



NEWTOWN LINFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting was held on Tuesday 2nd April 2019 at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall.

1 Members present: Councillors Sue Pritchard, Rob Haylock, Stuart Eyre, Vicky Lightfoot

In attendance: Brian Anderson – Tree Warden, Pam McMorran - Clerk, Borough Councillor David Snartt, County Councillor Deborah Taylor, 6 residents

2. Apologies for absence: Councillors Tara Pickles, Sue Colebeck and Police Team.

3 Confirm and sign minutes of the March meeting. These were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

4 Declaration of Parish Councillor's personal and/or prejudicial interests on agenda items:

The Chairman represents the Gardening Club on the Village Hall Committee. Councillor Vicky Lightfoot has a family member who is a member of the Tennis Club.

5 Police and NHW reports: - Mrs McMorran in her capacity as NHW organizer had nothing to report. The Police Team had reported two burglaries but it was unsure where these were and whether they actually applied to the previous month.

6. Report by the County Councillor – see schedule 1. Councillor Deborah Taylor requested that the Clerk copy her in to any correspondence concerning traffic enforcement.

7. Report by the Borough Councillor see schedule 2.

8. Village Governance and Residents: -

a. Briefing review Ethical Standards – see schedule 3

9. Planning issues: the following were discussed and the Clerk will submit the Councillor's comments to CBC

P/19/0377/2 - Tennis Club clubhouse – 4 residents attended to discuss this application. Two Councillors registered a prejudicial interest, only one being present at this meeting. One resident pointed out that Councillor Snartt should register a prejudicial interest as he purchased the shed to be replaced in the mid 1986. The discussion included :- the benefits and purpose of an enlarged Clubhouse, the nature of the building, its location within the conservation area and the implications of its proximity to the River Lyn. Residents were encouraged to submit comments for consideration on the Charnwood Planning Portal as well as the Parish Council comments.

P/19/0433/2 Longdale Warren Hill

P19/0223/2 53 Roecliffe Road

P/19/0457/2 231 Markfield Lane

Tree matters: - Tree Warden Brian Anderson said he had no issues with the present applications.

10. Bob Bown Memorial Field: - It was thought that the top of the overhead rotator may be reinstated in the autumn if nothing untoward occurs in the meantime. There had been little reaction to the recent

magazine article and Facebook post regarding dangerous, inappropriate usage of equipment. The clerk reported that the repair to the swings was anticipated for week commencing 22nd April 2019.

11. Village Magazine: - The Clerk reported that she had visited the Editor of the magazine following her return from hospital. Her health was improving. The Parish Council annual donation of £650 was paid this month.

12. Parish Council Website: - Mrs. McMorran in her capacity as Site Administrator stated that she had rearranged the menu on the left hand side.

13. Village Hall: - nothing to report

14. Highways, footpaths and traffic: - Following the Councillors request last month the clerk had written to Anstey Parish Council and Thurcaston and Cropston Parish Council to see whether they were experiencing any traffic problems relating to Bradgate Park and whether they would support the Council in reducing the speed limit at Hallgates. The latter had replied yes they would although they had already had an attempt at this and failed. Anstey said they had no problems and declined to back Newtown Linford.

The clerk reported that a two-tier round planter had been ordered along with the double holsters for three approved lampposts from Plantscape. Everards had given their permission for the planter to be erected in front of the village hall on the spot where the Christmas tree stands provided it does not impair visibility. The clerk had guaranteed that it would be kept trimmed if necessary but not anticipated.

Two residents had spoken or written about overhanging bushes on Markfield Lane. The clerk reported that on inspection nothing seemed to hang over the road although they did hang to the edge of the verge. The three residents involved had previously been contacted about maintenance but they had not all obliged. This time she had asked LCC to carry out any necessary work and invoice the residents since she believes they have those powers.

15. Cemetery: - S.C Maintenance had confirmed that they would be commencing the cutting programme at all three premises this week.

Churchyard -

A resident attended the meeting to ask the Council's permission to improve the churchyard by removing brambles and carry out replanting. The Councillors welcomed this offer but believed this permission did not come under the remit of the Parish Council Maintenance and recommended he contact the Rector and PCC. The Clerk was instructed to also write to the Rector and Wardens to inform them of this offer. The Councillors did point out that if any work was carried out then no power tools could be used without the production of an Indemnity Policy.

16. Bradgate Park Trust: no report had been submitted by the Trust. Councillor Haylock reported that seven sections of wall on the west side had been repaired and that in his opinion these repairs were not as they should be. Councillor Snartt said he would take up this matter with the enforcement officer at CBC.

