

BLEASBY PARISH COUNCIL

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Meeting of Bleasby Parish Council held remotely by zoom on Monday 12th October at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs: S Anderson, M Coombs, N Winn, R Wallin, S Roscoe

Also in attendance: NCC Cllr S Saddington, NSDC Cllr R Blaney, Clerk K Green and 0 Members of the public

Minutes

BPC 2020-125 Receive and accept apologies for absence- none

BPC 2020-126 Declaration of Members' Interests in Agenda Items- none

BPC 2020-127 Receive Questions from the Public- none

BPC 2020-128 Receive reports from Nottinghamshire County Councillor and Newark and Sherwood District Councillor- NCC Cllr Saddington told the meeting; Cllr Saddington can give a contribution for the Christmas tree, around £150.

Cllr Roscoe asked why the extra holes in kerbstones on Main street have not been cleared, Cllr Saddington will ask Highways to inspect.

NCC are looking at the efficiency of the new council layout, NCC is not in first in the first Councils to trail the new layout.

Notts is currently Covid-19 level 2 which is concerned with reducing household transmission

BPC 2020-129 Approve Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th September 2020 and the extraordinary meeting held on 10th August 2020

**Proposal to approve the Minutes Cllr Roscoe
All Agreed**

Seconded Cllr Winn

BPC 2020-130 Co-option of new Councillors

Council voted in secret via e-mail to the Clerk after the October meeting. Votes concluded for **Avril McCormick and Jo Dunseath to be Co-Opted onto the Council.**

**Proposal to Co-Opt Avril McCormick and Jo Dunseath onto Bleasby Parish Council
Proposed Cllr Andersen Seconded Cllr Roscoe
All Agreed**

Councillors will have a role in supporting the Council as follows:

Cllr Andersen -Finances and Parish Plan

Cllr Coombs- Planning and Maintenance

Cllr Roscoe- Glebe Field, Trees and Hedges, Orchard Close and Gypsy Lane projects

Cllr Winn- Noticeboards, Orchard Close and Gypsy Lane projects

Cllr McCormick- Jubilee ponds, Communications, Orchard Close Gypsy Lane projects

Cllr Dunseath- Events, school liaison, Jubilee ponds and trees

Cllr Wallin- Bleasby News and Traffic

BPC 2020-131 Receive Payment and Receipts report and consider the approval of any further additional payments to be made and add to the schedule. Sign any cheques required for payment

Approve Payments- Clerk GiffGaff Phone credit £6

Clerks Wages £257.54

Eon Electricity August £14.09

Ulyetts grass cutting £482.40

Unwin print Bleasby News £220

Bank Card charges £3

Clerks expenses Printer ink £33.03

Information Commissioners Office renewal £40

Brightpay wages software £58.80

**Proposal to approve the payments Cllr Andersen
All Agreed**

Seconded Cllr Wallin

BPC 2020-132 Approve Actual v Budget and Bank Reconciliation

**Proposal to approve the finances Cllr Andersen
All Agreed**

Seconded Coombs

BPC 2020-133 End of year Accounts 2019-2020 Council discussed the update

Proposal to approve the updated end of year accounts with correct budget and held monies

Proposed Cllr Roscoe Seconded Cllr Andersen

All Agreed

BPC 2020-134 Clerks pay- government guidelines has set an increase for wage rises for 20-21. For the Clerk this is an increase from £12.39 to £12.73 per hour

Proposal to accept Clerks payrise Cllr Coombs

Seconded Cllr Roscoe

All Agreed

BPC 2020-135 Locate a new Auditor- Chair will contact Elson PC for details of their Auditor

Proposed Cllr Andersen

Seconded Cllr Roscoe

All Agreed

BPC 2020-136 Update and approve the Assets Register Council went through the updated assets register
Chairman has donated the wheelie bin at Jubilee ponds

Proposal to approve the Assets register Cllr Roscoe

Seconded Cllr Andersen

All Agreed

BPC 2020-137 Planning Applications – Council discussed the planning applications and agreed to comment as follows

