

Branston & Mere Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Pavilion, Moor Lane, Branston on
Monday 4th March 2019 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs. Blair, Clarke, Lundgren, Naulls, Newman & Tebb and Cllrs Mesdames Price & Willcox.

In Attendance: Clerk - Mrs Stead.

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 Adams, Marchant, Ross and Spittlehouse. Cllr Oxby and Mrs Naylor had also sent apologies.

b) Declarations of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

Item 2 Public Forum.

No issues were raised.

Item 3 Reports from representatives on outside bodies:

a) Police.

During the period 4/2/19 – 4/3/19 three crimes had been reported:

- 1 Theft – Baby milk from the Co-op.
- 1 Burglary – Unoccupied dwelling on Station Road.
- 1 Criminal Damage – Rear car windscreen on Station Road.

b) County Council.

- The budget had been agreed for a 2.95% increase and an extra 2% for Adult Social Care.
- A consultation on the future of Heritage Services was open.
- The Collection was hosting a display by Luke Jerram until 28th April to mark the 50th anniversary of the first lunar landing.
- Further talks on possible trade links between the Hunan Province and Lincolnshire were planned.

c) District Council.

Cllr Cucksey reported :

- The budget had been balanced for the next three years to 2021/22 through good budget management and the work of the Transformation and ExCITE programmes: innovative solutions for Economy, Construction, Investment and Trading.
- A 3.1% (£4.95) increase in Council Tax had been agreed for 2019/20.
- Dwelling rents would decrease by 1%. The government had imposed an annual 1% reduction in 2012, effective from April 2016; creating the largest financial risk faced by the Housing Revenue Account.
- Garage, shed and allotment rents would not increase.
- All other services would increase by 3% from 1st April 2019.
- A 5% increase in discretionary fees and charges had been set by the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
- NKDC would continue to work with NHS bodies and other partners to improve health outcomes.
- The Valuation Office Agency had submitted an application to the Court of Appeals for the right to appeal the ruling on business rates for ATMs. The Supreme Court had indicated that it could take until June 2019 to decide whether to hear the case; potentially adding a further 18 months to 2 years for a decision.

Cllr Lundgren advised that:

- He had arranged a well-attended public meeting for residents affected by the Bardney Bridge Closure with the aim of providing more information and giving an opportunity to raise concerns. The County Council had since made more information available. The Assistant Clerk had set up a Facebook page to keep people apprised of the developments - 'Bardney Bridge Group'.

- Reserved matters on the Cyden Homes development were expected to be agreed soon.
- There had been an increase in fly-tipping and residents were encouraged to report any incidents.

d) Community Library Report & Agreement with BCA.

- A new Self-Service Kiosk had been installed.
- A Get-Together for library volunteers had provided a chance to share problems, queries and ideas. The Operations Manager for GLL had confirmed that funding for volunteer libraries would continue for 2019/20 but would then be reviewed annually.
- The Community Library had been shortlisted in the Co-op's Community Champion scheme in the autumn. There would be an online vote for members at www.lincolnshire.coop/ccvote until 12th April. If successful, the money raised would be used to purchase a Book Return Box.
- Transco were investigating an intermittent smell of gas in the Library, possibly from old pipework, under the library dating back to 1954.

e) Environmental Warden Report.

The Warden reported that he had been patrolling the areas of the highest footfall to monitor littering and dog fouling. He had been approached by a resident for information about dog fouling on a farm land and had suggested signage for trespassing and dog fouling.

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

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

b) Matters arising from the Minutes for clarification.

15947 Ref Police matters - The owner of the Husky dogs had been interviewed and the case reported to the CPS.

15948 Ref 15937 – Neighbouring residents had been advised on the provision of a Dog Waste Bin on Lincoln Road and the bin ordered.

15949 Ref 15946 - The leader of Escape had expressed his gratitude for the Parish Council's continuing support and gave details of future events.

Item 5 Correspondence:

a) Newsletters and Periodic Publications.

15950 Local Council Review

Winter 2019

15951 Clerks & Councils Direct

March.

b) Letters for information.

15952 Thanks had been received from the Croquet Group for the Grant Aid.

Their application to Awards 4 All for a new mower had been unsuccessful as it benefitted too few.

15953 UK Cycling Events - Details of an event planned for May. The route had been questioned as it crossed Bardney Bridge during its closure and LCC had advised that a permit would be unlikely.

15954 Frog Life - Confirmation of the registered toad crossing on Thackers Lane.

c) LCC Highways – Online Reporting.

15955 Advice from Cllr Davies on the online reporting system; intended to negate the need for officers to be office bound. Parishes could request an annual meeting with the highways team.

d) LCC Highways - Traffic Regulation Orders.

15956 An explanation of Traffic Regulation Orders. The Highways team would assess requests from parish councils supported by the ward councillor.

e) Resident – Concern about a Lime Tree on Lincoln Road Recreation Ground.

