

BLEASBY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Bleasby Parish Council

Monday 11 September 2023 at 7.30 pm, in Bleasby Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Coombs (In the Chair), Roscoe, Wallin, Winn and Morgan

Cllr Keith Melton, Cllr Sue Saddington arrived at 8.45pm

In Attendance: Denise Bryant, Clerk, and 2 members of the public

Chair's Welcome

The chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.30pm

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Andersen due to holidays.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests pursuant to section 31 Localism Act 2011 from councillors on matters considered at this meeting

No declarations were received,

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2023

These were accepted as a Correct Record and signed.

4. Public Participation

Members of the public to ask questions or make observations to the Council

A member of the public raised the issue of email usage and also the adoption of a gov.uk domain for the council. The council thanked the member of the public and informed them that this is already in process.

A member of the public asked the council to look at the mowing regime in the village this year. He reported that the grass cutting on verges, corners and round flower troughs appeared not to be as frequent as in previous years. He asked the council how many cuts have been done by Ulyett this year. The council responded that it will report back at the next meeting.

A member of the public asked about the mowing around the Air Crew memorial area. This used to be to be mowed by villagers but this appears to have stopped. He asked that the council get a contractor to manage the grass more closely.

A member of the public asked about progress on the BT Openreach Ultrafast Broadband voucher scheme. The Council responded that this was to be debated later.

5. To receive reports from Nottinghamshire County Councillor and Newark and Sherwood District Councillor

Cllr Melton reported that there is potentially funding available from Sherwood Forest Trust and Trees for Climate to boost the number of trees in villages. He suggests that all parish Councils should be looking for additional trees being planted on exits and entrances to villages. Planting and maintenance grants are available for local farmers. Cllr Roscoe reported that she has discussed this with local farmers and one farmer is happy to plant in hedgerow gaps etc. Planting in the church land off Gypsy Lane was discussed and the council committed to explore this further. Cllr Melton also stated that the Environment Bank are giving grants to aid bio-diversity net gain which could be exploited.

Cllr Melton told the Council of the future Community Plan for Newark and Sherwood District and the potential for a Parish Council conference which could be held before the end of 2023. Parish Councils would be invited to network with other councils. There was a positive response from Bleasby Council which Cllr Melton would report back.

Cllr Coombs asked if there was a tree replacement monitoring system set up within the District Council which would monitor the enactment of replacement planting schemes over time. Cllr Melton noted this point and advised that Shaun Davis, NSDC's Tree Officer would be looking to improve this.

A member of the Public asked about the status on a historic application for installing an electricity generating facility on the weir. He noted that the scheme was granted outline planning permission. The Member of the public asked if this could be a village electricity project. Cllr Melton agreed that this was a good idea and suggested that the Parish Council should detail their vision for this scheme and send it to Cllr Melton. He would ask his officers to come and talk to us about it.

Cllr Saddington submitted her report at 8.45pm when she arrived.

She asked about the installation of the temporary Interactive Speed Sign. She was informed by various members of the public and councillors that the sign had been installed but that it was facing the wrong way and was in the wrong place. It was felt that it should be positioned as vehicles come into the village. Clerk to write to VIAEM and ask for it to be moved.

A discussion was had with Cllr Saddington regarding cycle routes within Bleasby and surrounding villages. Cllr Saddington suggested that Cllr Roscoe and the clerk should suggest a meeting with VIAEM to progress this. Cllr Saddington also suggested that additional trees and planters within Bleasby could also be discussed with VIAEM.

Cllr Saddington raised to the Council's attention the Minerals and Waste plan. The Council was aware and was discussing it later in the agenda.

Cllr Saddington updated the Council on the Newark Hospital opening times which is to be discussed by Health Scrutiny Committee. The Hospital is looking to extend the temporary night-time closure for another year. The Hospital proposes to continue to close at night but to provide extra services instead. Cllr Saddington detailed all the locations for the various public consultations on the opening times and the services proposed. The Council have sent this to the village using the village email service.

Cllr Winn raised additional issues with the railway crossing. The crossing has been closed twice in last 2 weeks for an hour each time. Cllr Saddington committed to raise this and asked Cllr Winn to send details including dates and times.

A member of the public raised the state of the High Cross road edges. These have been repaired recently but are deteriorating again. This was noted but the road edges are seen as a problem that is unlikely to be resolved permanently.

6. Finance

- a. To approve payments as listed on payment schedule if any.
All payments were approved.
- b. To note VAT reclaim of £147.67 for period Apr - June 2023
The council noted the VAT reclaim.
- c. To receive and approve bank reconciliation and bank statement.
The bank statement and reconciliation was received, approved and signed.
- d. Progress of Unity Bank Application for additional signatories.
The additional form for the application was signed by the Councillors.
- e. Any other matters appertaining to finance.
There were no other matters.

7. Planning

- a. The Acre 23/01578/FUL
The consultation deadline for the Acre application 23/01578/FUL has been extended until 10th October allowing the Parish Council to consider this application on 9th October.
- b. Any other matters appertaining to planning including decisions.
There were no further matters.