20/01805/LDC The Bungalow Boat Lane Bleasby- Certificate of Lawfulness to continue the existing use for winter storage of caravans at the site

Proposal to comment: Object as emptied every winter, this year they could not remove due to bad weather. Council are concerned that there are more projects happening on this site and an expansion to the site with shepherd huts and café all year round that do not have planning permission. Correspondence to NSDC Cllr Blaney

Proposed Cllr Roscoe

Seconded Cllr Andersen

All Agreed

20/01525/HOUSE 3 Sycamore Lane Renovation and extension of property. Convert garage to habitable space and construct new garage to front. Rear single storey extension to enlarge kitchen and first floor extension over converted garage to create master suite

Proposal to comment: oppose as not in keeping with unique environment of the lane, and adds to flooding risk as per 6/7 Sycamore lane earlier in year.

Proposed Cllr Andersen

Seconded Cllr Coombs

All Agreed

Planning Application Decisions

20/01601/FUL Manor Farm demolition of part of agricultural building- **approved**

20/01343/HOUSE 3 Oak Tree Close Erection of external decking to garage on the first floor-**approved**

20/01344/HOUSE 4 Oaktree Close Erection of external decking to garage on the first floor- **approved**

20/01356/HOUSE 1 Orchard Close Alterations and extensions to create an enlarged entrance lobby and wc to the front of the property and a single storey extension to the rear- **approved -noted**

Planning Enforcement

20/00370/ENFB 31 Orchard Close- Alleged breach: Removal of hedge and erection of a gate

20/00361/ENFB 3 Sycamore Lane- Alleged installation of a gate

BPC 2020-138 Land and Assets- Bench at Hazleford- damaged bench needs fixing. Cllr Coombs is doing the repairs as well as the noticeboard

No Gravel is currently required for Jubilee ponds

The Chair updated the council on Glebe field and hedges have begun to be cut. Jubilee ponds hedges update required inc land owners hedges, contact Derek McGrath

BPC 2020 139 Village Plan Projects, Orchard Close and Gypsy Lane

BPC 2020-140 Jubilee Ponds Policy- defer to November

Chair to contact resident to see if still would like to help on jubilee ponds

Dogs on leads signs have been taken down, proposal to buy permanent signs. The sign is there for safety during the covid -19 restrictions so that dogs are not going up to other people. Chair to purchase

Proposed Cllr Andersen

Seconded Cllr McCormick

All Agreed

BPC 2020-141 Tree Charter- progress is being made towards replenishing the tree population in Bleasby, 50 trees have been received from NSDC and a number of tree initiatives have been contacted to work with

BPC 2020-142 Events -Christmas tree Cllr Coombs to order tree. Date in field, first week in December

Proposed Cllr Andersen

Seconded Cllr Winn

All Agreed

BPC 2020-143 Communication- Cllr McCormick to contact Mike Fryer re improving communication. Facebook has been suggested for use in communication, Council would like to use one way communication.

Thanks to Mike Fryer and Nicola Bennet for their hard work during the covid-19 lock down

BPC 2020-144 Family Facilities and school grounds- discussions with school have gone ahead but a meeting is needed to discuss grants etc between Cllr Roscoe and the school.

BPC 2020-145 Bleasby News Update- Volunteers have come forward to take over the running of Bleasby news. Details are not known at present

Clerk to contact new volunteers re payments

BPC 2020-146 RCAN membership- not required

BPC 2020-147 Groups reports- Report by P Cast with Thanks

Jubilee Ponds Report

- The Ponds are in good order thanks to the Bleasby Carp Syndicate's maintenance work.
- The Meadow has been cut by Chris Foster without charge, thereby saving costs. Ideally it should be cut again in early spring.
- The eastern boundary hedge adjacent to the Meadow has been cut by Ulyetts.
- The northerly hedge on the boundary with John Hall's land is apparently going to be undertaken by the Halls themselves.
- The Chair recommends a permanent "dogs on leads" sign at the JP entrance.
- With more Covid restrictions planned, the JPs' value for exercise, contemplation and family interest is again emphasised.
- The information leaflet to all householders is yet to be completed.

