

CLIFTON CAMPVILLE WITH THORPE CONSTANTINE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

7th May 2024 @ 7:30pm

In the Clifton Campville village hall

Present: Cllr Green (chairman), Cllr E Leedham, Cllr R Leedham, Cllr Amsden, Cllr Tongue, Cllr Bostock, Cllr Bennion, Cllr Nicholls. Cllr A White SCC

Sue Hughes (Clerk).

Also, present - 7 member of the public.

Correspondence – All correspondence has been circulated prior to the meeting.

1. Appointment of Chairman
Cllr Green was nominated as Chairman, proposed by Cllr Bennion and seconded by Cllr R Leedham. Cllr Green accepted the position and signed acceptance form. There were no other candidates.
2. Apologies - None
3. Declaration of interest – Cllrs Tongue and Amsden 10b&c. Cllrs R & E Leedham 8d
4. Appointment of Vice Chairman
It was proposed and agreed by all members that a vice Chair is not necessary and a member will be appointed for this position, if required in the absence of the Chair.
5. Public session
 - a. David Lodge thanked members for their continued support for the Millennium Green and the Village Hall. He also requested, for speed awareness, that the white lines on the entrance to the village (sharks teeth) to be resurfaced as these have deteriorated. Cllr Alan White was asked to make a note of this.
 - b. Gill Bird raised the topic of the school bus and requested that the Green Man bus stop to be reinstated for the 25 children who previously used it. This was discussed at length and Cllr Alan White agreed to liaise with the bus company on behalf of parents.

6. County & District Cllrs

a. Cllr Alan White said he would report the 'Sharks teeth' in the meeting with the Highways division on 15th May. He went on to thank Cllr R Leedham for the time he had taken to give him a 2 hour tour of the parish to get a feel of the flow of water with the highways issue being faced. Thanks were also made for the litter pick which he attended and also thanks for the cake supplied. Cllr White discussed potholes and explained with inflation for materials and the budget spent which is between 62 and 82 million a year and the government spending has been reducing. The weather has had an impact on the roads. Discussions are taking place with Cabinet colleagues to allocate more money into Highways. Crews will be increased and to change the culture to getting repairs right first time. Reporting all potholes is encouraged.

Cllr Bostock raised the issue with Cllr White regarding flooding and that NWLDC who seem to deposit most of their water from their towns in the area into the river Mease and with more development going on, particularly the development on the M42, Jnc 11, that also pours down onto the Mease. Cllr White was asked what the best way would be to address this issue. Cllr White said he aware of the issues raised and the impact it has, which is significant and raise this with the leader of Leicester County Council and ask what the plans are for the management of water. Cllr Bennion mentioned that the number of houses around the Ashby area has put more pressure on this issue and also the plan to pump sewage from Packington through to Croxall. Cllr White was unaware of this plan but will discuss Mercia Park with the relevant bodies.

b. District Cllr Bennion report - May 2024

The only significant decision that required a vote at the April LDC meeting was regarding the Council investing an additional £1.7m in the former Debenhams building. The building is destined for mixed leisure and evening economy use and the District Council have used consultants to search out an outlet to take the major part of the lease. The consultants came up with bar/resraurant chain The Botanist, but the conditions required an additional £1.7m for refurbishing the former store as an upmarket bar/restaurant.

My Lib Dem group were not satisfied that alternative offers had been sufficiently explored. We also felt that such a large sum being spent with a chain, which may not retain its current brand popularity, was a risky venture. We therefore voted against the proposal. Both Con and Lab groups voted in favour so it was approved. I have visited the proposed Chestnut Lane development proposal from all angles, including the properties of applicants and objectors. The new proposal addresses some of the concerns raised by residents regarding the previous proposal but introduces some new ones. I have asked that levels and separation distances are checked. Having looked at the siting of the 2nd dwelling, it did become clear that it is further from the tree than I thought and that a driveway is easily feasible without disturbing the bank.

