



# KIRBY BELLARS PARISH COUNCIL

22 Rockingham Road, Mountsorrel, Leics LE12 7UJ  
Tel: 0116 4311943

## Minutes of Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 7.45pm, at the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Smith (Chair) (AS), Cllr Ingham (CI), Cllr Davies (DD), Cllr Ronan Browne (RB)

In Attendance: Victoria Webster (VW) – Clerk

Absent: None

	Agenda Items	Action By
1.	<b>Apologies</b> Cllr Batten (AB), Cllr Simkin (CS), Cllr Joe Orson (JO)	
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> There were no declarations of interest.	
3.	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> The minutes of the meeting of the 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2019 were accepted as true and correct and signed by the chair.	
4.	<b>Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting</b> There were no matters arising from the previous meeting minutes.	
5.	<b>Public Participation</b> No members of the public attended the meeting.	
6.	<b>Planning Applications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 19/00096/FUL 33 Main Street. Proposed 2-bedroom single storey dwelling. Rejected.</li> <li>▪ 19/00133/GDOAGR Thorpe Satchille Road. Proposed new agricultural building. No decision has been reached yet.</li> <li>▪ 19/00300/VAC Land at 36 Main Road. Removal of Condition 7. Application withdrawn.</li> <li>▪ 19/00256/FUL Erection of 3 detached dwellings, Main Street. Resubmission of original application. No decision has been reached yet.</li> <li>▪ 19/00369/FUL Thorpe Satchille Road. Erection of steel framed barn. Approved.</li> </ul> <p>The Kirby Bellars Parish Councillors discussed the current issues facing the village in</p>	

	<p>relation to planning with RB. It was felt that equine planning applications are given approval regardless if it is in keeping with the village. Despite the Parish Council being in support of small development within the village, the majority of planning applications are rejected stating the village is unsustainable. It is a concern that applications are rejected on the grounds of being unsustainable and decisions are being made on delegated powers and maybe should be reviewed by the committee for better quality and broader consideration.</p> <p>RB has encountered similar concerns with other Parish Councils and has arranged a meeting with the Councillors and the Planning Team to discuss areas of concern which RB could also do for Kirby Bellars. AS explained that the Parish Council has previously held discussions with Jim Worley and that the Councillors felt questions had been answered and that the new Melton Plan would allow for small development within the village, but this clearly isn't the case. <b>Action: VW to send a copy of the previous conversation with Jim Worley to RB.</b></p> <p>It was felt there is fundamental issues with the planning system and that Melton Borough Council talk of having a customer service centre in relation to planning but in fact they view the customer as the person submitting the application and not a wider circle i.e. villagers, the Parish Council etc. so therefore there is no support available to anyone other than the applicant.</p> <p>RB is to arrange a meeting with the planning team where the Councillors can pragmatically talk through the issues and provide them with an understanding of where the village is coming from with its support. <b>Action: RB to arrange a meeting.</b></p>	<p>VW ASAP</p> <p>RB</p>																								
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Accounts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Clerk presented the following accounts for payment:</li> </ul> <table border="1" data-bbox="279 1164 1260 1489"> <thead> <tr> <th>Chq No.</th> <th>Payee</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>000387</td> <td>Came &amp; Company</td> <td>£377.89</td> </tr> <tr> <td>000388</td> <td>D. Overfield – Mowing 01.06.19</td> <td>£35.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>000389</td> <td>Information Commissioner</td> <td>£40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>000390</td> <td>D. Overfield – Repair of bus shelter</td> <td>£192.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>000391</td> <td>V. Webster – April/May/June Payroll</td> <td>£818.62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>000392</td> <td>D. Overfield – Mowing 09.07.19</td> <td>£35.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>000393</td> <td>Kirby Bellars Village Hall – Rent 11.07.19</td> <td>£20.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It was agreed the payments were correct and the cheques were signed.</p> <p>The bank reconciliation and bank statements for all receipts and payments since the previous meeting were presented for checking. These were signed as accurate.</p> <p><b>New Bank Account</b> All Councillors had previously agreed that it was felt it would be beneficial to move the Parish Council accounts to a different bank due to the complications banking with the Bank of Ireland. It was suggested that a bank should be sought that has a branch in both Melton Mowbray and Loughborough to allow for ease of banking in the future for both the Councillors and the Clerk. Santander was recommended as it scores very highly in surveys for business bank accounts. VW will proceed with organising the opening of the new account.</p>	Chq No.	Payee	Amount	000387	Came & Company	£377.89	000388	D. Overfield – Mowing 01.06.19	£35.00	000389	Information Commissioner	£40.00	000390	D. Overfield – Repair of bus shelter	£192.95	000391	V. Webster – April/May/June Payroll	£818.62	000392	D. Overfield – Mowing 09.07.19	£35.00	000393	Kirby Bellars Village Hall – Rent 11.07.19	£20.00	<p>VW</p>
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<p>8.</p>	<p><b>LRALC AGM Report</b></p>																									