Flood Action Report

- Ross Marshall will be meeting (virtually) the FA Group on the evening of October 20th to discuss the flood amelioration strategy supported by the £25k grant.
- The road drainage of Station Road is being impeded by the blockages of accumulated mud and vegetation. Gutter sweeping by the NSDC is required – weeds are growing on bends and NCC Highways

need to clear the integral kerbstone drainage on Station Road. The gulleys have been emptied but the NCC team has not yet flushed these kerbstone drains nor cleared the blocked “porthole” connections.

- Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board has continued with its cycle of dyke maintenance.
- The traffic cones and two-way radios are still on loan to the school as part of its Covid Bubble demarcation but would have to be collected in the event of impending flooding.
- The Group remains concerned by the increasing hard surfacing on and around properties contrary to planning regulations, and also by the increase in roof areas generated by the continued extension of buildings.

Events Group

- Communication has been problematic in keeping the Group informed and involved by email.
- A range of ideas has been suggested for community Christmas projects which await confirmation pending the Parish Council’s decision on Christmas tree provision. They include:-
 - o Advent Calendar windows – requiring 24 households to agree to create a Christmas window display to be revealed one by one, as with a conventional advent calendar. This could be a one-off or done by cooperation in different areas of the parish.
 - o Decorated Gateways – up to the householders (possibly on the theme of pantomime) to use lights, decorations, plants etc to create an attractive series of gateways throughout the parish.
 - o A coordinated ‘switch-on’ of the above to mark the start of the Christmas season and create a seasonal atmosphere throughout the parish.
 - o A Christmas Treasure Hunt comprising commercially available illuminated 3D acrylic and/or wicker Christmas themed animals and characters located around the village for children to discover has been considered, subject to available funding.
 - o Christmas decorations for a tree (or church fence) made by families.
- Recent quotes for the provision, erection, decoration and removal of a central Christmas tree on the Glebe Field, acquired by a member of the Group, would amount to c£1,800 plus VAT (which can be claimed back).
- Some members of the Group wonder if this outlay could be better spent on more permanent Christmas features which could be used year on year – for instance on ‘Treasure Hunt’ models mentioned above, which cost around £100 to £120 each.

Countryside and Footpaths Group

- Covid constraints have brought to a halt our group walks but members, as well as increasing numbers of residents, are walking our footpaths even more as a result of restrictions.
- We have been reminded that all lost and queried footpaths need to be identified and officially claimed, with supporting evidence, by 1st January 2026 – in other words in only five years’ time.
- There are a number of footpaths which have been lost and not reinstated as a result of widespread gravel extraction across the parish – and even some that were never claimed by our post-war Parish Council.
- The Gibsmere flood path and its continuation to Thurgarton remains to be pursued by the PC and the NCC Footpaths Officer.
- With PC backing, the Group would research local maps and documentation and present a report to the PC within one year.
- There are some rights of way which need work – this has to be undertaken by the NCC ROW team. The path near the Village Hall is such a case, having been reported by a member of the Group but not yet received attention due the current greater workload.
- Our local countryside has lost many of its historic features and wildlife, but concentrated efforts by landowners, farmers, the PC and local groups such as the WI, Local History Society, Flood Action Group and the above could work closely to achieve the best for farming efficiency and local wildlife. Could the Council initiate such a project?
- The PC’s initiative and encouragement of NSDC for tree surveys and planting has been most encouraging and this Group would be pleased to work with the PC this autumn on any projects it may be considering.

“Village Volunteers”

- Glebe Field – there was once an official management group which was created when the field was acquired. It is now mainly managed by “Village Volunteers” looking after the Aircrews Memorial, footpaths, orchard and general maintenance, including litter collection and general upkeep.
- Regular mowing by Ulyetts has continued as necessary throughout the summer and will now become less frequent.