8. Correspondence

- a. Quotation from Hugo Fox for Website service.
It was agreed to remain with Hugo Fox and contract a monthly silver service at £19.99 plus VAT per month. Clerk to set up the Direct Debit
- b. Email from Derek McGrath regarding tree plaques
Cllr Coombs commented that the plaques are in process. All plaques to be ordered together. 2 plaques to be bought, one for the service tree and one for the oak tree in the field. IT was felt that Highways would object to putting a plaque on the Hornbeams as it would make mowing difficult.
- c. Email regarding dog incident on Shale Lane footpath
The council noted the email. The council was minded to send a village email re good dog control and good dog hygiene. Cllr Coombs to provide wording.
- d. NCC Via Winter Assistance
5 bags of salt to be ordered and delivered to Cllr Coombs house.
- e. NCC Waste Plan Consultation.
The consultation was noted.
- f. Newark Hospital Treatment Centre opening times.
This has been minuted and covered within Cllr Saddington's report.
- g. NCC snow wardens
Village email to be sent out requesting a volunteer.
- h. Notts Wildlife trust re Jubilee Ponds.
Cllr Coombs has this as a project going forward.

9. Update on matters from previous meetings

- a. Grip improvements and horse signs on High Cross
The Parish Council are to have the grips cleared so further works can be clearly identified.
The Clerk to arrange for a quote from Ulyett for clearing the grip.
- b. Interactive speed sign.
Minuted earlier.
- c. Notice board at Goverton.
Now with Highways.
- d. Speedwatch at Bleasby.
Cllr Morgan met with Mrs Edkins. Set up Investment approx £700. 12 people needed as volunteers. Cllr Morgan has contacted PCSO to determine Speedwatch locations.
- e. Email use by Councillors
Progress made on gaining quotations on the purchase of a Bleasby .gov.uk email domain and email hosting. Cllr Morgan working with the Clerk to ratify the quotation received.
- f. Village Survey on village-entrance signs
All completed surveys have been collected. To be reported on at next meeting.

10. Bleasby Proposed Cycle Route

Cllr Roscoe would like to propose a cycle route as our roads are too dangerous for families to cycle on. The proposal is for a circular route leading from Bleasby to Thurgarton and potentially linking to Fiskerton and beyond. AS minuted in Cllr Saddington's report above, the next step is for a meeting with VIAEM to take this further.

11. Openreach Ultrafast Broadband

It was agreed to encourage Bleasby villagers to attend a joint meeting with Thurgarton. Clerk to contact Thurgarton PC to progress. The Parish Council also agreed to further village emails to be sent to promote the voucher scheme further within the village.

12. Land and Assets

- a. Jubilee Ponds
This will be detailed in the report from Grasshoppers.
- b. Glebe Field
No further action this month
- c. Ferry End
No further action this month

13. Village Projects Update

- a. Gypsy Lane progress
Paint to be bought and date set (ideally before end of Sept)

14. Green Spaces Working Group Update

- a. Grasshopper Report

Working Parties

Ferry End - tided and installed the 2 new benches during the July Grasshoppers work party
There was no scheduled work party during August but a couple of ad hoc working parties saw Grasshopper volunteers came together to clear paths around Jubilee Ponds, trim hedges & continue maintenance of Glebe Field Orchard.

Update on Glebe Field Coronation Corner Meadow

We simply left the grass uncut this summer in order to see what plant species were already present - unsurprisingly this was predominantly grass but a total of 24 different species of plant

were identified, the greatest variety being at the margins of the meadow. The meadow was scythed and arisings removed in late August and during this work party, large numbers of insects along with frogs, toads and a vole were observed in this small area of meadow. Managing the meadow in this way is key to its success as this will help to reduce the vigour of problematic plants and allow the wildflowers to flourish. We will cut the meadow again in the next few weeks and plan to sow yellow rattle which will help to suppress the dominant grasses.

Update on Jubilee Ponds Meadow

The yellow rattle sown in the Main Meadow last autumn sprouted this year and should now have self-seeded for next year. The meadow was cut and cleared last week

Future events

On the 7th October, Grasshoppers will be helping with a Nature Day at Jubilee Ponds, where local families and friends can help build a giant bug hotel, make their own bird boxes and mini-bug hotels, learn about the bird life around the Ponds and take part in a local bat walk - flyer for this is attached.

Scheduled Grasshopper working parties: 3rd Sat of each month - 10am - 12pm.

Agenda items for next meeting

- a. Co-option of new councillor
- b. Electricity Generation using the Weir – a village project.
- c. Christmas fair in the village hall
- d. Cycle path
- e. Open reach
- f. Mowing regime and Aircraft memorial grass
- g. Planting on Church land (Cllr Melton initiative)

15. Date of next meeting – 9th October 2023.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.10 pm.

I declare that the above is a true account of the meeting held on 11th September 2023

(approved at PC Meeting held on 9th October, 2023)

Signed

Date

Chair

Bleasby Parish Council

Distribution: Parish Councillors, Cllr S Saddington, Cllr K Melton, Noticeboards, Website