

BURTON ON THE WOLDS, COTES AND PRESTWOLD PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

3rd November 2020

Minutes of a meeting of Burton on the Wolds, Cotes and Prestwold Parish Council held virtually on 3rd November 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr A Carr (Chairman), Cllr R Shields (Vice Chairman), Cllr W Best, Cllr L Cooper, Cllr A Lawrence, Cllr E Wardle, Cllr M Windsor.

Apologies: Cllr K Hibbins.

In attendance: County Cllr Shepherd, Borough Councillor Bokor, Mrs S Massey (Clerk), 2 members of the public.

100/20 To receive apologies for absence.

Resolved: To accept the apologies of Cllr Hibbins

101/20 Disclosures of interests, disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests or personal interests that could lead to bias, by Parish Councillors to items on the agenda.

Cllr Wardle declared a DPI in item 107/20(e), she is a friend of the applicant.
Cllr Windsor declared a DPI in item 107/20 (a) and 107/20(c), he knows the applicants.

102/20 To approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting.

Resolved: To approve and sign.

103/20 Questions/comments from the floor (limited to 15 minutes).

Cath Thomson reported that she had attended a biodiversity training course at Leicestershire County Council in her capacity as Heritage Warden together with Cllr Cooper. Cath would like to be more proactive in her role and would like to encourage more residents to become involved.

Hamish Byers of the Prestwold Estate reported that work is soon to begin on the model farm buildings which have been redundant since 1910. An evening for local residents is planned post COVID.

Cllr Shields asked if pheasant breeding has been increased on the estate, HB confirmed that they have been moved from a different part of the estate.

HB reported that a recent bird survey on the estate in conjunction with the British Ornithological Trust indicates a 30% increase in farmland bird population. In addition there is a huge number of hares which has resulted in some anti-social behaviour. The estate is working with the police on this issue.

Cllr Carr reiterated his comments from the last meeting that some residents feel that they are being 'pushed away' from walking on public footpaths on the estate because of the recently installed electric fences and grazing cattle.

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HB politely reminded the Parish Council that “we are a working farm and that the electric fences are more than sufficiently away from the public footpath. In addition, the Countryside Rights of Way Act states that all dogs must be under control at all times and if they cannot be under control, they should be kept on a lead. The electric fences are temporary and the estate is not trying to push the public away from the footpaths but it is part of our good agricultural and agronomical practices where we are trying to increase organic matter in the soil”. In terms of the cattle, HB walked the land with his dogs after the last Parish Council meeting and confirmed that the cattle did not pester him and that they will be back on this land as is permitted. HB confirmed that footpath posts have been ordered to replace existing.

Cllr Boker asked if HB would write an informative article for the Link.

104/20 Borough Councillor’s report

Cllr Bokor reported on COVID and business rate grants that will be available at around £3,000 per month. Cllr Bokor confirmed that all planned events in Charnwood are cancelled.

Cllr Boker left the meeting at 20.03.

105/20 County Councillor’s report

Cllr Shepherd reported that the planned roadworks on Melton Road and Loughborough Road are underway. Cllr Carr reported that the number 8 bus through Burton on the Wolds has been suspended between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Cllr Shepherd has asked Centrebus for an update.

Cllr Carr asked for clarification regarding the winter opening times of the council waste sites. Cllr Shepherd suggested that if a booking had been accepted for a time outside of these hours, he would expect that the appointment would be honoured.

Cllr Windsor asked for an update to his query related to the TTRO letter sent to all households. Cllr Shepherd has asked Highways for an update and is awaiting a response.

Cllr Shepherd left the meeting 20.10.

106/20 Police Report

PSCO Jade Martin sent the following report: During the month of October 2020 Burton on the Wolds had 1 x Assault reported, this was a road rage type incident, 1 x Vehicle Crime whereby a vehicle has been entered, nothing taken and 1 x Burglary residential whereby entry has been gained via a front window and vehicles/property have been taken. There were no recorded crimes in Cotes or Prestwold. These figures do not include private domestic related incidents or harassments.