Also the height and massing towards the Coppice Lane properties is much less obtrusive, with only a gable end rising to 8 metres. However, I have some reservations about the proximity of the access to No19, although this has now been moved further away from the boundary and also await the assessment as to whether or not the new access complies with visibility requirements. I am also concerned that the footprint of building and hard standing may overwhelm the natural drainage, which copes at the moment. I have spoken to the Planning Officer regarding the application for lorry parking at Dunnimere Farm, Harlaston. She is still awaiting a report from Highways. My concerns are that the local road network is not suitable for a lorry park for 18 HGVs and that the disturbance for the residents of Dunnimere Cottages would at least require limitations on hours of access. The visual intrusion is a factor, but the Planning Officer pointed out that it is not nearly as visible as the similar facility at Elford Lowe and might be difficult to refuse on those grounds. The Lichfield District draft Design Code is out to consultation. Rural areas and villages are treated separately to the urban areas and it is a detailed document. I would suggest that parishes take a look at it and submit comments. I have had a lengthy conversation with the officer responsible for dealing with fly tipping incidents. The same officer is responsible for investigation and prosecution as actually appears with the truck to clear them. He seems to be enthusiastic and thorough. We discussed the recent incidents in Thorpe Lane and Syerscote Lane and the cross border issues with neighbouring districts. We also talked about fly tipping inside field gateways beyond the highway boundary, which the District Council have no duty to clear. In many cases he still clears them, particularly if part of the tipping is on the roadside. He also looks for evidence as he does have a role in prosecuting. Our final subject was unregistered land. There are a number of lanes within the ward which are neither Highways land nor have a private owner. This was new to him, but he will keep it in mind.

7. Minutes of previous meetings. These were circulated before the meeting, taken as read and signed as a true record by the Chairman. These minutes will be posted on the website.
 - a. 12th March 2024 – no matters arising.
 - b. 11th April 2024 – no matters arising.
6. Bus service – The Clerk will write to Cllr Alan White with the preferred bus route and request for the Green Man bus stop to be reinstated.
7. AGAR certificate of exemption was approved and signed by the Chair/Clerk. All other AGAR forms were approved and signed as where appropriate by the Chair/Clerk. Notice of appointment date for the exercise of public rights was agreed.

8. Finance

Statement was shared with members and signed by the Chairman.
Balance of account on bank statement @ 15.4.2024 was £17524.98

Receipts acknowledged for:

 - a. £1035.01 - VAT claim for 2023/2024
 - b. £92 – S. Warburton - allotment deposit and annual fee

Approval of payments were made by all members for:

 - b. £371.21 Zurich 3-year insurance cover renewal
 - c. £324.00 ASL Internal Audit 2023.24
 - d. £380.00 Annual Allotment rental for 2024/25
 - e. £47.00 Clerks Expense – May 2024
 - f. £0 Neighbourhood CIL Annual Report 2023/2024 – signed by Chair/Clerk
 - g. £4-£4.50 per month to share cost of mobile phone for Clerk with Coton PC
 - h. £30 Planning course with SPCA for Cllr A Tongue

9. Adoption of Policies – All documents circulated before the meeting and approved by all members.
 - a. Privacy Notice
 - b. Equality Policy
 - c. Risk Register
 - d. Code of Conduct
 - e. Health and Safety Policy
 - f. Financial Regulations
 - g. Risk assessment requires approval and signing.

10. Planning
 - a. Mercia Park – Write to Cllr Alan White with flooding and river for cross border issues including the proposed extension.
 - b. Planning Application 24/00184/FUL - 11 Chestnut Lane – Awaiting further documentation.
 - c. Planning Application 24/00185/FUK - 15 Chestnut Lane – Awaiting further documentation.
 - d. Lichfield D C - Draft Design Code SPD - Consultation 22nd April - 3rd June - Members have noted proposed draft.
 - e. Future local planning applications – The PC will delegate at least 2 members to visit each planned site.

11. Cllr action/village reports
 - a. Phone boxes – One quote has been received, other quotes to be sourced.
 - b. Bus shelters – Job Spec being raised by Cllr Nicholls so quotes can be sourced.
 - c. Commemorative Tree for the late John Cliff – Members agreed to plant tree in Haunton church yard. Tree to be purchased in the autumn.
 - d. Neighbourhood watch – Members noted that there is an active FB page and no further action to be taken at present.
 - e. Selling old SIDS units- Cllr E Leedham will find out the make and model of the units and a selling cost can be agreed at the next meeting. Clerk will advertise via local council association bodies.

12. AOB – The portrait of The King, given to the PC was left in the village hall and David Lodge will discuss with committee members a place to display it.

Next meeting 9th July 2024 @ 7pm