	<p>The standard business of the AGM was conducted. The elections were conducted in the way that company elections are conducted with members voting to accept or reject candidates nominated by the board rather than by a more open system which allows for the possibility of competing candidates. Motions put forward by Earl Shilton Town Council were defeated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first of these would prevent an eligible councillor sitting on more than one parish council</li> <li>• The second would eliminate wards from Parish Councils below a threshold size (&gt;£6.5m); while this does not apply to Kirby Bellars it would impact on villages like Hoby. DD cast the Kirby Bellars vote against both motions.</li> </ul> <p>After the business was completed there were three presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BHIB Insurance</b> who sponsored the event. They are specialist insurance brokers for Councils and can provide advice, seek competitive quotes and will provide support in the event of making a claim.</li> <li>• <b>LRALC Update</b> – Frances Webster gave an update on the work of LRALC particularly the training programme.</li> <li>• <b>Charlotte Eisenhart - Head of Member Services - NALC</b> spoke about the National Picture. NALC lobbies Government on behalf of local councils and also provides legal advice. There is a positive movement to encourage local councils to take on a greater range of functions. This may become more important if LCC were to become a unitary council. NALC produced a prospectus for Ultra Localism in 2017 and are developing a vision in which Town and Parish Councils play a major part in community renewal.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to the presentations there were market stalls in a foyer, one of which was 2Commune Ltd who provide the software and platform for the Kirby Bellars website but after a discussion it was realised the software has far greater capabilities than the Council currently make use of. For example, it could be used to conduct surveys in the village. Invite 2Commune to the next Parish Council meeting to talk through the capabilities of the system.</p>	<p>VW ASAP</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><b>Parish Councils County Liaison Meeting Report</b> After the introductions and welcomes from Guy Jackson (LRALC) and Richard Shepherd there was a series of presentations from Senior Council Officers and from the Castle Donington Parish Council.</p> <p><b>LCC – Simon Lawrence – Head of Growth and Special Programmes</b> County population is due to grow by 16% up to 2040. This will mean big changes across the County. Work is continuing on the idea of a Unitary Council with a report on the ‘business case’ due to go to Cabinet in the Autumn. There is a Parish Council working group as part of this process.</p> <p><b>Assistant Director of Strategic Finance and Property – Declan Keegan — Budget Priorities</b> LCC are again looking at further budget reductions because of Government reductions to overall public expenditure and local government in particular. LCC is the lowest funded County Council in England per head of population. A survey was distributed with the most recent issue of Leicestershire Matters which local people and Parish Councils should be encouraged to respond to.</p> <p><b>Director of Environment and Transport – Ann Carruthers — Highways Update</b></p>	

