

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

## **Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020 at 7.30 PM via Zoom**

### **Present:**

Cllr Tom Chaplin, Cllr Pauline Lewis, Cllr Ken Wood & Cllr Emily Le Gros. Cllr Poland and the clerk.

*The clerk reported that due to COVID-19 the parish council were meeting virtually using Zoom.*

### **412/2020 – Appointment of Chair**

- Cllr Lewis proposed Cllr Chaplin as Chair of the parish council, this was seconded by Cllr Wood. There were no other proposals and all councillors were in agreement. Cllr Chaplin accepted the position for twelve months.

### **413/2020 – Appointment of Vice Chair**

- There were no nominations for Vice Chair, it was therefore agreed that if needed, a Vice Chair would be appointed at a meeting.

### **414/2020 – Resolution to receive apologies for absence**

- The clerk reported that following the recent passing of Cllr Mick Wells, Charnwood Borough Council had been notified that the parish council had a vacancy. A notice of vacancy will be published and if there is no call for an election the parish council will be able to co-opt.

### **415/2020 – Resolution to receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda**

- N/A

### **416/2020 – County/Borough Councillor & Police reports.**

- Cllr Poland reported that residents in Charnwood are now able to book bulky waste collections again. The borough council is resuming the service after it was suspended due to staff shortages caused by the coronavirus pandemic and the first collections took place on Monday May 11.  
A limited number of bookings are being taken each week to ensure the Council's waste partners Serco can continue to focus resources on refuse, recycling and garden waste collections. Bookings are being taken on a first come first served basis and residents can book collections on the Council's website or by calling 01509 634563. For more information about bulky waste collections please visit: [https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/special\\_collections](https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/special_collections)
- Cllr Poland reported that application - P/20/0762/2 - Land at North West of Six Hills - is for a "screening request" which means at this stage the developer is seeking a view as to whether an Environmental Impact Statement would be needed to accompany any planning application submitted. It is highly likely that it would and that Charnwood's decision will simply be that. The next stage in the process is generally to seek a "scoping opinion". That is where we are asked to outline the topics that the Environmental Impact statement should cover. This is all generally the precursor to a planning application or request for pre application advice. This proposal is linked to an application currently being considered by Melton Borough Council. The current "screening" site is, however, all within Charnwood.  
Separate to this application, I have found out through this process there is further land within Charnwood, (adjacent to both the screening site and the Melton site), that is being promoted by the developer through the Local Plan process. In totality it appears that the developer is seeking a much larger development which straddles the boundary between Charnwood and Melton. As with all new sites proposed through the consultation, both sites will be assessed and considered against the criteria set out in the Sustainability Appraisal. It is too soon to confirm which sites will be included in the Pre-Submission version of the Local Plan, as there is still a significant amount of work still to do on appraising and understanding sites. All sites are being reassessed in light of the responses received to the consultation and alternative proposed sites considered. However the appraisal of broad options, which informed the Draft Plan consulted on last year, included an option for a new settlement of around 1,000 homes as part of a wider

urban focused strategy and was not found to perform as well as other options. Whilst this related to a new settlement at Cotes, the same issues of deliverability, access to services and landscape impacts will need to be considered in assessing these sites.

- Cllr Poland reported that application - P/20/0696/2 LCFC training ground, minor material amendment to junction improvements is essentially looking for permission to open the training ground before the road safety improvements have been made to the A46 junction. The Club have proposed a travel plan to instruct vehicles using the site not to use the central refuge area to cross the A46, however I have concerns about how that could be enforced given the experience during the building work. I also have concerns that if the site is occupied before road safety work is complete, there would be no impetus for the applicant to complete the work and if that situations continues for months, the applicant could argue the work is no longer needed at all if its seen to be working ok. The Highways Department at the County Council have objected to this application and so have I. I've told Charnwood I wish to call this application into Plans Committee if they are minded to approve the application.
- Cllr Poland reported that Seven county Recycling and household waste sites re-open from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May seven county tips have re-opened, although booking is now required to attend (to ensure social distancing rules can be applied). The sites re-opening nearest to us are Mountsorrel and Melton, the others re-opening are Barwell, Lount, Market Harborough, Oadby and Whetstone. These sites will all open seven days a week and will be for county residents only.

To book a slot, go to <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/waste-bookings> and people can book to attend whichever site they wish (it doesn't have to be the site closest to them).