The clerk emailed Sgt Wharton on 8th October 2020 regarding the emergency vehicle

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issues with a parked vehicle near to the junction of Brickwood Place & Loughborough Road citing the Highway Code which states that motorists should not park opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space. In addition, the clerk has also reported an issue with residents parking on the grass verge on the corner of Melton Road and Hubbard Road which blocks visual splays. A report has also been made to Leicestershire County Council who owns this verge.

Sgt Wharton responded on 3rd November 2020 that he is no longer in post and has sent the contact details for his replacement.

107/20 To make observations and agree any action on the following planning applications:

a) P/20/1701/2 43 Hubbard Road, Burton on the Wolds LE12 5AX

Resolved: To object this application on the grounds that this extension is not appropriate in this location and will result in loss of privacy for the neighbouring properties. Due to its scale and dominance, it will be intrusive.

b) P/19/0919/2 Land off Sowters Lane, Burton on the Wolds LE12 5TZ

Resolved: To object to this application reiterating the comments made in our objection made on 5th June 2020.

c) P/20/1769/2 7 Brook Street, Burton on the Wolds LE12 5AB

Resolved: Not to comment.

d) Update P/19/0041/2 Land off Melton Rd, Burton on the Wolds LE12 5AL (Re-consultation)

None.

e) Update E/18/0253 Hill View, Burton on the Wolds. Change of use (HGV/lorry park) info only.

None.

108/20 To receive the Clerk's report including the playground safety checks reports.

The Clerk reported that our request to the Highways Parish and Communities Fund for the cutting back of the footpath between Prestwold Lane and Cotes using our allocation of £5,000 has been rejected, as has our later request that part of this area, to the value of £5,000 is attended to. LCC has responded as follows: '... that due to a decision that had been made previously, that the footway should be designated a "return to nature" route and it is not possible to undertake edging back work as the condition of the surface under the vegetation is likely to be so poor that it would be unsafe for pedestrian use and as such a liability for the authority'.

Resolved: That the clerk will ask if the path running adjacent to the brook be cut back and resurfaced.

Resolved: The reports were noted.

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109/20 To receive reports from councillors

a) Plantation Management Committee

Cllr Best reported that 12 volunteers including 2 new attended the volunteer day on 1st November. The log sale from 1 p.m. was unsuccessful. The next volunteer day has been cancelled due to recent COVID restrictions but the December meeting may go ahead if restrictions are lifted. The next Plantation Management Committee meeting will take place on the 17th November, all welcome.

Councillor Cooper reported that, on behalf of the Plantation Committee, an application has been submitted to LCC for a Shire Environment Grant. This is to cover the cost of felling a further 10 dead, dying or overcrowded sycamores. The aim is to encourage the development of wider biodiversity by opening up parts of the woodland canopy, allowing more light to reach the woodland floor and so to allow development or planting of native species not currently well established. If successful, the grant would cover 75% of the cost and would be paid through the Parish Council.

We have been advised by LCC that we need a supporting letter from the Parish Council, confirming their support for the project, as it is on their land, explaining the financial link with the Plantation and confirming that they are happy to receive any funds and make them available to the Plantation for this project. The clerk will send the letter to Cllr Cooper.

b) Playing Field Association

Cllr Shields reported on the recent COVID restrictions which included; the football teams have been informed by the FA that they cannot meet, tennis courts will be closed if they are directed to do so, play areas can remain open at this time

Cllr Shields reported that he was elected as Chairman at the PFA AGM.

In addition, both sides of the pavilion have been deep cleaned, some work to fencing and gates is planned and the work to the concrete slab has been abandoned.

Cllr Shields asked that a lease agreement or similar is put in place between the PC and the PFA for the pavilion to enable grants to be applied for. This document will run alongside the PC/PFA agreement. RS and the clerk will look into this further and report to the next meeting.

c) Other Councillors' Reports – for information only.

None.

110/20 Business

a) To review a renewed initiative to challenge the HGV route through Burton on the Wolds.

