

MINUTES

of the

Drayton Bassett Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 21st May 2013

In the Sports Pavilion, Rectory Close, Drayton Bassett, Staffordshire

Present: Philip Millard (Chairman)
Mary Garbett (Councillor)
Roy Lockhart (Vice Chairman)
Avril Edmond (Councillor)
Brian Reynolds (Councillor)

Apologies: Geoff Hemus (Councillor)

Parishioners: Janet Watson / Paula Acton / Patrick Harris / John Mason

Action

Apologies

No apologies were received from Councillor Hemus

(13/502) Declaration of Office

Nominations were received and officers appointed as follows:-

Chairman

Councillor Edmond nominated Philip Millard and Councillor Reynolds seconded it.

Declaration of Acceptance of Office form duly completed and signed by P Millard.

Vice Chairman

No nominations received or volunteers so no Vice Chairman appointed.

Parish Clerk to ascertain what happens in the event of no Vice Chairman being appointed.

Parish Clerk

Code of Conduct

Chairman P Millard reminded those present to observe the Code of Conduct during the meeting.

Items for Consideration by Members of the Public
(13/503) Grass Verges

Parishioner, Janet Watson, raised concern over cars parking on the grass verges on Drayton Lane, from Moat Drive to Church Close, saying that they are making the verges untidy. It was highlighted that this is also causing an obstruction when leaving both these junctions. Janet wanted to know the Parish Council's view on this and if anything could be done.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the local PSCO's to see if they would be able to help by perhaps knocking on parishioners doors in the area highlighting the potential dangers and ask them not to park on the verges.

Councillor Lockhart stated that there are already enough double yellow lines around the Village so we don't really want any more. Other possible options suggested were to contact the police formerly or look at putting planters or tarmac on the verges.

Councillor Edmond suggested a leaflet drop highlighting the potential dangers of parking on grass verges to the houses in the highlighted area. Councillor Edmond proposed and Councillor Harris seconded.

It was also agreed to write to Highways asking for any assistance / advice.

(13/504) Jason Mason

John Mason attended the Parish Council meeting having received a number of complaints from parishioners regarding the grass length and felt that he shouldn't be getting these complaints because it wasn't his fault. John advised that he wasn't given the go ahead until 27th April and because of this he had scheduled in other work so he had to try to plan in the first cut as soon as he could. Councillor Lockhart pointed out to Chairman Millard that it was agreed at the 26th March meeting to go ahead to which Chairman Millard responded that, like everyone on the Parish Council, it is a voluntary role and like many he has a full time job and that he contacted John at the first available moment.

Chairman Millard requested that, should John receive any further complaints from parishioners, that he refers them back to the Parish Council and in particular the Chairman.

John also mentioned a large hole where the Christmas tree was planted on the Village Green and advised that it could cause injury to a small child. John offered to purchase a top for the hole and this was agreed.

John also commented on the trees on the Village Green and Historical site advising that they are in need of cutting the top's off as they are becoming too large.

John also mentioned that the chain link fencing at the back of Eddenswood is still hanging down. Parish Clerk to write to Bromford Housing to request this is repaired.

Parish Clerk

Parish Clerk

Parish Clerk

Items for Consideration by Members of the Public cont....

John also raised the issue of the outstanding invoice number 3430. He advised that following a conversation with Chairman Millard it had been agreed that he would flat roll the entire playing field and football pitch, however, Chairman Millard believed that he had only asked for the football pitch to be rolled as damage had been made by the grass cutting equipment following a very wet period of time.

Chairman Millard asked the Councillors for their views on this. Councillor Lockhart stated that we should pay it as we don't have much choice.

The payment of the outstanding invoice was proposed by Councillor Edmond and seconded by Councillor Reynolds. Parish Clerk to arrange.

Parish Clerk

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting on 26th March 2013 were amended with the addition of the wording below:

(11/493) Felling of trees

Councillor Garbett asked that it be minuted that the quotations she obtained were based on her interpretation of and which she deemed to be correct from the minutes taken on November 2011.

Matters Arising from those Minutes**(13/505) Use of Pavilion by 1st Drayton Bassett Scouts (13/491)**

Parish Clerk confirmed that our Public Liability insurance with AON will cover us should the Scouts decide to use the Sports Pavilion and Playing Field.

Parish Clerk also confirmed that she had e-mailed Colin to ascertain whether they were still interested in looking at the facilities as Chairman Millard had tried to contact without success. Parish Clerk confirmed a positive response and was advised that Michael would contact the Chairman in a few week's time to arrange a convenient date and time to view the facilities in order that a decision can be made.

Chairman

Re-installation of BMX Track

Chairman / Parish Clerk to liaise with Scouts should we go ahead with the re-installation of the BMX track.

Chairman / Parish Clerk

(12/506) Mill Lane Land (12/492)

Parish Clerk advised that LDC would be happy to relocate the existing dog bin in Mill Lane into the field (other side of the gate) but this would be at a cost of around £140.00 as a new post would most probably need to be put in.