15957 A further letter had been received. The new evidence had been passed to the Inspector. Councillors resolved to accept his expert advice and the resident would be informed.

Item 6

15958 Planning Applications & Tree Applications:

a) Planning decisions received.

Planning permission had been granted on the following applications:

18/1706 Outline for 2 dwellings

Rear of 64 & 66 Sleaford Road.

18/1652 5 Light industrial units

Kirk's Yard. Mere Road.

b) Planning Applications received.

- 19/0122 Replacement livestock building for pigs Bramble Farm, Mere Road
- *The absence of detail on the ridge height of the building is a concern. The buildings should be screened by careful planting to ensure they are not over-dominant in open countryside on the edge of the residential area.*
 - *There have been previous issues with industrial lighting affecting users of Mere Road. The Parish Council asks for careful consideration and effective screening to avoid glare and unnecessary light pollution in open countryside.*
 - *There is a weight restriction on Silver Street. The company has responsibility to ensure that HGV traffic to and from the site is from the A15 and does not affect the village.*
- 19/0189 Agricultural storage building South of Potterhanworth Rd
The Parish Council has no objections to the proposal providing that it is only used for agricultural purposes and within its permitted conditions.
- 19/0196 Remove condition 5 Carr Dyke House Bardney Rd
Branston & Mere Parish Council remains concerned that this variation will see the annexe become a separate dwelling in open countryside.
The Parish Council considers that condition 5 should remain, to keep the annexe ancillary to the occupation of the original property and suggests that the relationship and facilities would be unsatisfactory if the two were separated.
- 19/0192 Demolition of garage, rear extension & loft conversion 15 High Street
No objections.
- 19/0223 First floor side and single storey rear extensions 3 The Chalfonts
No objections.

c) Tree applications received.

- 19/0035 Reduce height & reshape 2 Silver Birch 2 Springfield Close.
The Officer's response to the comments and advice on TPOs had been circulated.

Item 7 Other Reports:**a) Update on the New Pavilion project.**

15959 Cllr Ross had reported on a meeting with the architects at LK2, when an indicative layout to meet the wish list had been discussed. The initial designs were expected in time for the APM. An extra-ordinary meeting would be called to enable the Council to meet with LK2 to ensure the best design possible to meet the needs. The clerk would investigate the availability of additional s106 monies.

b) To decide on preferred speed reduction measures.

15960 The Chairman deferred the matter until April to allow all councillors to indicate their preferences for gateways and additional speed devices.

15961 The Chairman reported on a failed attempt to retrieve data from the speed device. He said that Unipart Dorman had discovered a fault on the Radar unit. The cost to repair the device would be £168 + VAT. Without the repair it would continue to display the speed of passing vehicles, but data would not be retained. Councillors agreed that the device was part of the Council's plans and should be repaired.

c) Update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

15962 Cllr Lundgren advised that some adjustments were needed to two policies within the Plan, to ensure that the wording gave the intended protection, but otherwise good progress had been made. Copies of the Draft Plan would be on display at the APM.

d) Work by the Lincs Rivers Trust.

15963 The Lincs Rivers Trust's 'Build a Bird Box' event had been well attended. The boxes would be put up to form a trail.

No local volunteers had come forward for the Jungle Workday but the Trust's regulars had carried out some clearing. The Trust had met with Hill Holt Wood and a working partnership could be developed.

e) Update on Skate Park maintenance issues.

15964 Galliford Try had offered help to the community but considered that the work needed at the Skate Park was outside their remit. Members considered that an additional quote was needed and suggested contacting John Martin-Hoyes to advise on a solution.

f) Action plan to resolve the issues at Branston Booths play area.

15965 The Chairman and Cllr Blair had met at Branston Booths Play Area to consider how to deal with the overgrown, water filled dykes and make the area safer. As the ground was unstable, there would be an issue taking heavy machinery onto the site. Damming the outfall was suggested but not thought to be a possibility. Reducing the level in the pond beyond the rear boundary would be a challenge. Further advice would be sought.

g) To consider the option to end part-night street lighting.

15966 The enquiry to LCC on the number of lights in the parish affected by part-night lighting had not been answered. The clerk had estimated the number to be about 200. Therefore, the cost to reinstate full-night lighting would be between £34,000, if it coincided with routine maintenance, and £60,000. After discussion, it was considered that street lighting after midnight was a luxury that increased the carbon footprint; there was no evidence of an increase in crime and the one-off payment was not affordable.

h) To consider involvement in Coop car park issues.

15967 The Co-op's Property Manager had confirmed that tickets would be issued to vehicles exceeding the 2-hour maximum or parking outside marked bays and had been the case since 2013. The UKCPS signage had recently been refreshed and patrols increased as the problem with availability for their customers had increased.

