

MINUTES

of the

Drayton Bassett Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 23rd July 2013

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

Present: Philip Millard (Chairman)
Mary Garbett (Councillor)
Avril Edmond (Councillor)
Brian Reynolds (Councillor)
Susan Harris (Councillor)

Apologies: Geoff Hemus (Councillor)
Roy Lockhart (Councillor)

Parishioners: Norma Cowanes, Margaret Ralph, Pat Afford, Di Burroughs, Lin Shears,
Paula Acton, Patrick Harris, Gillian King, Josephine Brown, M Freeston,
Gerald Watson, Janet Watson, Robin Longmore, Jean Longmore

Action

Apologies

No apologies received from Councillor Hemus or Lockhart.

Items for Consideration by Members of the Public

(13/519) Hedgerow on New Row

Chairman Millard advised that he had spoken to one of the family members who own the houses in question but no confirmation had been received to go ahead. Chairman Millard believes that some of the hedges have already been cut back, presumably by the tenants, but not all. Two parishioners present at the meeting advised that they had the contact details for the owner. Councillor Edmond to obtain this information and pass on to the Parish Clerk.

Councillor
Edmond

It was agreed to write to Geoff Hemus formally so a speedy conclusion can be reached.

Parish Clerk

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councillor Garbett asked for one amendment to the previous minutes (Page 4 item (11/493) Felling of Trees). With the exception of this minute, the Minutes of the meeting on 26th March 2013 were recorded as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Non Appointment of Vice Chairman

Chairman Millard advised that if no Vice Chairman is appointed, then a Councillor is nominated to act as Chair at any meetings where the Chairman is not present.

Code of Conduct

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

Matters Arising from those Minutes

Grass Verges (13/503)

Chairman Millard confirmed that the grass verges have now been repaired and parishioners around that area have been written to by Staffordshire Highways requesting them not to park on the verges. Chairman Millard stated that we need to wait to see what happens in the future and if the problem reoccurs then Staffordshire Highways have advised that there may be the option to have wooden bollards erected.

John Mason (13/504)

Chain Link Fence at the Back of Eddens Wood

Chairman Millard advised that confirmation has been received from Bromford Housing that the repair to the chain link fencing at the back of Eddenswood has now been completed. Councillor Harris confirmed this.

Use of Pavilion by 1st Drayton Bassett Scouts (13/505)

Chairman Millard suggested that we remove this item from the Minutes as no further contact has been made by the Scouts. Item to be resurrected if contact is made.

(12/520) Mill Lane Land – Relocation of Dog Waste Bin (12/506)

Awaiting completion of works currently being carried out by the Environment Agency before we arrange to relocate the dog waste bin.

Councillor Reynolds to invite our handy man to quote once we are in a position to move forward.

Brian Reynolds

(11/521) Felling of trees (11/507)

Councillor Garbett advised that she had posted the quotations to the Parish Clerk on the 27th June, however, the Parish Clerk confirmed nothing had been received. Councillor Garbett to re-send.

Councillor
Garbett

Chairman Millard advised that he had made contact with the Arboriculture Officer at LDC who has agreed to come and give us an independent opinion of the trees on the Village Green and Historical site and asked for permission to progress. Awaiting response as at 23.07.13.

Chairman

Councillor Edmond proposed this and Councillor Lockhart seconded.

(12/522) Village Signage (12/508)

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 on 23.07.13 that no response has been received from Helen Portman since first being advised that this issue had been escalated to Helen to investigate on 3rd May 2013.

Chairman Millard suggested we escalate to Matthew Ellis' replacement, Alan White, to see if he can help to get this long outstanding issue resolved. Parish Clerk to arrange.

Parish Clerk

Parish Clerk to also invite Alan White to a future Parish Council meeting.

Parish Clerk

Councillor Hemus to arrange to move the Drayton Lane street sign to just in front of Drayton House. On-going as at 23.07.13 – Councillor Hemus still to arrange.

Geoff Hemus

(13/523) Community Parish Recycling Scheme (13/509)

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.

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.

Chairman Millard advised no response as at 23.07.13. Chairman Millard to chase.

Chairman

(13/524) Potential Projects for 2013 (13/510)

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
- 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

Councillor E
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Chairman

New Play Equipment

Councillor Reynolds confirmed installation of new play equipment w/c 18th August.

Repairs to Bus Shelter Roof

Councillor Reynolds advised work now completed.

(13/525) Grass Cutting Contract (13/513)

Parish Clerk to re-contact Tamworth Borough Council to ask if they are now in a position to be able to quote.

Parish Clerk

Parish Clerk to chase other potential company, Paul's Gardening & Mowing Services, to ascertain whether he would like to quote

Parish Clerk

Councillor Edmond believes 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. As at 23.07.13 still to progress.

Chairman

23.07.13 - It was agreed to wait to progress the remainder of this action until we have ascertained whether the two other gardening companies wish to quote.

(12/526) Road Verges (from top of Drayton Lane past Portleys Lane) (12/514)

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

23.07.13 - Parish Clerk to chase.

Parish Clerk

(13/526) Notice Board (13/515)

It was discussed and agreed to purchase a 3 panelled Notice Board to be sited parallel to the hedge between the hedge and the pavement on the Village Club car park. The Village Club have given their permission for this.

A budget of £850.00 was suggested for the purchase of the new Notice Board. This was proposed by Councillor Edmond and seconded by Councillor Reynolds.

It was also agreed to move the existing Notice Board to Mayfair Drive for those residents.

Councillor Reynolds to organise the re siting of the old Notice Board.

Councillor Reynolds

(13/527) Dog Waste Station – Anti-Dog Fouling Campaign in Conjunction with Drayton Manor & the Manor School (13/516)

Parish Clerk advised that confirmation of participation had been received from the Manor School, however, no response has been received from Drayton Manor Park following a number of e-mails.

Parish Clerk to e-mail Councillor Lockhart to ask him to re contact Colin Bryan in an attempt to move this forward.

Parish Clerk

(13/528) Village Signage (13/517)

Chairman Millard and Councillor Reynolds to 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. No progress as at 23.07.13.

Chairman
B Reynolds

During the meeting on 23rd July, due to the number of parishioners in attendance, Chairman Millard asked for the views of the parishioners on the possibility of new signage and whether they thought it would enhance the Village and whether it is something they would like. Parishioners were in agreement.

Correspondence

None

Chairman's Items

None

Parish Councillor Items**(13/529) Flag for Pole**

Councillor Harris asked if the flag could be replaced as the current one is showing signs of age. Chairman Millard suggested we purchase a better quality one.

There were no objections.

Councillor Harris proposed the purchase and Councillor Garbett seconded.

Chairman Millard to purchase.

Chairman

Policy regarding continuous noise after midnight and having an impact on other residents

Councillor Harris asked what the policy is regarding noise after midnight.

Councillor Garbett advised that this would be an issue that would need to be raised by Environmental Health.

(13/530) Height of Trees in Eddens Wood

Councillor Harris advised that the trees in Eddens Wood are overhanging and are looking precarious. It was established that the land in question belongs to the Hemus family. One parishioner present stated that branches had been snapping off the trees all winter onto the parking area and road. Councillor Edmond advised that contact should be made to Staffordshire Highways who will look to resolve the issue. The Parishioner asked whether that should really be her responsibility to make contact, to which Councillor Edmond responded 'yes' Chairman Millard stated that the more people who ring the better.

Councillor Harris offered to contact Staffordshire Highways.

Councillor Harris

Parish Councillor Items cont.....**(13/531) Speed of traffic through the Village**

Councillor Harris raised the speed of traffic through the Village from the bottom end of Drayton Lane towards Tamworth Road, and asked if anything can be done regarding the speed of traffic at both ends of Drayton Lane.

Chairman Millard advised that a full traffic survey had been carried out about five years ago and rubber strips laid down, however, this didn't prove that people were speeding. A Speed Gun was also loaned to the Village but this involved the need for five volunteers, however, not enough volunteers came forward.

On a suggested layout of traffic calming measures done previously this had resulted in the parishioners who resided in the homes where the speed bumps would be located complaining and no further action was taken. The location of speed bumps is laid down by regulations and would not be something that the Parish Council could decide. The underlying reason no traffic calming measures have been put in place by Staffordshire County Council is that there have been no accidents reported. Chairman Millard also stated that the Parish Council have tried to get the roads leading into the Village reduced to a 30mph speed limit, however, Staffordshire County Council would not agree.

Parish Clerk to write to Staffordshire County Council advising that there have been a number of complaints of near misses and increased traffic through the Village due to drivers cutting through due to traffic jams near Drayton Manor Park (on Coleshill Road) and build-up of traffic from Fazeley and request a speed survey is carried out.

Parish Clerk

(13/532) Parish Council Newsletter

Councillor Harris suggested we produce a Village Newsletter on a 3 or 6 month basis with parishioners contributing towards the content with events taking place, services to advertise etc. Councillor Harris suggested that we could possibly involve the Scouts and ask them to deliver it. It was agreed that Councillor Harris would be Editor.

Councillor Edmond proposed paying for the printing of the Newsletter and Councillor Reynolds seconded.

It was also suggested that we could perhaps take a page in the Fazeley Focus for the first one. Councillor Harris to investigate this option.

It was agreed that Councillor Harris would decide upon the best vehicle for the Newsletter.

Councillor Harris

(13/533) General Tidiness of the Village

Councillor Reynolds raised the general tidiness of the Village in particular;

- a) Garden waste behind BT box on corner of Salts Lane / Drayton Lane – Parish Clerk confirmed that confirmation had been received from Mary Lee at Staffordshire Highways advising that the rubbish will be removed by the Community Gangs team in due course.
- b) Grass verge on left as you drive up Salts Lane (corner of Salts Lane & Drayton Lane). Councillor Edmond confirmed previous owners used to cut the grass verge, however, the new owners don't. Parish Clerk to e-mail Staffordshire Highways to request this area is maintained.
- c) Dog fouling on the Sports Pavilion still persists. It was suggested that more wooden 'No Dog Fouling' signs could be erected on the Sports Pavilion. Parish Clerk to arrange.

Parish Clerk

Parish Clerk

Parish Councillor Items cont.....**(13/534) Village Lunch Club**

A large number of the Lunch Club attended the meeting to show their support and appreciation. Chairman Millard gave a brief overview of how the Lunch Club came to be resurrected and provided attendance numbers and total cost so far to the Parish Council.

Chairman Millard asked for any comments. Councillor Harris asked that it be minuted that she is extremely disappointed that Councillor Lockhart isn't present at the meeting when he was against the Lunch Club. Chairman Millard advised that it is the job of Councillors to agree on how best to spend the funds in a way that they see fit for the Village and the parishioners. Chairman Millard stated that each Councillor is entitled to his/her own opinion and they should feel free to do so. It should also be noted that it was a unanimous vote to support the Lunch Club.

Chairman Millard asked for the views of the parishioners present, these were as follows:- an opportunity for elderly people to get out, social events are lacking in the Village, an opportunity to meet other people, one resident said that she had got to know more people since the resurrection of the Lunch Club than she had in the last 10 years. One parishioner suggested that a possibility could be that the Lunch Club takes place bi-monthly if the Parish Council think it is too much money to spend.

Chairman Millard stated that this event is not budgeted for and the cost would come from a contingency fund, but asked the question 'Should the Parish Council be the vehicle for this, could it not be self or part funded with perhaps the School, Club or WI doing something to help fund it?'

One parishioner asked 'What do the elderly parishioners get from the money that the Parish Council is allocated?' Chairman Millard stated that the Parish Council do many things some of which include the funding of a taxi to Fazeley for the monthly Lunch Club, making a contribution towards Tamworth Community Transport for the weekly bus, as well as other things that everyone enjoys such as the flower planters around the Village, grass cutting contract, contribution towards the WI when it was refurbished, disabled access to the Playing Fields, and seating.

The issue of age was raised and the question was asked; should it be for parishioners over 60, should it be means tested as some parishioners are more affluent than others, what about anyone unemployed? These are things that perhaps need to be taken into consideration. Councillor Harris stated that she believes that self-funding would mean everyone pays the full £10.00, and asked the question 'how would you put the logistics in place?' Chairman Millard suggested that we could perhaps involve other Village Groups for example would the Club be prepared to do something. Chairman Millard stated that this may not necessarily be the way forward but is a suggestion for thought.

One parishioner suggested that attendees could pay a little extra to which Chairman Millard stated that all these things could be taken into account.

Chairman Millard asked for the views of the Councillors.

As attendees of the Lunch Club, Councillors Reynolds and Harris declared an interest in this item.

Village Lunch Club cont...

Councillor Reynolds believes that it's great seeing people get together and perhaps the Parish Council could look at reducing the funding to £2.50 per person which would give Councillor Harris and the attendees a further opportunity to look at funding ideas with a view to becoming self-funded.

Councillor Edmond asked whether the Lunch Club is a Parish Council initiative as she believed it was Councillor Harris' idea and Councillor Harris would organise it and the Parish Council would help to start up the group. Councillor Edmond stated that if it is a Parish Council initiative then we would need to look at other ideas and business cases to see how we can carry on as we are not able to carry on funding it indefinitely.

Councillor Garbett believes it's a great idea and was also under the impression that it was an initiative to get it off the ground hence why she undertook extensive research to see what other groups did. Councillor Garbett reiterated that most Parish Councils do not do any funding for anything like this but they rely on small groups of people getting together and taking the initiative to get funding themselves for example Middleton do Bring & Buy sales, Car Boot sales, Plant sales etc.