Chairman Millard suggested we put this on hold until the works being carried out by the Environment Agency have been completed.

Following a discussion, it was felt that this cost was too high and we should invite our handy man to quote. Councillor Edmond proposed we go ahead and Councillor Reynolds seconded.

Brian Reynolds

Parish Clerk advised that LDC would erect the requested 'no dog fouling' in due course.

(11/507) Felling of trees (11/493)

As per the March meeting, Councillor Garbett to scan and send copies of the quotations she received to the Parish Clerk as Councillor Edmond believes that these quotes should form part of the minutes.

Councillor
Garbett

Chairman Millard asked Councillor Garbett to obtain three quotations for the raising of the crowns on the historical site as previously minuted. As at 21.05.13 no quotations received as Councillor Garbett advised via e-mail on 14th May 2013 that she will not be involved or proceed to take any further action in relation to this item as she feels her integrity is in question, however, Chairman Millard stated that this is not the case.

Chairman Millard advised that he had made contact with the Agricultural Officer at LDC who has agreed to come and give us an independent opinion of the tress on the Village Green and Historical site and asked for permission to progress.

Chairman

Councillor Edmond proposed and Councillor Lockhart seconded.

(12/508) Village Signage (12/494)

Missing/repairs required to Village signage:

Village curtilage - junction of Drayton Lane / Portleys Lane (Ashdene farm) missing.

Village curtilage - 30 yards from main junction A4091 and Salts Lane - sign lopsided.

Parish Clerk advised that the outstanding signage repairs have now been escalated to Helen Portman to resolve. Parish Clerk advised no correspondence received from Helen. Parish Clerk to chase.

Parish Clerk

Councillor G Hemus to arrange to move the Drayton Lane street sign to just in front of Drayton House. On-going as at 21.05.13 – Councillor Hemus still to arrange.

Geoff Hemus

Repairs to Play Equipment (13/495)

Councillor Reynolds confirmed action completed.

Shortland Parsley Correspondence (13/499)

Action completed.

(13/509) Community Parish Recycling Scheme (13/500)

Chairman Millard advised that he had spoken to Community Council of Staffordshire and confirmed that someone would visit the Village to look for the best location and re-contact him in due course.

Chairman

As per the previous minute (13/500), once we are in receipt of this information a further discussion needs to take place to propose going ahead with this scheme and agree the location of the bin.

Facebook Page for the Village (13/501)

Councillor S Harris confirmed Parish Council Facebook Page has now been set up.

(13/510) Potential Projects for 2013 (13/496)

Chairman P Millard asked for a list of potential projects for the Village so we can agree an action plan for 2013 and allocate funds to each project that we agree to move ahead with. A list of potential projects are as follows:

- Fazeley Initiative to ascertain what grants, if any, are available
- Path around the park for running, walking, pushchairs to give greater access to the park
- Review location of planters and look at additional ones
- Benches around the Village
- Face lift and hanging baskets in the bus stop
- Drayton Bassett Village Show with Carnival Prince and Princess Competition
- A 'green' initiative (gas / electric) install wind turbine
- Lunch Club – agreed to go ahead and for the Parish Council to fund it for a period of 3 months at a total cost of £750.00, after which time it would be reviewed. Lunch clubs now taking place at Buzzard Valley.
- Electricity on the Village Green – Chairman P Millard currently trying to find details on sponsorship with EON. Chairman P Millard advised awaiting information
- Look at joining a Village Fuel Buying Group for oil, gas and electricity.

Chairman

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Chairman

(13/511) New Play Equipment

Councillor Reynolds provided a quotation and plan of proposed new equipment totalling £18,000 including installation, delivery and safety matting.

Parish Clerk to contact AON to ask how much extra this will cost us in insurance.

Parish Clerk

Chairman Millard asked for views from the Councillors:

- **Councillor Harris** stated that she felt it was a lot of money but over a 3 / 4 year period it's not a lot.
- **Councillor Garbett** stated that she believed it is worthwhile but should be purchased over 3 / 4 years, with the purchase of two smaller items this year.
- **Councillor Lockhart** suggested that we purchase a couple of items but not the most - expensive and perhaps purchase an item for both age groups.
- **Councillor Edmond** agreed with Councillor Lockhart's view but felt that if a phased purchase approach is agreed then it should be minuted as such with a statement that this is subject to change should anything happen where the Parish Council need to spend these funds elsewhere.
- **Chairman Millard's** view is that this is long overdue and we should go ahead.

Councillor Reynolds proposed that we spend the whole £18,000 now to purchase the equipment. This was not seconded.

Councillor Garbett proposed the purchase of two pieces of equipment with a review at the end of the year to decide on the purchase of further equipment. Councillor Lockhart seconded.

It was agreed that Councillor Reynolds should choose which two pieces to order.

Chairman Millard stated that if Councillor Reynolds wanted to apply for a grant for the play equipment then we can obviously purchase everything once the grant has been awarded.

Councillor Reynolds to discuss with John Mason, our grass cutting contractor, the preferred location from the edge of the new equipment so the grounds can still be maintained.