He had advised that the Junior Academy had returned the adjacent strip of land owned by the Co-op and it had been fenced off with a gap left for maintenance access. There were no plans to extend the car park following planning refusal in 2014. As directed, the Clerk had suggested a meeting to discuss possible solutions. The manager had asked for suggestions ahead of a meeting, to allow the proposals to be discussed by the team in advance.

Members agreed that the need for availability of parking for shoppers was undeniable and that the problem was being compounded by an increasing population. The 2014 would be re-examined but councillors resolved that the Co-op needed to make suggestions for discussion.

i) Emergency Plan update.

15968 A catch-up for volunteers and First Aid course were scheduled for 24th April.

j) Update on arrangements for the Beer Fest.

15969 Cllr Clarke reported that the working group had been productive and plans were proceeding well. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had the power to hold the event under LGA 1972 s144, to encourage visitors and s145, for the Provision of Entertainment. LALC had advised that the income and expenditure should be shown as a separate line in the budget and accounts. The electrician had confirmed that 16amp sockets could be installed from the Astro Court cabinet and would provide a quote.

Item 8 Governance –

a) Risk Assessment.

15970 Cllr Lundgren reported that the speed limit sign at Branston Booths had still not been replaced, a year on.

b) To appoint an interview panel for seasonal vacancy.

15971 Cllrs Blair, Clarke & Ross were appointed to conduct the interviews and put forward a recommendation to the Council.

c) Action Plan to deal with fly posting & advertising boards.

15972 The Clerk had provided photographic examples of A-frames and banners in Branston and the issue was discussed at length. It was agreed that businesses should not be permitted to put signs on Plough Corner or have excessive numbers.

Cllr Lundgren said that there was existing legislation to control the use of flyposting and existing powers to enforce it. He said that any individual had the right to remove flyposting but suggested that, as a Parish Council, the perpetrator should be contacted to remove the notices in the first instance as a courtesy. It was agreed that community events could be supported but not businesses from outside the parish.

d) To consider and agree a Social Media policy.

15973 The need was discussed at length. It was agreed that the NOLAN principles covered by the Code of Conduct applied to social media in the same way. Cllr Lundgren expected the issue to be covered under the revised Code of Conduct, due to be published. The matter was deferred.

15974 Cllr Mrs Willcox said that the Facebook page had been set up so that members of the public could comment on posts but could not add new posts; so no need for a disclaimer.

e) To consider amendments to the Grant Aid policy.

15975 The Clerk had circulated an amendment to include the additional clauses. Acceptance of the revision was proposed by Cllr Naulls and seconded by Cllr Clarke.

Item 9 Finance:

a) To approve payments to be made.

15976 Approval of the payments was proposed by Cllr Newman and seconded by Cllr Clarke.

T Mobile	Asst Clerk Mobile	11.00
Staff payments	Wages & expenses	3842.05
HMRC	Tax & NI	656.74
NEST	Pension	300.76
Michael Cummins	Dog Warden	210.00
C B Ground Maintenance	Grass cutting	112.50
Mark Harrod Ltd	Boot brushes	95.40
A1 Signs	Disclaimer signs	60.00
Pelican Trust	Neighbourhood Plan Books	36.00
Unipart Dorman	Speed Device Repair	201.11
	Total Payments.	5525.56

Item 10 To consider issues from previous agendas that have not been resolved:

a) Loss of the Post Office.

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

c) Highways Issues – Lincoln Road street lights.

15977 Item 10c would be referred to NKDC after advice had been received from LCC Streetlighting that the lights in question belonged to NKDC. LCC would install highway lighting at the bypass roundabout and for approx. 130m from the roundabout, in accordance with street lighting guidance. There were no proposals to install any extra lighting into the village.

Item 11 Items for information.

15978 Cllr Newman said that residents were concerned about a rumour circulating about allowing travellers to use the paddock on Sycamore Close.

Cllr Lundgren said that a Change of Use would be required, without which it would be classed as an illegal encampment and dealt with accordingly.

15979 Cllr Clarke said that trees from Branston Hall, overhanging the footpath and neighbouring gardens, needed cutting back but residents had been told that it would be at their own expense. Cllr Lundgren said that it was a civil matter between landowners but there was a duty to maintain trees above head-height over a PROW.

15980 Cllr Blair asked that the provision of a bus shelter at Branston Booths be kept on the agenda.

15981 Cllr Lundgren suggested that it should be possible to site another bus shelter on Station Road by levelling half of the concrete stepped area.

15982 Cllr Mrs Price asked that the issues around the Branston Surgery be kept on the agenda as the availability of appointments was getting to crisis point.

15983 Branston Ltd was planning an event on 27th April as a Charity of the Year fundraiser - St Barnabas Hospice. It would be at Moor Lane Recreation Ground and centre around a 5-aside tournament.

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

Cllr Newman proposed and Cllr Clarke seconded the resolution.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.