

# **RATCLIFFE ON THE WREAKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015 at 7.30 PM in the village hall

## **Present:**

Cllr Tom Chaplin, Cllr Pauline Lewis, Cllr Mick Wells and Cllr Andy Cartright  
Cllr James Poland  
The clerk  
3 members of the public were present

## **140/2015 - Resolution to receive apologies for absence**

- Cllr Emily Le Gros

## **141/2015 - Resolution to receive declarations of interest on items of the agenda**

As agreed Declarations of Interest would be recorded at the start of each meeting. Councillors declaring an interest would still be entitled to take part in discussions unless the item is prejudicial, councillors would not be allowed to vote on the item or add opinion.

- Cllr Chaplin declared an interest in item 150/2015 as the owner of the property
- All Cllrs declared an interest in item 149/2015 as residents of Ratcliffe village.

## **142/2015 – County Council/Police reports**

- PC Ian Mundy reported that there had been no crime reported in the village and that the team are now based at Syston Town Council. The Chair asked whether PC Mundy whether there would be any possibility of having a speed camera positioned in the village at key times of the day and PC Mundy said that he would look into this.
- Cllr Poland reported that Charnwood's Core Strategy was adopted by Charnwood Borough Council on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015. It marks the end of an 11-year journey and follows extensive consultations and an examination by an independent Planning Inspector. It now has full weight in planning and will last until 2028. In the Strategy, Ratcliffe is designated a 'Small Village/Hamlet', which allows for development only where there is an identified local need (i.e. if the Parish Council created a Neighbourhood Plan which called for more of a certain type of housing for instance). Consequently, the Core Strategy will offer the village a strong degree of protection from inappropriate development for more than a decade.

## **143/2015 - Public Questions**

Members of the public were asked to declare their name when addressing the Chairman if they wished for their name to be minuted in this section of the meeting, if they did not want their name mentioned they need not declare it.

- N/A

## **144/2015 – Resolution to approve and sign minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

The minutes of the meetings were circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting for them to be reviewed. Councillors a few minor typing amendments.

**Resolved:** The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed.

## **145/2015 - Resolution to approve payment of outstanding accounts**

- Current account balance = £1,997.69
- Reserve account balance = £11,870.98

The following cheque was agreed:

293	• St Botolphs, garden maintenance	£200.00
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294	• Ratcliffe Village Hall, hall hire	£113.00
295	• Chq cancelled	-
296	• Helen Chadwick, clerks salary and expenses	£185.20
297	• B Preston, poppy wreath	£28.00
	<b>Total outgoing cheques:</b>	<b>£426.20</b>

**Resolved:** Cheques will be processed and posted out at the earliest convenience.

#### **146/2015 – Clerks report**

- The clerk reported that following the submission of a recent application for funding via NALC in relation to the Transparency Code that the application for £434.99 has been successful and the money will be paid directly into the bank account. The clerk will purchase the laptop and printer and claim the money back via expenses.
- The clerk reported that she had been in contact with the LCC regarding the replacement of the tree on Thrussington Road and they have responded to say that funding is not at this time from LCC despite the planting being part of the Millennium project. The Parish Council can replace the trees at their expense if they wish.
- The clerk reported that she had contact LCC Highways regarding the alteration to the speed sign in the village but had received no response.

#### **147/2015 – To discuss the Boat House and agree action**

The Chair reported that he had included an article in the village newsletter about saving the Boat House with a suggestion that interested villagers could create a Building Preservation Trust group and apply for funding to save the Boat House.

Cllrs agreed that if a group were interested in taking this forward then they should submit a proposal in time for the March Parish Council meeting confirming that a Building Preservation Trust had been set up, that there was a strategy to raise funds and a formal request to the Parish Council to gain access to the land.

The Chair commented that there is still no right of way access to the Boat House, however, access to carry out work on it could be given.

Councillors agreed that if no group comes forward with a proposal then the Boat House will be handed back to the land owner.

**Resolved:** The clerk will add this as an item for discussion at the March meeting.

#### **148/2015 – To receive an update on the progress of the lease with Charnwood Borough Council for the land on Church Lane**

The clerk reported that is in regular contact with the solicitor and Charnwood Borough Council and it is hoped that the lease agreement will be available for discussion at the March meeting.

#### **149/2015 – To discuss and agree precept request for 2016/2017**

A copy of the precept was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and following a discussion Cllr Chaplin proposed that the precept request of £1,500 and this was seconded by Cllr Cartright.

**Resolved:** The clerk will submit the councils formal request before the January deadline.

#### **150/2015 – To discuss and agree response in relation to planning application P/158/2419/2 – felling of 1 Ash tree and cutting back of over hanging branches of 1 Sweet Chestnut tree and 1 Horse Chestnut tree at 14 Church Lane, Ratcliffe.**

Councillors discussed the planning application and agreed that there were no objections. Cllr Wells asked the property owner whether the removal of the branches on the Sweet Chestnut tree would cause any future damage and the property owner confirmed that all the works was being carried out professionally and that no lasting damage to the tree would be done.

#### **151/2015 – To discuss and agree rent for parking spaces and garages on Church Lane**

The clerk reported that other Parish Councils charge between £50 and £100 per year for a parking space and between £150 and £200 per year for the use of a garage. The clerk reported that the lease agreement with Charnwood Borough Council is going to cost the Parish Council £350 and

there is also the additional cost of the legal fees which have been quoted as approximately £750. Councillors discussed the availability of space and agreed that there could be four parking spaces with a rental agreement of £150 per year, this would generate an income of £600 per year. Cllr Chaplin proposed that the Mr Owen be offered a reduced rate of £75 for the first year based on the disruption that will be caused when work is being carried out and this was seconded by Cllr Cartright. The seconded lease holder will be contacted to see if they wish to continue leasing the space for £150 per year from the 1<sup>st</sup> April.

**Resolved:** The clerk will write to the lease holders.

**152/2015 – To discuss letters to prospective renters and agree formula to allocate spaces if more than 2 apply**

Councillors agreed that once the lease agreement is in place with Charnwood Borough Council the clerk would write to the property owners of number 6, 8, 10 and 12 Church Lane (they have no off road parking) asking if they would be interested in renting parking space.

Councillors raised concerns about how the spaces would be allocated and it was agreed to wait to see how many people responded to confirm their interest and whether the existing users of the garages wished to continue renting.

**153/2015 – To discuss action to prepare parking spaces**

Councillors agreed to wait until the lease agreement was in place and the number of parking spaces had been allocated before further discussions took place on how to prepare the land.

**154/2015 – To discuss ideas to get volunteers involved in clearing the area behind the garages and agree funding**

Cllr Chaplin proposed that a small working party be created with 3 or 4 volunteers to look at clearing the area, digging it over and planting shrubs and wild flower seeds. Councillors agreed that the area is in need of work and that Cllr Chaplin should proceed with initial discussions with volunteers about how much work is needed and the amount of funding that would be required for shrubs, etc.

**155/2015 – Parish Councillor Updates**

Cllr Chaplin reported that:

- Trees are being chopped down within the grounds of Ratcliffe Hall and it looks like building work is progressing on the house behind the paddock.

**156/2015 – To discuss and agree meeting dates for 2016**

The clerk circulated provisional meeting dates to all councillors and confirmed that the next meeting will take place on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, commencing at 7.30 PM in the village hall.

Councillors agreed that the dates of future meetings as:

- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016, Annual Parish meeting
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016

**The Chair closed the meeting at 8.45 PM.**

**Signed:**

**Date:**