

**Whatton in the Vale Parish Council**

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday February 25th,  
2020, at the Jubilee Hall, Whatton in the Vale at 7.15pm**

Present: Councillors Gregg Redford (Chairman) Chris Grocock, Jane Morris(A), Julia Faulconbridge (A), Georgia Elms, Steve Ball.

In attendance: Councillor Maureen Stockwood.

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

Prior to the meeting commencing the Chairman informed members that the Parish Clerk was on the mend but was still not fit to attend the meeting. The Chairman requested that members bear with him as he would be minuting the meeting in addition to Chairing and being involved in the debate.

Members expressed their best wishes to the Clerk and continued recovery.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Morris presented her apologies as she was avoidably detained, members accepted the reason for absence.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Redford informed the Meeting that he was a Member of the Cranmer Local History Group and did provide the web hosting services for the Group. Councillor Redford went on to say that it may be considered that he had a Prejudicial Interest in the item under discussion in item 5 (a) of the agenda and would hand the Chair to the Vice-Chairman and withdraw from the room for that item.

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 14, 2020 FOR APPROVAL**

The Minutes of the meeting held on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 had already been distributed to members. The minutes were reviewed and approved. The signing of the minutes would be deferred until the next meeting when the Clerk is expected to be in attendance.

**4. OPEN SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, LIMITED TO 15 MINUTES**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**5. CLERK'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported that there had been no further information about the installation of a Bus Shelter on Dark Lane.

**6. REPORT FROM THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER**

Councillor Stockwood informed the meeting that she had nothing more to add to the Rushcliffe 'Town and Parish Update' which had been published.

Councillor Stockwood informed the meeting that she may not be able to attend all the future meetings as both Whatton-in-the-Vale and Aslockton Parish Council meetings 'clashed' with other meeting commitments. The Chairman thanked her for her attendance.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

**a. Cranmer Local History Group – Request for £50.**

The Chairman handed the Chair to the Vice-Chairman and left the room. The meeting resolved to accede to the request of the Cranmer Local History Group and to make a grant of £50. The Clerk was instructed to make payment.

**b. Response to resident re: condition of verges.**

The Chairman reported to members that a reply had been sent to a resident in connection to their concerns about the state of the verges throughout the 'Old' Village.

**c. Flooding on the Old Grantham Road.**

The Chairman reported that he had received an e-mail and telephone call from a resident who expressed concern about the recent flooding on the Old Grantham Road close to the junction with Dark Lane. The initial view was that the river had not breached the Flood Defences on that side (the Old Grantham Road), but there was concern that recent building works had undermined the flood defences

allowing the river to 'seep' through at the bottom. Given the current and prospective weather conditions the Chairman felt that more detailed discussion was required, and it should be put on the agenda for the next meeting. In preparation for that debate the Chairman was asked to liaise with the Clerk and write to the Environment Agency to solicit their views on the issue.

d. Emergency Plan.

The Chairman expressed the view that the recent high level of water and potential flooding indicated the need for an Emergency Plan, and he proposed that the issue be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting (24<sup>th</sup> March 2020). The meeting agreed to the proposal.

Councillor Stockwood advised the meeting that there was an Emergency Plan template on the Nottinghamshire County Council website.

## 8. PLAYING FIELD

### a. General Comments

Councillor Grocock informed the meeting that the Playing Field Committee had discussed issues arising out of a possible conflict between Football and Archery. The Committee had delegated authority to the Field Manager to resolve such conflicts without prior reference to the Committee providing always that the interests of regular users (i.e. the Cricket and Archery Clubs) take precedence. Members took note of the comments.

### b. Football Club.

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had noted that there was a discussion about the potential of receiving funding for the maintenance of the football field, subject to a '10 year' arrangement with a single football Club. The Chairman said that he intended to attend the next meeting of the Committee but asked Councillor Grocock to make the point that the Committee were not authorised to make such long term arrangements, it would be a matter for the Trustees and he did not believe that it was in the power of the Trustee to enter any sort of agreement that would cede any level of control of any part of the Playing Field to a third party.

### c. Funding Request – Councillor Grocock

The meeting considered the report from Councillor Grocock in relation to Funding Bid to WREN. The meeting understood that it is part of the process that a third party (ies) pay 10% of the bid total in order to trigger the release of the funds.

On a motion proposed by Councillor Grocock and seconded by Councillor Redford, it was resolved:

That the Parish Council agree to act as the contributing third party (with Aslockton Parish Council) in respect of the Grant Application made to the FCC Community Action Fund in the amount of £3,708.25 each. Providing that:

1. A similar commitment is provided by Aslockton Parish Council and
2. the Responsible Financial Officer confirms that the Parish Council has or will have sufficient funds to meet the obligation.

### d. Fencing between the Playing Field and 1, Dark Lane.

Members were informed that Aslockton Parish Council had agreed to go ahead with the installation of a new fence as discussed by this Council. The quote from Tom Dawes had been accepted (it already had been agreed by this Council) and work will commence as soon as it is practicable.

## 9. PLANNING MATTERS

### a. Reserved Matters for Orston Lane development approved.

The meeting was informed that the Reserved Matters Application had been approved. It was noted that the Applicant had responded to objections from the Parish Council, residents and Nottinghamshire County Council by reverting to a single access point from the metaled portion of Orston Lane.

## 10. FOOTPATHS

The Chairman reported that PROW FP 1 (Blackberry Hill) is still effectively closed awaiting the rebuilding of the bridge over the River Whipling. He had contacted the Rights of Way Officer who had responded. The closure is likely to last until at least April 2020. A contract had been placed for it's replacement, but the rain had created an extremely high-water table and all 'ground works' have been postponed until the land had dried sufficiently to enable safe ground works to be performed.

