



## NEWTOWN LINFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting was held virtually on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30 pm via Zoom.

### **0307/21. Members present:**

Councillors Sue Pritchard (Chairman), Sue Greasley (Vice Chair), Stuart Eyre, Rob Haylock, Vicki Lightfoot, Tara Pickles and Tim Porte.

Also in attendance: Clerk – Hannah Shaw, County Councillor – Deborah Taylor, Borough Councillor – David Snartt and 7 residents.

The Chairman welcomed attendees to the meeting and gave the following statement:

*“The meeting will be recorded for clarity of the minutes and will not be published nor shared with third parties and only kept until the minutes are confirmed at the following meeting. Anyone not wanting to be on video, may turn their cameras off.*

*All attendees are asked to remain on mute during the meeting and to raise their hand if they wish to speak. If you are not on video there is a ‘raise hand function’ available on zoom.”*

### **0308/21. Apologies for absence:**

There had been no apologies received. Full Council present.

### **0309/21. Confirm and sign minutes of the 15th February 2021 meeting:**

These were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

### **0310/21. Declaration of Parish Councillor’s personal and/or prejudicial interests on agenda items:**

There were no new declarations of interest.

The Chairman represents the Gardening Club on the Village Hall Committee.

The Chairman is a member of the Management Committee at Lingdale Golf Club.

Councillor Tara Pickles represents the Council on the Magazine Committee.

### **0311/21. Police Matters and NHW reports:**

- Crime statistics received for February 2021 - 1 x Burglary - Johnscliffe Close. Leicestershire Police appeal launched for information. War medals stolen.
- Crime statistics received for March 2021 - Nil Return

**Resolve:** Noted.

Councillor Greasley joined the meeting at 7.40pm

Councillor Taylor joined the meeting at 7.45pm

**0312/21. Report by County Councillor Deborah Taylor.**

See Appendix One

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks.

**0313/21. Report by the Borough Councillor, David Snartt.**

See Appendix Two

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks.

**0314/21. Village Governance and Residents:**

- Parish Councillors were asked to ratify the decision to bring forward the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and Annual Parish Meeting to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 due to the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, ending at midnight on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**Resolve:** Ratified. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7.15pm followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm, both to be held via Zoom on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**0315/21. Planning: Buildings and Tree Issues:**

- **Decisions**

- a) P/20/2164/2 - 42 Roecliffe Road - Erection of two storey side and single storey rear extension. Installation of external render to existing house (Revised 17/02/21) - Grant Conditionally 10/03/20.
- b) P/21/0025/2 - 476A Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford - Proposed single storey extension to rear of dwelling together with material and fenestration alterations - Grant Conditionally 30/03/21.
- c) P/20/1660/2 - High Leys Farm, 388 Bradgate Road - Application for retrospective consent of a Manege to be used personally and commercially, with restricted use including associated development and land bunding - Grant Conditionally 15/03/21.
- d) P/20/1906/2 - Deer Barn Cafe, Bradgate Park - Siting of marquee adjacent to Deer Barn Cafe between 1st October and 30th April each year - Refused 15/03/21.
- e) P/21/0127/2 - Land adjacent to Ulverscroft Lane, Newtown Linford - Change of use of agricultural land to outdoor equestrian use with construction of manege, retaining walls, and associated stables/store building and formation of access road to Ulverscroft Lane (Revised scheme P/20/1267/2 refers) - Objection 22/02/21 - Refused 18/03/21
- f) h) P/20/2299/2 - 25 Grey Crescent, Newtown Linford - Two storey extensions to front of detached dwelling and application of render finish to front and side elevations - Refused 13/04/21

**Resolve:** Noted

- **Comments submitted through Planning Explorer**

g) P/21/0155/2 - 404 Bradgate Road -Proposed extensions to front and rear of existing dwelling, extension to roof including insertion of dormer window to side elevation and construction of detached garage to rear – No Objection 16/02/21

h) P/20/2417/2 \* - 516 Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford - Two storey side extension & single storey rear conservatory to the existing house, to provide additional residential accommodation. Relocate the existing double garage to the front of the house – No Objection 09/03/21

i) P/21/0272/2 - Rear of 48 Groby Lane, Newtown Linford - Erection of one detached dwelling and garage – Mixed Comments 17/03/21

*“Parish Councillors have no objection in principle to this application, as the siting and design of this modest structure would not impact on the street scene. However, there is some uncertainty whether this development would be a domestic adjunct to the main dwelling or a separate residence to be offered on the open market, in which case, could set a precedent for further development in this vicinity.”*

j) P/21/0107/2 - Change of use of premises from public worship or religious instruction to retail shop - Sunday School, Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford – No objection 01/04/21.

k) P/21/0485/2 - 307 Markfield Lane - Proposed single storey rear extension – No objection 20/04/21

