

MINUTES

of the

Drayton Bassett Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 23rd June

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

Present: Philip Millard (Chairman)
Avril Edmond (Vice Chairman)
Brian Reynolds (Councillor)
Stuart Potts (Councillor)
Geoff Hemus (Councillor)
Ian Watkins (Councillor)

Parishioner: Margaret Putman

Action

Apologies

None.

Departing from the Standing Orders

In view of there being no Chairman, the Council departed from the Standing Orders and nominations were requested for a Councillor to Chair the June meeting.

Councillor Edmond proposed Councillor Millard to act as Chair and Councillor Reynolds seconded. Councillor Millard accepted.

(15/740) Annual Audit Return

Parish Clerk confirmed that the Annual Return for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2015 is now ready to be submitted and asked the Parish Council to approve the accounting statements due to be submitted.

Parish Clerk

Councillor Edmond proposed the return and Councillor Reynolds proposed.

(15/741) Welcome New Parish Clerk

Councillor Millard welcomed Odette Ghent to the meeting as the New Parish Clerk from 1st July 2015.

Parish Clerk to e-mail Odette's contact details to the Councillors.

Parish Clerk

Code of Conduct

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

Items for Consideration by members of the public

None.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting on 24th February 2015 were recorded as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Matters Arising from those Minutes**Unsafe Hedge – Mill Lane (15/718)**

Parishioner Maurice Leake highlighted an unsafe hedge which is completely covered in ivy and is now falling down.

Action being dealt with under item 'Land behind Mayfair Drive'.

(15/742) Coton Green Football Club (15/719)

Chairman Millard advised that the application for floodlights has been granted by Lichfield District Council.

Parish Clerk to ascertain whether the application for a premises licence to sell alcohol has been granted.

Parish Clerk

Land behind Mayfair Drive (15/720)

At 23/06/15 meeting, Councillor Millard advised that he was still awaiting a meeting date to visit the site but did confirm that Jacksons have been contracted to deal with the land and will 'make good' any outstanding work.

E-mail from Parishioner regarding Condition of Church Close Road And Pavement surfaces (14/721)

Councillor Edmond advised that following a number of chases and a resubmission of the original issue to Street Scene, no response has still been received.

It was agreed to remove the item from the Minutes until a response is received.

Councillor Edmond advised that she had made the parishioner aware.

(14/743) Re-location of Dog Waste Bin (Refilling of the Dog Waste Station (14/722)

Councillor Reynolds to arrange the re-location of the existing Dog Bin in Heathley Lane to the side of parishioner, P Smith's house.

Councillor Reynolds to also arrange the removal of the Dog Waste Filler.

Councillor
Reynolds**Pathway on Drayton Lane towards Coleshill Road (14/723)**

It was agreed to remove this item from the Minutes.

See comments under 'Village Signage'.

(12/744) Mill Lane Land – Relocation of Dog Waste Bin (12/724)

Councillors Millard and Reynolds to meet on Friday 26th June to decide on the location of the Dog Waste Bin.

Councillors
Reynolds /
Millard

Matters Arising from those Minutes cont...**Village Signage (12/725)**

All signs now replaced.

Following the Council's decision to write to the official Ombudsman as the response from SCC was far from satisfactory, Councillor Millard advised that a response from the Ombudsman had now been received and unfortunately the response was not favourable.

"The Local Government Act 1974 says the Ombudsman will investigate complaints by members of the public. The law does not allow the Ombudsman to accept a complaint made by an "authority constituted for the purposes of the public service." This includes town and parish councils. Therefore the Ombudsman has no power to consider your complaint".

It was agreed to remove the outstanding Actions.

(13/745) Notice Board (13/726)

Councillors Millard and Reynolds to meet on Friday 26th June to decide on the location of the Dog Waste Bin.

Councillors
Reynolds /
Millard

Speed of traffic through the Village (13/727)

It was agreed to remove this item from the Minutes.

See comments under 'Village Signage'.

Donation of Bench for Middleton RSPB Reserve (14/728)

Councillor Edmond stated that she had spoken to Chris at Middleton Reserve who advised they already have a number of benches and are not looking to add any more at the present time.