Cllr Carr reported that the lorries through the village are becoming both larger and more frequent, often struggling to navigate through the narrower parts of

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Loughborough Road and Melton Road and the roundabout safely. On sections of these roads, lorries cannot pass without mounting the pavement which is extremely dangerous.

- b) To formulate a formal response to Richard Bennett's attendance at the October Parish Council meeting.

Resolved: Not to make response.

- c) To formulate a formal response to Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP following receipt of his letter dated 15th October 2020.

Resolved: That Cllr Windsor will draft a response to Mr Jenrick, cc Jane Hunt MP.

- d) To consider and approve the updated internal audit review checklist.

Resolved: To defer this to the next meeting.

The meeting moved to confidential session in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 in view of the nature of the business to be transacted for the following items:

- e) To receive and consider quotations for tree work in the Plantation.

Resolved: To accept the recommendation of the Plantation Management Committee to approve the quotation from Martin Tree Care.

- f) To receive and consider quotations for the replacement/refurbishment of the safety surface at the Hubbard Road play area.

Resolved: To repair the existing wet pour surface and to approve the quotation from PlayScape.

- g) To receive and consider quotations and appoint the grounds maintenance contractor for 2021-2024.

Resolved: To approve the quotation of M&BG Ltd.

The Clerk left the meeting. Cllr Wardle took over as the meeting host and the recording was paused.

- h) To approve the Clerk's appraisal and annual pay review.

Resolved: To approve the Clerk's appraisal and to increase the clerk's salary as agreed.

The meeting moved to open session.

The Clerk returned to the meeting, resumed as the meeting host and the recording restarted.

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111/20 Finance

a) Financial update:

Account balance @	01/11/2020
Current	1,000.00
Reserve/General	5,616.88
Reserve/Bonus	18,701.38
Loughborough B/Society	42,598.81
TOTAL	67,917.07

Balance includes:	
Plantation funds	3,082.66
Neighbourhood Plan	792.91
Lottery/Finding Fitness	0.00
Hubbard Rd Land Management	37,168.03

b) To approve the schedule of payments totalling £943.08.

Burton on the Wolds, Cotes and Prestwold Parish Council - Schedule of Receipts and Payments						
Payments			Nov-20			Month 8
PAYEE	FOR	INVOICE NO.	AMOUNT	Type	COST CENTRE	
1 M&BG Ltd	Grounds maintenance	Invoice	£495.00	Direct	Split	
2 Viking	Laser cartridges/stationery	Invoice	£272.18	Direct	Gen admin	
3 Travis Perkins	Limestone for bridges rebuild	Invoice	£131.90	Direct	Plantation	
4 R Shields	Autumn planting and compost	Receipts	£44.00	Direct	Village amenities	
TOTAL			£943.08			

Resolved: To approve this expenditure.

c) To approve Q2 bank reconciliation, accounts summary and forecast of payments & receipts to year end.

Resolved: To approve and sign the Q2 bank reconciliation, accounts summary and forecast of payments & receipts to year end.

112/20 Correspondence for discussion

a) Email from LCC regarding TTRO in place at multiple locations.

Resolved: The TTRO was noted.

b) Email from a resident regarding tree issues on Somerset Close.

Resolved: The Clerk has signposted the resident to Leicestershire County Council who are responsible for trees in this area.

c) Email from a resident regarding a burglary, street lighting and speeding traffic on Loughborough Road.

The resident has confirmed that the police have formally requested that street lighting is left on in this area.

Resolved: That the PC share their concerns that the street lighting is switched off overnight and support the police recommendation to Leicestershire County Council that they are kept on for a 3 month period. In addition, the Parish Council is also concerned about speeding traffic throughout the Parish. The Parish Council are again looking into a SpeedWatch scheme once this restarts post COVID.

113/20 To agree items for inclusion in the press release

Happy Christmas (December Link copy only), Biodiversity, Police report.

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114/20 The next Parish Council meeting will take place virtually on Tuesday 1st December 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.20 p.m.

These minutes are a true and accurate record _____ Date _____
Cllr A Carr, Chairman.