The council is anticipating there will be a high level of demand for bookings and is reassuring residents that more slots will be made available over the coming weeks. People are being asked to only bring what they cannot safely store at home for the time being, or cannot wait for their kerbside collection services, many of which are being reinstated by district councils. Social distancing will be in operation at the sites, and plans will also include traffic management arrangements. There will also be parking restrictions in place around the immediate vicinity of the waste sites.

- Cllr Poland reported that Country parks have re-opened since the government advice regarding travelling for exercise changed on 13<sup>th</sup> May, Leicestershire country parks have re-opened to the public. Locally these include the Watermead, Bradgate Park, the Outwoods and Beacon Hill. The car parks have re-opened at these sites with signs reminding people to socially distance, but playgrounds, cafes and other visitor facilities will remain closed until further notice.
- Cllr Poland reported that County Council wildflower scheme launched and grass cutting scheme is set to blossom thanks to a trial that will see wildflowers and wildlife flourish on roadside verges across Leicestershire. The Urban Wildlife Verge Project will aim to improve biodiversity and encourage wildlife. It forms part of our wider work to tackle climate change and commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

The County council has been working alongside parish councils, giving them the opportunity to turn urban roadside verges into dedicated wildflower verges. A total of twelve parish councils signed-up to take part in the project, which will involve volunteers giving up their time to make a difference in their community by weeding, planting seeds and developing areas of wildflowers at identified locations in the county.

Currently only grass in rural areas where it impacts on road user's visibility at junctions and on bends will be cut to ensure highway safety.

The County maintains nearly 3.8million square metres of urban grass in residential areas, and they began cutting those verges on Monday, 4 May.

The county council reviewed the highways work due to COVID-19 and initially delayed our urban grass cuts as they are primarily for aesthetic rather than safety reasons. In line with further government guidance and our social distancing practices, we are now in a position to carry out our urban grass-cutting operations as well as the rural visibility splays at junctions. Nine two-person gangs using a ride-on mower with flail and a strimmer cut the grass in towns and villages.

#### 417/2020 - Public Questions

- N/A

#### **418/2020 – Resolution to approve and sign minutes of the Parish Council meeting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

The minutes of the meetings were circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting for them to be reviewed. The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed and will be uploaded onto the website.

#### **419/2020 - Resolution to approve payment of outstanding accounts**

The clerk reported that the first instalment of the precept had been received. The clerk represented the following payments for approval. Cllr Le Gros proposed the approval of all payments and this was seconded by Cllr Wood.

000452	• Leicestershire County Council, lighting	£82.92
000453	• Helen Chadwick, clerks salary	£150.00
	<b>Total outgoing cheques:</b>	<b>£232.92</b>

#### **420/2020 – Update on the Church Lane project**

Cllr Chaplin reported that the garage has now been vacated and he will start to look for quotes for the removal of it. This also means that we have a vacant car parking space and it was agreed that once the garage has been removed we will contact potential residents who may wish to rent it. Cllr Wood commented that there is asbestos in the garage and that we should perhaps delay the removal of it because of COVID-19, councillors were in agreement. Councillors also raised concerns about the rubbish being left at the site and that dens are being made, it was agreed to monitor this.

#### **421/2020 – To receive an update on progress made with the speed camera and agree actions**

The clerk reported that we have received notification from Highways that the installation of the cameras will take place on the 28<sup>th</sup> May but they because of COVID-19 they have requested that no members of the parish attend site. However, we would kindly request that no representatives of the Parish look to attend site.

It was noted that Coeval will need to provide a demonstration on how to use the equipment but that will have to be delayed until a later date because of COVID-19.

#### **422/2020 – To review the street lighting survey**

The clerk reported that all responses had now been received and circulated to councillors. It was agreed that Cllr Prior will collate all the responses to form a more detailed discussion at the next meeting.

#### **423/2020 – To discuss the possibility of making a donation to the village hall to replace the water heater in the kitchen and agree action**

Cllr Chaplin reported that this has been delayed.

#### **424/2020 – Update on the installation of a defibrillator at the village hall**

Councillors discussed the installation of a defibrillator and agreed to review this once the garage has been removed.

#### **425/2020 – Parish Councillor Updates**

- Cllr Lewis reported that one of the trees on the road has split and needs some attention. Cllr Prior agreed to take a look at the tree to see whether the dead parts could be removed.

#### **426/2020 – Date of next meeting**

The clerk confirmed that the next parish council meeting will take place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 PM via Zoom.

**The Chair closed the meeting at 20: 25 PM.**

**Signed:**

**Date:**