It was agreed that Chris would keep the Council in mind for a future date as the Council are keen to donate something in the name of Drayton Bassett.

Annual Audit (14/729)

Parish Clerk advised that she had contacted the two independent Internal Auditors sought. One of those provided from SPCC was an invalid e-mail address and telephone number didn't exist.

At 23/06/15 meeting, it was agreed to remove from the Minutes and await details on the new Audit framework that will apply to Drayton Bassett Parish Council.

Youth Councils (14/730)

It was agreed that since there had been no response from the Scouts, despite a number of left messages, the Council would not pursue this initiative.

(14/746) Felling of Trees (14/731)

Councillor Millard to instruct the successful contractor to begin the work.

Councillor
Millard

Matters Arising from those Minutes cont ...**(14/747) Condition of Football Pitch and Future Maintenance (14/732)**

Councillor Watkins advised that the Football Team have confirmed they will clean, tidy and repair any damage to the Changing Rooms.

Councillor Reynolds suggested that the Council looks into the possibility of other Football teams using the facilities.

Councillor Millard agreed to contact other teams in the area who might be interested in hiring the pitch.

Councillor Edmond proposed the Council inspect the Changing Rooms after the meeting on 23/06/15, and Councillor Watkins makes contact with the Football Team to advise that the work should be completed by 30th June as a final inspection will be done on the 1st July. Councillors Reynolds seconded this proposal.

It was also agreed that if the Council find that the work is not satisfactory, the locks are changed and we formally write to the Football Team advising them that the facilities are no longer available to them and that we will be looking to offer the use of the facilities at a cost to other teams in the area and Drayton Bassett are able to apply if they wish.

Councillor Watkins advised again that funding is heavily caveated and is pound for pound but is still continuing to look for other funding opportunities.

(15/748) New Finance Regulations (15/733)

Chairman Millard advised that because our income is under £25,000 we do not have to have an external audit undertaken but we have to provide more detailed financial information on the agenda and also include this in the Minutes.

The anticipated changes in the Audit process and the new Transparency Act will affect what is displayed on the Agenda and Notice Board and will therefore need further investigation.

New Parish Clerk to investigate.

(15/749) Purchase of New Laptop for Clerk

New Parish Clerk to obtain quotes for a new laptop and bring back to the next meeting for discussion / approval by the Council

Drayton Manor Theme Park – Planning Applications for New Rides (15/735)

Parish Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to Lichfield District Council who advised that Drayton Manor Park have their own Planning Committee so applications for new rides do not need to be submitted to Lichfield District Council.

Litter Around the Village (15/736)

Litter picks now carried out by Lichfield District Council.

Councillor Edmond confirmed the purchase of 3 new hand litter pickers.

Councillor
MillardCouncillor
WatkinsCouncillor
WatkinsNew
Parish ClerkNew Parish
Clerk

Community Paths Initiatives – Bids for 2015/2016 (15/738)

Councillor Edmond advised that upon investigation the cost to replace the current style of gate leading to access to the Drayton to Middleton footpath would be very costly and is match-funded by any successful applications.

It was discussed and agreed not to pursue this.

High Speed Rail Link (15/739)

Parish Clerk confirmed that payment had been received for the hire of the Sports Pavilion by HS2 for the HS2 meeting on 3rd March.

Correspondence**(15/750) Letter from Parishioner regarding the Purchase of Land**

Councillor Millard shared with the Councillors a letter that had been received by a parishioner regarding the purchase of a piece of land behind their property.

Upon discussion, it was found that the land in question was the historical site and due to the area being of important historical archaeological value, the land would not be for sale now or in the future due to a restricted covenant on the land.

Parish Clerk to write to inform the parishioner.

Parish Clerk

Chairman's Items

None.

Parish Councillor items**(15/751) Donation to WI**

Councillor Millard advised that he had been approached by Viv Patchett, a member of the WI, for a donation from the Parish Council towards the running costs for the current financial year.

A discussion ensued.

Councillor Edmond stated that if the Council agree to a donation for the current financial year then we should be prepared that the WI will approach the Parish Council next year.

Councillors' Hemus and Potts both strongly felt that a donation should be given and Councillor Hemus proposed a donation of £200.00 and Councillor Potts seconded.

Councillors' Watkins and Reynolds were also in favour. Councillor Edmond was opposed.

Councillor Millard to write to the WI to advise of the Council's decision and to also request that any future requests for donations are made more formally.

Councillor
Millard

Website

Councillor Millard agreed to continue to update the Parish Council webpage for the time being with a few that the new Parish Clerk would take this over in due course.

(15/752) Liaison with Middleton Parish Council

Councillor Potts advised that he had received an e-mail from the Parish Clerk of Middleton enquiring into whether Drayton Bassett Parish Council would be interested in sharing information about crime in our communities.

Councillor Potts asked for a volunteer, however, as no-one came forward it was suggested that the new Parish Clerk contacts the Middleton Parish Clerk to ascertain some further background.

New
Parish Clerk

(15/753) Communication; Correspondence, E-mails, Drop Box

Councillor Millard discussed the way forward in terms of communication/ correspondence with the new Parish Clerk.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the new Parish Clerk would set up a Drop Box and advise Councillors by e-mail when new correspondence is added.

New
Parish Clerk

It was also agreed that the new Parish Clerk would list all correspondence that is received and bring to the next few meetings where it can be discussed what should be circulated and what doesn't need to be.

New
Parish Clerk

(15/754) Churchyard Grass Cutting

Councillor Reynolds brought to the attention of the Council a request from Joan Sandland on behalf of the Church for help with the grass cutting of the churchyard.

Parishioner, Margaret Putman, attended the meeting and advised that she has been helping to maintain the churchyard grass along with another parishioner from the Village at their own cost.

A discussion took place and a couple of possible options were discussed.

The first was to ask the Council's current Grass Cutting contractor, John Mason, to mow the grass, however, Councillor Hemus advised that John is currently very busy and would therefore not be able to do the work for some time.

Another option was to pay a sum of £120.00, which is the cost of John Mason cutting the grass, to the Church for them to spend how they see fit on maintaining the grass.

Following the discussion, Councillor Edmond suggested the Council pays a sum of £120.00 towards the maintenance of the grass and the Church presents the Council with receipts to the value of £120.00. Councillor Potts seconded this.

Councillors Reynolds and Watkins were also in favour of Councillor Edmond's proposal.

Councillor Reynolds to advise Joan Sandland of the Council's decision.

Councillor
Reynolds

Parish Clerk to write formally advising of the outcome.

Parish Clerk

(15/755) Transport for Elderly Parishioners to Fazeley Lunch Club - Tamworth Community Transport

Councillor Millard advised that a letter had been received from Tamworth Community Transport advising that numbers being picked up and taken to the monthly Lunch Club in Fazeley had dwindled down to only two, and unfortunately they are also looking to increase their prices.

Following a discussion, it was agreed to give two months' notice that the Council will no longer be funding the transport.

Councillor Edmond proposed this and Councillor Potts seconded.

Parish Clerk to write to Tamworth Community Transport to inform them of the Council's decision.

Parish Clerk

Councillor Edmond agreed to contact both of the parishioners to inform them of the Council's decision.

Councillor Edmond

Finance Reports

Finance reports circulated prior to the meeting. No questions were raised.

(15/756) Planning

One planning applications reviewed:-

15/00607/FUL

Mr A Parry, 53 Drayton Lane

Single Story side extension to form garden room

The application was discussed by the Councillors present and it was agreed that there were no objections.

Parish Clerk to advise Lichfield District Council

New Parish Clerk

(15/757) HS2

Councillor Potts gave a brief update.

Parish Clerk to update HS2 with new Parish Clerk's contact details.

Parish Clerk

Co-option of Stuart Potts

Councillor Edmond proposed the co-option of Stuart Potts and Councillor Watkins seconded.

The meeting finished at 9.20pm

Italic text indicates notes from previous minutes