Councillor Harris responded by saying the difference is that Middleton have their own kitchen and parishioners do the cooking and we can't replicate what they do in Drayton Bassett as we haven't got the people to do it, and doesn't believe it would be successful.

Councillor Harris asked why money isn't spent directly on the ladies and gentleman present at the meeting; kids have play equipment which costs £1000's, and she personally believes that it is a Parish Council initiative and we should carry on with what is currently in place, however does agree with Councillor Reynolds suggestion that we could possibly look at reducing the funding from the Parish Council.

Councillor Garbett suggested perhaps finding a cheaper venue to hold the Lunch club, however, Councillor Harris stated that we haven't got transport to travel and a price has been agreed with Buzzard Valley.

Chairman Millard said that he believes that there are other opportunities that could be looked at to help the Parish Council to move it forward, and believes that the Councillors are being criticised for doing something quite positive in the short term.

Chairman Millard asked if any refreshments are included in the price from Buzzard Valley and Councillor Harris confirmed no. Chairman Millard asked whether there are any incentives from Buzzard Valley to buy a certain amount of drink. Chairman Millard asked whether we could do a Football Card in the Village, however, Councillor Harris advised that she had put this forward and was notified 'no'.

Councillor Garbett asked how much money is left from the initial £750.00 allocated? Chairman Millard advised £350.00

Parishioners present asked what the age group is for the Lunch Club as they believe parishioners over 60 wouldn't raise funds, and asked for confirmation. Chairman Millard advised that he believed it was 60, however, Councillor Harris stated that it needed to be 50.

Chairman Millard concluded the discussion and asked for the Councillors to sum up their views.

Councillor Reynolds suggested the Parish Council continue to fund for at least another 3 months but perhaps reduce funding slightly.

Village Lunch Club cont...

Councillor Edmond agreed with Councillor Reynolds' view but stated that as a group the Lunch Club attendees should come back towards the end of the agreed extended period with ideas on how they can maintain it if the Parish Council are going to continue to fund it.

Councillor Garbett suggested the Lunch Club continues for another 3 months but the Parish Council reduces their contribution, and the attendees of the Lunch Club look at initiatives to be self-funding.

Councillor Harris proposed the Parish Council continue to fund it as they are currently doing but did also agree with Councillor Reynolds suggestion to perhaps reduce the funding from the Parish Council of £2.50 - £3.00.

Councillor Harris stated that it's not worth looking at ideas for self-funding, and stated that a lot of money is spent on the younger people of the Village and many elderly people have lived in the Village for many years and paid their dues and when they get elderly they should be shown appreciation, however, Chairman Millard stated that he believes the vast majority of the attendees are very active and would be willing to look at ideas for this.

Chairman Millard stated that the Parish Council help to fund the Church, Club, WI, events in the Village, Carols on the Green and all age groups benefit.

Councillor Edmond stated that the Parish Council have to balance everything and that the Parish Council cannot totally fund every Group and believes we can't self-fund the Lunch Club totally and indefinitely. Councillor Harris responded asking how much money is given to the Church, WI and other Groups and suggested a lot more than £100.00 a month. Councillor Edmond advised everyone present that the Parish Council agreed to a sum of money to help set up the Lunch club with the end result that it would become self-funding.

Chairman Millard stated that we need to get away from the issue of how much money is spent on age groups. The Parish Council have budgets set each year on what some of the money will be spent on.

Councillor Reynolds stated that the amount of parishioners present at the meeting shows how much support there is for the Lunch Club.

Councillor Harris proposed we continue with what is in place for another three months. Councillor Reynolds seconded.

Chairman Millard asked if anyone has a counterproposal. Councillor Edmond proposed we continue for 6 months with a view to moving to self-funding. Councillor Garbett seconded.

The second proposal was carried unanimously.

Chairman Millard stated that he feels the Councillors are a little under siege and stated that the Parish Council helped to fund it to get it off the ground, and said that no one is disputing that people don't deserve it or shouldn't have it but whether the Parish Council cannot continue to fund it for ever.

Chairman Millard thanked Councillor Harris for organising the Village Lunch club.

Chairman Millard suggested there may be grants available and Councillor Harris would look into this.

Councillor Harris

Finance Report

Finance report was circulated prior to the meeting. No questions were raised.

Planning

None.

HS2

No further meetings taken place. Councillor Garbett advised that the Environmental response has been submitted – now awaiting outcome.

Chairman Millard advised that the route has now been agreed, and the consultation on compensation is to be re done.

Parish Clerk Salary

Parish Clerk asked that it be minuted that a 1% National pay rise has been awarded.

Councillor Edmond proposed this and Councillor Garbett seconded.

The meeting finished at 9.15