17. Reports by Councillors/Clerk: - Councillor David Snartt thanked the Parish Council for their assistance during his term of office. He also encouraged everyone to vote at the May elections as it was anticipated that the turnout would be low.

Flowers were sent to Councillor Holly Cross upon her retirement from the Parish Council. Resident Tim Porte attended the meeting as it was anticipated he would be elected to the Council. The Clerk said she would be delivering seven nomination forms to CBC in time for the deadline and did not anticipate there being an election.

18. Correspondence: none

19. Items of Interest or for future meetings: - The clerk reported that May 14th would be the 2019 Annual meeting and the Annual Parish Council meeting.

20. Finance: Authorisation for payment of invoices

a. The Councillors agreed the Governance documents for the year commencing 1st April 2019 they were duly approved, signed and dated.

TT	Village Magazine donation	650.00
TT	CBC cemetery rates	98.83
TT	APB - village hall rent	437.50
TT	CPRE annual subscription	50.00
TT	Clerks salary April	1024.40
TT	Broadband April	47.51

Bank Balances	@ 28th March 2019 current	3895.27
	reserve	43909.80
		<u>47805.07</u>

A copy of the bank transactions for the month are attached to the filed hard copy of the minutes. Copy of any letters referred to are filed with the hard copy.

The clerk reported that the Accounts as at the 31st March 2019 had balanced and the necessary forms would now be completed for firstly forwarding to the Internal Auditor Peter Rose and in due course the External Auditor PKF Littlejohn Co. Ltd.

21. Dates of next three Parish Council Meetings Tuesday, 14th May, Monday 17th June, Monday 22nd July

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Schedule 1

County Report - March/April 2019

Review of subsidised Bus Services

In October 2018, Leicestershire County Council approved a new Passenger Transport Policy and Strategy (PTPS) to ensure its passenger transport provision is fit for purpose, cost-effective and meets the essential travel needs of the community. The council is now starting to implement the strategy by assessing all their subsidised bus services against the new policy. The bus services that will be assessed against the new policy in my Division is the Centre Bus 154, 18.25pm service from Leicester to Quorn, the Centre Bus 154 Saturday service and the Roberts 120 service. The proposed plan going forward is a discussion with elected members and then community engagement to explain the results to residents. I have attended a meeting to discuss the Centre Bus 154, 18.25pm service. This service crosses other elected members Divisions and once they have been spoken to the decision will be made public; this should be in the next few weeks. The other two services in my Division are programmed to be reviewed later on in 2019.

Welbeck

I was with great sadness that I received a telephone call from our MP, Edward Argar, to inform me that the Ministry of Defence have decided to close the Welbeck Defence 6th Form College in Woodhouse. The last intake of students will be September 2019 with the closure planned for 2021. There are just over 300 boarding pupils at the college who will be allowed to complete their studies before the school closes. The college focuses on teaching pupils' science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) to provide graduates who are then likely to go on and serve in the armed forces. The Defence minister Earl Howe said in the statement 'a new system was being introduced to recruit undergraduates and that Welbeck did not fit into long-term plans. He said the Government was looking to use the 70-acre campus for some form of educational or military use but he did not say what. Defence has been reviewing its STEM graduate requirement and will put in place a new, targeted scheme to recruit undergraduates in related subjects; the STEM Graduate Inflow Scheme (SGIS). This scheme has been designed to significantly increase the number of STEM graduates brought into Defence and the variety of STEM disciplines they are from. It will be open to undergraduates across all UK Universities and be supported by a competitive financial package. The new scheme will also be more flexible and enable Defence to adapt quickly to future changes in requirement'.

Care Online Service

Following the decision to decommission the Care Online Service, officers have been working closely with a voluntary organisation, "Enrych Connect" to develop an offer of training and support to disabled and vulnerable people who are experiencing social isolation to access digital technology. Enrych Connect has been successful in obtaining Big Lottery Funding and with additional support from LCC, have begun the roll-out of the new service.

The service provides computer training and technical support for people with disabilities and their carers; one to one support at home tailored to their needs; building confidence and enabling safety online; allowing individuals to gain greater choices on products and services by accessing online information; being able to communicate with friends and family online.

For further information or to make a referral please contact:

TEL: 01530 234 545

EMAIL: connect@enrych.org.uk

WEBSITE: www.enrych.org.uk

Roecliffe Road, Newtown Linford

As you are aware, we are only able to take any further action at sites where essential safety improvements need to be made. Our current assessment criteria is to assess the reportable injury accident record. We will take action where there are high numbers of recorded accidents and where those measures can actually make a difference.