- Ullyetts has also cut the boundary hedge to reduce its thickness and height in order to maintain the open area and general village aspect and as a centrepiece and focal point of the Conservation Area. There are some areas of the hedging which need further planting.
- The replacement of the fencing and hedgerow behind the village noticeboard needs to be addressed for this autumn's planting season.
- The maypole, sadly only used by manikins during VJ Day celebrations, now needs to be taken down and stored. A Christmas tree may take its place.
- The orchard has been severely 'mauled' by careless strimming in the past and there has been some recent wind-blown damage. Its current management and future development needs to be considered by the PC.
- The archaeological importance of the field must not be overlooked. Its undulations add interesting history and character to the site, as well as a variety of microhabitats.
- The field has proved to be an important and appropriate area for a range of events held over many years, especially in recent years by the Events Group.
- Joint usage of the School Field has allowed weekend and summer evening sporting facilities for netball, football and hockey, as well as a safe play area for children.
- The PC might consider off-setting some of the maintenance costs of equipment that is widely used by Bleasby children during holidays and at weekends.
- Ferry End – this is an important parish and local facility enjoyed by more people not of the parish than local residents having, since the PC's acquisition, been an attractive and appealing site for visitors, walkers, boaters and fishermen and, of course, historically a crossing point of the Trent.
- The Village Volunteers worked diligently on improving this site during the 2019 autumn and winter until Covid brought work to a halt in early spring of 2020.
- Bankside rubbish and submerged vegetation has been removed, branches cut to allow more light for the 'meadow' beneath and a broader vista of the river created.
- The information board has been removed for repair by Cllr Coombs and he has also removed the steel pole and concrete base once used for carrying the legal signage necessary for the 12 years before the land could be officially acquired by the PC.
- Residents of Hazelford Rest Home regularly used the site previously. It is an important 'staging point' on the Trent Valley Way.
- More significant tree limb removal is required to completely improve the site and achieve its intended function.
- Ullyetts mow the site but meadow growth remains very poor and slow growing owing to shading.
- A repair to the rotted base of one of the seats there has also been undertaken by Cllr Coombs.

Other volunteers

- Bleasby News – though not technically members of the 'informal' Village Volunteers, our two 11 year volunteer editors of Bleasby News will produce their final edition in December 2020.
- Fortunately a 'team' of volunteers has come forward and will produce their first edition for February 2021, with support as necessary from the outgoing editors. The instigator of this new team was motivated to volunteer by her view that Bleasby News was so well valued that it should not be lost.
- The administrative role relating to advertisers will need to be undertaken by the PC – this entails invoicing current advertisers once their 6 editions are coming to an end and ensuring that the appropriate payments are made. The payments to the printers will continue to be made by the clerk.
- The work of the volunteer distributors and deliverers of Bleasby News should also be acknowledged.
- Village Hall Management Committee – this group of volunteers comprises representatives of the groups in the parish. They have been instrumental in the village hall's progressive improvement and development.
- Most recently the hall has been redecorated and its heating and ventilation significantly improved, plus ongoing repairs and the purchase of the necessary equipment. This has been achieved through the committee's fund raising efforts and by lettings income and, occasionally, by grants.
- Currently it is planning to improve the drainage of the frontage to the hall and to resurface it.
- Covid has severely reduced income from lettings, whilst still needing ongoing maintenance and cleaning.
- The PC still owes £48 in rent from an invoice first presented in March 2020.
- Telephone kiosk and defibrillator – another often overlooked asset of the Parish Council which has been operating for 4 years is the defibrillator housed in the old telephone kiosk.
- Another village volunteer, Alison Sutherland, has devoted an enormous amount of her time maintaining the defibrillator, keeping it in constant readiness for an emergency, and having to ensure access to the equipment!

- Its joint usage as book exchange has proved to be a demanding task because people are thoughtlessly loading surplus books adjacent to the defibrillator. The PC needs to address the excess book problem – a survey of its use would be instructive. In theory the book exchange is a great facility during this period of lockdown but it should not be used as a book ‘dump’.
- **Station Adoption Group** – an emerging group of volunteers are awaiting support from East Midlands Railways.
- Their report is included in September’s PC minute

BPC 2020-148 Date of Next Meeting – Monday 9th November 2020

Trees working group

Footpaths

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

I declare that the above is a true record of the meeting

**Signed :
Chair
Bleasby Parish Council**

Dated: