

BLEASBY PARISH COUNCIL



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Minutes of Bleasby Parish Council

Monday 12 June 2023 at 7.30 pm, in Bleasby Village Hall

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

Cllr Keith Melton, Cllr Sue Saddington arrived 8.30pm

In Attendance: Denise Bryant, Clerk, Margaret Edkins of Thurgarton Speedwatch and six members of the public

Chair's Welcome

Chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.30.

1. Apologies

No apologies were received

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2023

These were accepted as a Correct Record and signed.

4. Public Participation

A member of the public requested to see the deeds for Glebe Field. Cllr Andersen agreed to locate them for the next meeting in July.

5. District/County Council Reports

Cllr Melton reported that he is sitting on the NSDC Planning Committee and informed the council that the administration of NSDC was still under discussion and he would provide an update when he is able which he anticipated would be in a month's time. Cllr Melton also informed the council that he had visited Bleasby and met with Cllr Coombs with reference to the Conservation Area. Cllr Melton left at 20.05 due to a personal commitment.

As Cllr Sue Saddington was not present, the County Council report was deferred until later in the meeting.

8.30pm – following Cllr Saddington's arrival. Cllr Saddington noted our discussion at the previous parish council meeting about a 20mph speed limit throughout Bleasby. She informed us that the policy is for 20mph speed limits to be instated near schools only as the police are unable to enforce 20mph speed limits across whole villages. Cllr Saddington stressed that Thurgarton Speedwatch was a good initiative.

It was requested that the parish council contact local farmers to request a speed reduction. The parish council will progress.

Cllr Saddington was asked about an interactive speed sign for the village. She reported that the latest traffic monitoring exercise in Bleasby had indicated that there was insufficient traffic to warrant an interactive sign

It was requested that horse caution signs are installed on High Cross and that Notts County Council are requested to repeat the traffic monitoring exercise again. Cllr Saddington to assist with this.

Cllr Saddington reported that the Network Rail barriers were not working for 2 hours on 12 June inconveniencing villagers. As a result, the Surgery Bus got cancelled. Cllr Saddington will send an email to Network Rail stressing the inconvenience and missed doctors' appointments.

A member of the public raised the issue of "knife edges" on the tarmac and verge edges on High Cross. The Clerk will report these to Notts County Highways.

A member of the public asked Cllr Saddington to assist with arranging a VIA engineer to visit Bleasby to view the grips on High Cross. Local villagers keep the grips clear of vegetation, but the better solution could be lining the grips with concrete. Cllr Saddington to assist with arranging the visit.

Cllr Saddington left at 21.00.

6. Thurgarton Speedwatch – Presentation by Margaret Edkins, Volunteer Leader of Thurgarton's Speedwatch

Thurgarton Speedwatch was set up 4 years ago due to villagers' concern with speeding. The purpose of Community Speedwatch is to educate drivers and be a visible presence encouraging drivers reduce their speed.

Volunteers need to be recruited including a "lead volunteer". Training is done by the local PCSO. This includes use of the radar gun and completing the paperwork. Speedwatch locations within the village have to be agreed with the PCSO.

Each Speedwatch session needs to be staffed by a minimum of three people in order to measure the driver's speed and collect all the necessary information to complete the Speedwatch activity log sheet.

The lead volunteer emails the activity log sheet to the police within 7 days. All Notts Police use the same database so speeding events are collated across the county. For drivers caught speeding (in excess of 35mph), the first event will result in a letter, the second a stronger letter, and the third event may result in a home visit.

To set up the Speedwatch initiative, the village will need two signs, a radar gun and high-viz vests. Margaret Edkins is happy to supply indicative costs and all the current rules and regulations that Thurgarton Speedwatch have available.

Margaret was asked about the costs of official average-speed cameras. She reported that the police refused Thurgarton's request for a camera as Thurgarton was considered not dangerous enough. However, Margaret stressed that the Speedwatch data was used successfully in the justification for the Thurgarton speed buffer zone application.

Margaret confirmed that Speedwatch could operate in a 40mph zone and that it was possible to request police to attend with a mobile speeding camera

She highlighted that the Police see a village as being proactive when Speedwatch has been set up and will therefore be more inclined to help the village.

It was suggested that the parish council get the local PCSO to address the village and that we request a mobile speeding unit operate in the village.