Having checked the stretch of Roecliffe Road for a distance of 500m either side of the Hall Gates entrance there are no reported injury accidents recorded on that length in the last five years. The last recorded incident was recorded 300m north west of the entrance in 2007 when a vehicle lost control on a gradual left hand bend. There is therefore no justification for taking any further action on accident grounds on this section of Roecliffe Road.

We are not intending to undertake any speed surveys in this area as in order to be reflective of driving conditions when parking takes place alongside the road we cannot be sure that such parking will take place at any specific time. On the week end referred to in February 2019 the weather was unusually warm for the time of year which obviously attracted a much higher than usual number of visitors by car.

Grey Crescent

All residents have responded to the letters and accepted the elongated H's across their driveways.

Further information was provided at the meeting that the white lines had been put down that afternoon.

Schedule 2

Charnwood Borough Council Elections.

Charnwood Borough Council elections will take place on Thursday 2nd May 2019. The Council has 52 Councillors across 28 Wards and all seats are up for election. Borough Councils must hold a whole council election every 4 years. This is a chance for people to vote for someone to represent their Ward on the Borough Council.

To vote in the local elections on May 2nd this year, you need to be on the electoral register. If you are not on the register, you will need to register by Friday 12th April. Although this is the last date to apply, if you leave it until the last minute and there are any issues with your application, then you may not be registered in time to vote in May's local elections. If you do not believe you are on the electoral register, please contact the Council on 01509 634546. Visit www.charnwood.gov.uk/local_elections_2019 for more details about this year's local elections.

Some key dates: Deadline for receipt of postal vote applications 5pm April 15th: Deadline for receipt of proxy vote applications 5pm April 24th: Polling Day 7am to 10pm May 2nd: Counting of votes May 3rd.

There is a change to the usual polling station for Newtown Linford and Ulverscroft. This will now be at the Linford, 66 Main Street, Newtown Linford. The change has taken place because the old venue had issues relating to disability access and parking. There are no other changes to the other two polling stations within Forest Bradgate Ward, The Village Hall, Woodhouse Eaves and the Community Hall, Woodhouse.

Promoting Tourism.

For sometime now, I have been receiving concerns from local residents about vehicles belonging to visitors to our local attractions, parking inconsiderately and sometimes illegally on our village streets. This has been particularly concerning to residents living in Newtown Linford and the areas close to the entrances to Bradgate Park. In my view, this is a greater problem at peak times when there is an issue with capacity in the venue's car parks. I have now put forward a question to the main meeting at Charnwood Borough Council, this stating: We all want to see tourist venues and visitor attractions thrive, and I can understand this Council wanting to promote tourism. However, may I seek some assurances from the Leader that attractions with capacity issues such as Bradgate Park, which at peak times causes horrendous vehicle parking issues on the highway within the village of Newtown Linford and the surrounding area are not included in any advertising programmes that are promoted by Charnwood Borough Council?

I do hope by raising this issue it will bring a better understanding of the current problems associated with visitor numbers and raise an awareness that in some cases certain tourist attractions cannot cope with an increase in visitors especially at peak times. I will let you know the outcome once I receive the reply at the meeting.

Charnwood Grants.

I just wanted to make sure that all organisations, charities and community groups within my Ward know about the Charnwood Grant Scheme, which is to help access funding support. There are a range of grants on offer, which include:

Community Development and Engagement; This grant can provide up to £10,000 for organisations currently running projects within the community benefit in Charnwood. Deadline to submit an application 22nd April 2019: Community Facilities Grants and Feasibility Studies; This grant can award funding of up to £20,000, to a maximum of 50% of the cost of a project which assists with renovation and improvement of community buildings, and small-scale environmental improvement schemes. Deadline to submit an application 22nd April 2019: Sports and Leisure Grants; A variety of grant funding for individuals, clubs and organisations in need of additional finance to run their projects and activities. Deadline to submit an application 23rd April 2019.

The latest application forms, deadlines and more information at www.charnwood.gov.uk/charnwoodgrants, e-mail grants@charnwood.gov.uk or call 01509 634730.

Changes to Housing Register in Charnwood.

I have received information from Charnwood Borough Council that it is changing the way in which it handles applications for social housing to ensure services are helping the most in need.

The Council has revised its housing allocations policy to focus on people who have the greatest and most urgent housing needs and who have strong connections to the Borough. Everyone who is currently on the housing register will need to re-apply online if they want to stay on the register. The Council has written to all current applicants to inform them of the changes

More details can be found on the Charnwood Borough Council website by reading the Housing Allocations Policy 2019.

