.

The Chairman said that he would make enquiries about outreach providers in other villages.

b) Cycle path provision – Lincoln Road & Mere Road.

16010 Cllr Tebb suggested that Galliford Try might be able to help improve safety on Mere Road. He said that the road was treacherous for cyclists and pedestrians. Cllr Mrs Willcox would check whether any s106 monies had been earmarked from Branston Ltd or Kirk's Yard developments.

c) Library agreement.

16011 A meeting was scheduled for the following day.

d) Benches in Memorial Garden.

16012 No update.

e) Skate Park maintenance issues.

16013 A meeting was scheduled for the following day.

f) GP provision in the parish.

16014 The notes from the NHS meeting held in March 2018 had been circulated as a reminder and for further consideration. A super surgery on Canwick Heath was thought to be the NHS preferred site.

Item 11 Items for information.

16015 The Assistant Clerk had received a request to advertise the extended opening hours at the Vets on Facebook. Agreed as it was a public service.

16016 Cllr Ross spoke about traffic issues between 4-6pm. He said that during the last 6 months, Branston had become a bottle neck with traffic queueing back to the care home at times. He suggested that it might be that the traffic light phasing was not right to deal with the additional traffic rerouted by the Heighington Road closure.

16017 An email had been received from a resident on Rectory Lane, concerned about public safety when vehicles cut through the conservation area to avoid the lights. The Chairman would add it to the list to discuss with the Highways Officer.

16018 The Clerk was given approval to pay staff wages on 7th May, as the May meeting was delayed by the Bank Holiday.

Item 12 To resolve on whether the Council will move into closed session.

Cllr Naulls proposed, and Cllr Ross seconded the resolution.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.