The Parish Council thanked Margaret for an informative and interesting presentation.

A member of the public volunteered to be lead Speedwatch volunteer.

7. Finance

a. To approve payments as listed on payment schedule

The payment schedule, as circulated, was approved.

b. To receive and approve bank reconciliation and bank statement (attached separately)

Accepted and the chair signed the bank reconciliation and statement.

c. To receive the report of the internal auditor

The internal auditors report was received and approved.

d. To complete, review, approve and sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2022/23

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2022/23 was completed, reviewed, approved and signed.

e. It was noted that the dates for the Exercise of Public rights would be 26.6.23 to 4.8.23

f. Any other matters appertaining to finance

The comments on the Internal audit were noted. The use of personal email addresses as highlighted in the internal audit report was discussed. Clerk to provide options and costings at next meeting.

8. Planning

- a. 23/00072/FUL Amended application for The Acre

The Council confirmed its continuing OBJECTION to the amended application. Cllr Coombs circulated a report for submission to NSDC Planning. This was agreed and will be sent. Cllr Coombs had earlier met Cllr Melton and discussed the application.

- b. Any other matters appertaining to planning including decisions.
There were no other matters.

9. Correspondence,

- a. Request for use of Jubilee Ponds for Duathlon on Monday 19th June by Bleasby school.

The council agreed to the request. Clerk to write to Bleasby School to give approval.

- b. A draft village signage questionnaire has been sent in by a parishioner. This was very much appreciated. Cllr Andersen to meet with the parishioner to progress this.

- c. A notice of two casual vacancies for the parish council had been sent to the village. One response was received from Mr Ben Morgan. This was very well received. Cllr Anderson proposed Mr Morgan's co-option which was seconded by Cllr Coombs followed by a unanimous vote. Ben was welcomed onto the council.

10. Staffing Matters

- a. Recruitment of Clerk – to approve the signature of D Bryant's contract.
This was noted and approved by a unanimous vote.

11. Update on matters from previous meetings

- a. Grips on High Cross. Discussed earlier in the meeting.
b. Interactive speed sign. Discussed earlier in the meeting.
c. Notice board at Goverton. The photo and measurements of the noticeboard have been received. To be progressed.

12. Land and Assets

- a. Jubilee Ponds. Ongoing details in the Grasshoppers report.
b. Glebe Field. The gate needs repairing, and dog sign replaced. Cllr Coombs to investigate
c. Ferry End. The quote for tree removal was noted and approved with a unanimous vote. Contractor will be instructed to commence. The Benches at Ferry End are to be installed.

13. Village Projects Update

- a. Gypsy Lane progress – to be progressed.
b. White posts and rails in the village need painting. Clerk to contact a painting contractor to provide a quote. Cllr Sarah Roscoe to do site visit with the proposed contractor.
c. Mowing round Hornbeam trees. Clerk to get quotes for a regular mowing service around the newly planted trees.

14. Green Spaces Working Group Update

Jo Dunseath sent the following report:

- Sat 27 May - monthly working party meet up for mow and chop session at Jubilee Ponds. Paths mown through meadow & Centenary Wood. Mowed blackthorn at Meadow Triangle and around some of the perimeter paths. This was postponed from 20 May meet up (regular scheduled monthly: 3rd Sat of month) as there was limited availability of volunteers on that day
- Two of our dedicated grasshoppers have been keeping an eye on Ferry End and have ensured that grass has been cut when needed and that the area remains tidy
- Another two dedicated grasshoppers have ensured that the new fastigate hornbeams have been kept watered during this heatwave
- Next working party scheduled Sat 17th June

The council wished to formally minute a vote of thanks to all the villagers who helped set up and run the recent Coronation Event on Glebe Field. Without the assistance of the many generous villagers, Bleasby would be unable to run these events and so much fun would be missed by so many fellow Bleasby residents.

We would also like to thank the many villagers who generously give their time and support so that the Grasshoppers can function successfully. The Grasshoppers provide a vital service in keeping Bleasby pristine and importantly safe for us all to enjoy.

The council have asked that this vote of thanks be sent as an email directly to all villagers who have signed up to the village email service.

15. Agenda items for next meeting

None noted

16. Date of next meeting – 10 July 2023.

There being no further business, the Chair thank everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.26pm.

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