Netball Sessions.

I notice from a press release from Charnwood Borough Council that new netball sessions are giving women a flexible way to play the sport. The Borough Council's Active Charnwood Team is hosting the 'Netball Now' sessions at Wreake Valley Academy in Syston.

These are fun and informal sessions aimed at women over 16 who simply want to turn up and play without any coaching or commitments. These sessions are perfect for anyone who enjoys playing netball but doesn't want to play in a competitive environment.

Sessions cost £3 and all you need to do is turn up and bring appropriate footwear. The sessions get underway on Thursday 18th April 6.30pm to 7.30pm. If you would like more information, contact Sam Chamberlain at Samantha.chamberlain@charnwood.gov.uk or call 01509 632534.

Welbeck Defence College.

It is disappointing to hear the closing of Welbeck Defence College, Forest Road, Woodhouse. Since its opening I have been a strong supporter, being able to see at first hand the difference made to young lives during the two years they are at the College. I have been able to keep close contact with the Principal and staff through our liaison meetings with local Councillors, this providing an insight to the professional high standards achieved.

There is now a UK Government and Parliament Petition raised. This can be supported by going to <https://petition.parliament.uk/signatures/66249511/signed>. I hope as many local people as possible will support.

Schedule 3

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE - REVIEW INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL STANDARDS

Background

The Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) advises the Prime Minister on ethical standards across the whole of public life in England. It monitors and reports on issues relating to the standards of conduct of all public office holders and promotes the 7 principles of public life.

The Localism Act 2011 introduced significant changes to the way that conduct of elected councillors was handled. It abolished a national framework headed by a regulator and a national Code of Conduct and removed powers to suspend or disqualify councillors for serious breaches of the Code of Conduct. Instead it placed a duty on councils: to adopt their own local Code; to put local procedures in place to investigate allegations the Code may have been broken (with principal authorities carrying out that duty for parish councils; and to appoint at least one Independent Person (IP) whose views they had to take into account when considering matters under investigation.

CSPL undertook to review the effectiveness of the arrangements once they had bedded in. They therefore undertook a detailed review during 2018 seeking evidence from all interested stakeholders and published their recommendations on 30 January 2019. A copy of their full report can be found at [CSPL](#). This note summarises the key areas of concern and recommendations.

Issues and recommendations

CSPL looked at four specific areas of operation of the system – the Code of Conduct and arrangements for registration and declaration of interests; the available sanctions; the role of the IP, MO and standards

committees; and support for parishes. In addition, it looked more widely at how authorities could better promote high standards of conduct.

Overall finding

CSPL found there was no appetite to return to a centrally-regulated system as local arrangements on the whole were most effective at handling the majority of cases and that on the whole standards were high. However there were issues with a small handful of serious or persistent offenders and with governance arrangements in some parish councils. There also needed to be a more consistent approach taken to standards and MOs and councils needed some more effective tools to allow them to handle those serious and persistent cases.

Codes of Conduct

CSPL felt that there was too much variation among local Codes. This led to inconsistencies, with some members who sat on more than one authority being subject to different rules and the public being confused about what standards applied. These inconsistencies were particularly marked when it came to interests that needed to be registered and declared. They were also critical of Codes that were based around models produced by LGA and CLG in 2012 and felt that Codes should be simpler and more 'rules-based'.

They also felt the scope of the Code should be widened so that it also captures statements made by members in public, particularly on social media, and circumstances where members are purporting to act as a member in order to advantage themselves or disadvantage others.

Recommendations

- There should not be a compulsory national Code but there should be a new model rules-based Code produced by the LGA which councils should generally follow but add local variations to if needed
- There should be the same Code across a geographical area with parishes being under a requirement to adopt the principal authority code
- There needed to be a more comprehensive system for registering and declaring interests which goes wider than the current statutory minimum
- The criminal offence for non-registration and non-declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests should be abolished
- There should be a rebuttable presumption that any public action by a councillor is within the scope of the Code
- The Code should also cover circumstances where a member is purporting to act as a member

Sanctions

CSPL found councils needed greater sanctions available to deal with serious and persistent misconduct. They therefore recommend that councils should be given the power to suspend members for up to six months without allowances. However, safeguards would need to be built into the system to avoid it being used politically.

Recommendations

- Councils should have the power to suspend members for up to six months without allowances
- The IP would need to agree that there had been a breach of the Code and that a suspension was a proportionate outcome

- A suspended member could appeal to the Local Government Ombudsman against the outcome of the case
- The Government should make clear what other administrative sanctions are available to Councils

The role of the IP, MO and standards committees