Councillor
Reynolds

(13/512) Repairs to Bus Shelter Roof

Councillor Reynolds advised a quote of £500.00 for the repairs to the bus shelter roof and asked for approval to go ahead.

Councillor Reynolds proposed this and Councillor Harris seconded.

Brian Reynolds

(13/513) Grass Cutting Contract (13/497)

Parish Clerk to re-contact Tamworth Borough Council in July to ask them to quote for our grass cutting contract next year.

Parish Clerk

Chairman Millard advised that John Mason has agreed to an extra cut of the Playing Field at no extra cost.

Councillor Edmond passed on details of another potential grass cutting company to the Parish Clerk for her to contact.

Parish Clerk

Chairman Millard advised that a response has been received from Bromford Housing advising that, should the Parish Council stop paying for the grass to be cut, then this cost will be passed back to the residents at a weekly charge of £1.11.

Chairman Millard asked the Councillors whether they thought we should continue to cut the grass belonging to these properties.

Councillor Harris stated that she feels that the Parish Council should continue to cut the grass as they have been doing for many years, and in view of the fact that the Parish Council has just agreed to spend thousands on play equipment.

Councillor Edmond commented that other elderly parishioners could also ask for the Parish Council to pay to cut their grass too.

Chairman Millard suggested that we write to every parishioner living in a Bromford Housing property advising them that we are going to continue to cut the grass and to let them know that the Parish Council actually pay for the grass cutting. This was not discussed to a conclusion.

Councillor Edmond feels that we should get more information as to what the residents of the Bromford Housing properties pay in rent. Councillor Edmond proposed this and Councillor Reynolds seconded.

Councillor Lockhart proposed that we open up the offer to cut the grass for other elderly parishioners and Councillor Garbett seconded. Chairman Millard also agreed.

Chairman Millard to find out demographics in terms of elderly parishioners and bring back to the next meeting and then take a vote.

Chairman

(12/514) Road Verges (from top of Drayton Lane past Portleys Lane) (12/498)

Parish Clerk confirmed she had contacted SCC and received a reference number for the call but had received no further update.

21.05.13 - Parish Clerk to chase.

Parish Clerk

Chairman's Items**(13/515) Notice Board**

Chairman Millard raised the subject of the location of the Village Notice Board which was raised at the Annual Assembly. It is felt by some parishioners that it is in the wrong location and that no one reads it because of this. It was also raised by some parishioners that they couldn't put up their own notices although Chairman Millard reiterated what he stated the previous year in that if anyone wants a poster displaying they can e-mail or drop off their poster to the Parish Clerk and she will arrange for it to be displayed.

It was discussed moving the existing Notice Board and re-locating to either in front of the club car park, in the bus shelter or next to the post box. The other option is to purchase a new Notice Board and locate it at one of the above locations for the parishioners and repair the existing damaged one and use this for Parish Council notices only.

The other issue raised was should it be part locked and part open so parishioners can put up their own posters. It was suggested that if parishioners could put up their own posters this might alleviate the need to staple posters to posts.

Councillor Lockhart commented that we should really have a Notice Board in Mill Lane as they are part of the Village. Councillor Lockhart never pursued this.

It was agreed that Councillor's Edmond, Reynolds and Harris would look at the options and report back at next month's meeting so a decision can be made.

Councillors
Edmond /
Reynolds /
Harris

Parish Councillor Items**(13/516) Dog Waste Station**

Following the installation of the new dog waste station, Councillor Harris advised that a parishioner had suggested a further waste station is installed at the other end of the Village. Exactly where the 'other end of the Village' is wasn't agreed as Councillor Harris said this was the school area, however, Councillor Edmond stated that the school isn't the 'other end of the Village'.

Councillor Harris suggested that we perhaps do a leaflet drop highlighting the health risks associated with dog fouling that the pupils of Manor School could take home to their parents. Following this suggestion, Councillor Edmond suggested that we perhaps involve the school and ask whether the pupils could draw anti dog fouling posters that could be tied to the school railings for a month.

Councillor Edmonds suggestion was agreed to be a good idea.

Parish Clerk to e-mail the Head Teacher, Tricia Bunn, to see whether the school would like to be involved in the Anti-Dog Fouling poster campaign.

It was suggested that we give a prize for the best poster.

Councillor Lockhart to speak to Colin Bryan to see if Drayton Manor Park would put up a prize for the best poster.

Councillor
Lockhart

(13/517) Village Signage

Councillor Reynolds brought to the meeting a petition with some 50 names on asking that Village Signage is resurrected. Chairman Millard asked for clarification as to which signage Councillor Reynolds was relating to and it was confirmed that he was referring to the 'Welcome to Drayton Bassett' signs. It was agreed that Chairman Millard and Councillor Reynolds would meet with Councillor Hemus to obtain his views as the current signs are on his land and this would be brought back to the next meeting.

Chairman
B Reynolds**Finance Reports**

Finance report circulated prior to meeting.

Planning

None

HS2

No update

The meeting finished at 9.15