	<p>LCC are re-shaping the highways service in order to be more efficient; they will take a risk-based approach to highway maintenance. It will be important that Parish Councils understand this new approach as it may lead to a different response to maintenance issues. There is a Parish Council contact email which should mean that requests are prioritised.</p> <p>LCC are working on a more strategic approach to managing roadside verges for wildlife and wildflowers. They are currently open to requests to be pilot areas for this approach.</p> <p>If any Parish Council wants to use County lampposts for hanging baskets or Christmas decorations, they will need a structural survey.</p> <p>On the 15<sup>th</sup> May LCC declared a climate emergency with the intention to become carbon neutral by 2030. This will involve a review of the Council’s Environment Strategy.</p> <p>In future the Civic Amenity sites (tips) will reduce summer opening hours and hard to dispose of items will incur a charge for example tyres and railway sleepers.</p> <p>LCC would prefer requests for winter snow management and salt bins during July and August to enable them to plan ahead.</p> <p><b>Safe and Sustainable Transport Team – Clare Waldron - Passenger Transport Policy and Strategy</b></p> <p>LCC are now reviewing how they can reduce their budget by £400,000. They have reviewed each of the services they subsidise and identified which are best used not just in crude passenger numbers but giving due weight to priority use. Alternative responses are – Remove, Continue, Change or Replace with possibly community transport or on demand services.</p> <p><b>Castle Donington Community Hub – Chris Hills</b></p> <p>Castle Donington Parish Council have raised more than £1.2m to purchase a former hotel to convert it into a community hub to bring together the Library, Village Hall and Volunteer Hub. The PC is also looking to take on a wider range of functions and have increased the Parish precept accordingly.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Data Protection Regulations – further review/update</b></p> <p>The Parish Council are now registered with ICO and the corresponding fee has been paid.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Tree and Heritage Warden Update by David Davies</b></p> <p>Since I was appointed to the role at the May meeting there have been a number of developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I met Garry and Candice Barker who do a similar role in Hoby to find out what they have done in the role. They have been working with landowners to enhance wildlife in the village.</li> <li>• I have joined up with the Leicestershire Network of Tree Wardens which is run by Sam Village at the county council. I have also signed up to the tree council network for Tree Wardens</li> <li>• A couple of weeks ago there was a storm which brought down a very large branch from one of the <b>lime trees</b> in the avenue leading down to the church. Stuart StJohn promptly arranged to get the roadway clear so that it did not block access to his premises. I contacted Leicestershire Highways to report the fall but as it was not blocking the highway, so they saw no need to take action. I did examine the tree and identified a fungus in the branch. I mentioned this to Stewart Marshall from the County Arboricultural Section</li> </ul>	

	<p>when I met him at County Hall on 8 July. He agreed to visit the site the following morning.</p> <p>He identified that there was a column of decay in the affected tree probably caused by a <i>Ganoderma</i> fungus. He thought that there could be infection in the other lime trees too. He will arrange for a full survey prior to commissioning the necessary works to prevent further major falls. It is likely that this will involve taking 4-5 metres from the top of the crown – similar to the work that was done previously on the two trees furthest from the church.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ash die back – this is a major problem in Ash trees across the country. While Stewart Marshall was in the village, he identified a tree in the churchyard that is affected. At present there is no need for action, but it should be monitored to see whether there is a risk of it falling. There are other trees in the Parish that suffer from Ash die back and it would be useful to undertake a survey as there is a risk that over the next few years, we could lose many significant trees from the landscape.</li> <li>• Climate change – this is probably the most significant issue facing us at present. Melton Borough is debating declaring a climate emergency at its next meeting and LCC has already done so. Planting trees is one action that can start to mitigate some of the effects and given the likelihood of losing mature trees from the village over the next few years as a Parish Council we could develop a plan to have a programme of tree planting.</li> <li>• Wreake Valley wildlife corridor – there are various groups thinking about enhancing the River Wreake and its wildlife. I have spoken to Ben Devine from the Wildlife Trust and there is potential to develop a wildlife corridor along the Wreake Valley between Melton and Syston. I will continue to support these developments as they emerge.</li> <li>• Upper Wreake Parish is considering putting the parish forward for an eco-church award. There is also a group emerging that will seek funding to renew the roof at St Peters.</li> </ul>	
12.	<p><b>Funding Requests</b> No new funding requests have been received.</p> <p>St Peters Church Funding Request A further email was sent to the church secretary asking for clarification on their fund’s status, but the situation is still to be resolved. RB suggested we contact the Clerk at Hoby as he believes they have experienced a similar situation and may be able to help us.</p>	VW ASAP
13.	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Protection of Rural Britain – an email has been received and given to DD to respond.</li> </ul>	
14.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New Salt Bin</li> </ul> <p>AS has taken photos of the proposed site and provided a sketch showing the location for the salt bin. The LCC application form has been completed and now just needs signatures from those residents who were consulted about the salt bin.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Vehicle Activated Sign The Parish Council would like to purchase a new countdown sign for the A607. LCC have been consulted about this but have given quotes exceeding £12,000 which the Parish Council feel is overpriced and want to source their own sign RB suggested we contact Ronny at Ashfordby as they have a similar sign and will be able to assist us.</li> <li>▪ Ring Road Update The North/East ring road has the go ahead and is now going through legalisation. A bid for funding for the South ring road has been submitted. If this goes ahead it will have an impact on Kirby Bellars and the surrounding area. As a Parish Council we already have concerns over the traffic on the A607. RB has a meeting with MBC and will raise our concerns at this meeting. RB will feedback at the next meeting.</li> </ul>	
15.	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_