## 11. FINANCE

### a. Accounts for Payment

A list of accounts for payment was presented to the meeting. The Payments were approved.

### b. Current Financial Position

The current financial position was tabled and reviewed by the meeting.

Members were reminded of the following commitments:

Playing Field – Play Equipment Grant - £5,000

Playing Field – Replacement Fence - £750 (circa)

Playing Field – Revenue Grant - £900

Playing Field – New Entrance gate - £1,000 circa

Fete/VE75 – Event Sponsoring - £1,000

Playing Field – Grant ‘trigger’ - £3,700

Providing a total of circa £12,350 committed in the 2020/2021 Fiscal Year of which 10,350 relate to Capital Grants.

## 12. ENVIRONMENT

### a. Condition of Highways and Verges

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had hoped to produce a report for the Council on this issue for this meeting. However, other considerations had made this impossible. He further informed the meeting that he had made much progress on the issue but requested that discussion be deferred until the next meeting.

### b. Old Road – Planting of Trees

The meeting was informed that no permission to plant trees had been received by Local Highways and in consequence we could not go ahead in that location. It had been suggested that the Playing Field be used, however as it would be necessary to obtain the agreement of Aslockton Parish Council and the Playing Field Committee it was not felt that it was possible within the timeframe required. Whilst not ideal Queen’s Wood would need to be the ‘fall-back’ position.

### c. Verges – Bulb Planting

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had hoped to produce a series of plans for the planting areas in order for the Council to be able to define the planting requirements. The production of plans is still in hand, but like the Verges other issues had claimed the time available. The issue was deferred to the next meeting.

## 13. NEWSLETTER

It was suggested that the following items be produced for the Newsletter to be produced for the end of March:

- a. Highways and Verges Conditions – Councillor Redford
- b. Website changes – Councillor Redford
- c. Village Fete/VE75 – Councillor Elms
- d. Queen’s Wood – Councillor Faulconbridge
- e. Emergency Planning – Councillor Redford
- f. Playing Field – Councillor Grocock / Paul Brown
- g. Cranmer Local History Group – Councillor Steve Ball
- h. Village Hall – Councillor Georgia Elms
- i. Hedgehogs – Councillor Georgia Elms.
- j. Bits and Bobs – Clerk Mike Elliott.

Members agreed that the deadline for copy to be sent to the Clerk should be the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.

The aim is to deliver the Newsletter at the latest by the first week of April 2020.

## 14. VILLAGE FETE / VE75DAY

a. Councillor Elms informed the meeting that she now had the help of four volunteers (two from Whatton and two from Aslockton). The format and content of the event was still ‘work-in-progress’ as only one meeting had taken place, but progress had been made.

b. Firstly, a pre-event preparation day was envisaged. It is intended to promote greater participation from residents including children. The precise format is yet to be agreed but would likely include light refreshments, possible a hair-dresser demonstration and the making of bunting.

c. It was agreed that the Outside event would take place on the Green between 12 pm and 4 pm. Councillor Elms confirmed that ‘Tylers’ Steam Engine would attend and the possibility of ‘Swing Boats’ (on the suggestion of members) would be investigated. The format would be based on a ‘Picnic in the Park’ with a ‘Fun Dog Show’ and period sideshow type games (‘Splat-the-Rat’, ‘Coconut Shy’ etc.). Members confirmed that they would be available to help on the day.

d. The Evening Event was to be moved from the Saturday Evening to Friday. A band had yet to be arranged. Councillor Elms expressed the view that it was difficult to devise a music programme based only on the 1940s/50, members agreed, and it was left to Councillor Elms to make whatever arrangements she and the team felt appropriate. It was suggested that the food served be 'Peas and Pies' which was agreed by members.

e. Tables would be required for the afternoon event; the Chairman would investigate sourcing the tables.

f. It was felt that promotion of the events was required. The Chairman informed the meeting that his daughter (a Graphics Designer) had volunteered to design posters and tickets etc. The Chairman passed on her contact details. Councillor Grocock confirmed that he was happy to promote the events but needed more 'concrete' description. Councillor Elms undertook to 'firm out' the proposals.

g. It was confirmed that a budget of £1,000 had been agreed by the Parish Council for the events.

#### 15. QUEEN'S WOOD

Councillor Faulconbridge explained that due to illness not much work had been undertaken during the winter.

She further informed the meeting that a further machine cut would be required in March, followed by a subsequent cut in the Autumn. In reply to a question from Councillor Elms, Councillor Faulconbridge explained that due to the nature of the grass, specialist equipment was required to cut the area. She further explained that the contractor used last time was not available, she had however been in touch with 'Three Shires' a specialist contractor and would request a quote for the work.

It was envisaged that the concrete would be taken up in September, the pond dug and the rubble from the concrete used to provide the base of the habitat. The wildflower area would be shown in the autumn.

A question was raised as to whether planning permission would be required for the pond, it was thought not but the Chairman would check.

#### 16. CASUAL VACANCY

The meeting was informed that a resident had applied to be appointed to the Casual Vacancy. The meeting unanimously approved her appointment and requested that the Clerk write and invite the Resident to the next meeting at which the co-option could take place.

#### 17. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING MARCH 24, 2020

- a. The following items were proposed to be included in the Agenda for the next meeting:
  - i. Emergency Plan (as a main standing item).
  - ii. Flooding (under Environment).
    1. Old Grantham Road
    2. Dark Lane – Sewers overflowing.
  - iii. Verges – Bulb Planting (under Environment)
  - iv. Playing Field Fencing (under Playing Field)
  - v. Website (under Newsletter item).
- b. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:10 pm.