**Resolve:** Noted

- **Discuss**

There were no planning applications to discuss

- **Trees**

l) P/21/0190/2 - Linford Lodge, 71 Main Street - T1 Sycamore - fell, T2 Conifer - fell, T3 Apple - prune, T4 Conifer - fell, T5 Sycamore (x3 group) - fell, T6 Sycamore – fell

Update – TPO made on T1 Sycamore to rear of property and 4 x Sycamore trees at front of property as felling is considered detrimental to the amenity of the area and form part of the locality’s green infrastructure 05/03/21.

m) P/21/0140/2 – NLPC - All Saints’ Closed Churchyard, Bradgate Road – 3 x Sycamores adjacent to river – fell

n) P/20/2417/2 \* - 516 Bradgate Road - TPO made on T1 Weeping Willow tree located in front garden - 19/03/21

**Resolve:** Noted

- **Other**

o) Councillors were updated on the Charnwood Local Plan. The Local Plan was due to be presented to Charnwood Borough Council’s Cabinet in March but the item was withdrawn just before the papers were due to be published.

One of the key issues of the new Local Plan is transport and the package of measures required to mitigate the impact of new development on the road network.

CBC now expect to present the Local Plan before Cabinet in June and Full Council soon after. Following that, a public consultation will be held.

**Resolve:** Noted

p) P/20/2392/2 (HBBC ref: 20/10187/PREMAJ) – Pre-planning consultation for 90 residential dwellings - Land north east of Ashby Rd, Markfield, LE67 9UB. Consultation flyer delivered to households in Markfield. No further information is available at this stage 05/03/20.

**Resolve:** Noted. The Chairman explained the area is within the Hinckley & Bosworth District, however, the land is within Newtown Linford Parish and NLPC will work closely with colleagues at Markfield Parish Council once an application has been submitted.

**0316/21. Bob Bown Memorial Field:**

- A hole had been filled in front of a football goal and re-turfed by P. Haddon 25/02/21

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks.

- The newly formed Newtown Linford Biodiversity Group had requested a small area behind the bench in the far right hand corner, be left unmown as a wildflower area and a blue heart symbol displayed.

**Resolve:** Councillors voted unanimously in favour of allowing this area to be left to rewild and to receive one cut per annum. Clerk to liaise with NLB Group and Contractors to confirm arrangements.

- Notification had been received from the National Lottery Community Fund – Awards for All, regarding the Bob Bown Memorial Field Play Park Improvements grant application for £10,000. Funding had been received on 19/03/21 and an order had been placed with Wicksted Play Ltd and colours confirmed for the modular play unit on 30/03/21. Installation is expected sometime in June 2021.  
The Chairman commented the grant funding would also allow the Council to remove older items of equipment as well as the installation on an all-encompassing modular play unit, basket swing and associated wet pour works.  
A Councillor asked if the rotator top, currently in storage, could be disposed of.

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks to the Clerk. The Chairman confirmed the rotator pole could now be disposed of.

- Duty of Care Tree Inspections had been carried out by Symbiosis at the Bob Bown Memorial Field, Cemetery and Churchyard and the report had been received on 07/04/21. Report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting outlining works required.  
Clerk will obtain quotations for recommended works and reported CBC may be able to instruct their contractors, Idverde, to carry out works required at the Bob Bown Memorial Field and recharge NLPC at a preferential rate.

**Resolve:** Noted. Clerk to liaise with private contractor and CBC.

**0317/21. Village Magazine:**

Nothing to report.

**0318/21. Parish Council Website/Facebook Page:**

The Clerk reported Facebook group membership had increased to 348 members.

**Resolve:** Noted.

**0319/21. Village Hall:**

- The Newtown Linford Biodiversity Group had requested the Parish Council consider planting lavender as a pollinator, in the border situated at the front of the Village Hall. The Village Hall Committee have no objection to this proposal providing the pre-school are consulted. The Clerk confirmed the group had received a donation of English lavender plants and three volunteers had offered to plant them.

**Resolve:** Councillors voted unanimously in favour of the Newtown Linford Biodiversity group planting lavender at the Village Hall.

**0320/21. Highways, Footpaths, Street Furniture, Traffic and Transport:**

- The Chairman gave an update on the TRO for Newtown Linford and areas surrounding the three Bradgate Park entrances and summarised key dates and events to date, for the benefit of those in attendance as follows:

(NB For clarity, 'lower' Main Street refers to the area of Main Street between the junctions with Groby Lane and Markfield Lane and 'upper' Main Street refers to the area between the junctions with Markfield Lane and Ulverscroft Lane).

*For at least 5 years the question of highway safety being compromised by BPT visitor parking has been raised. As BPT has needed to increase the number of visitors to maintain their financial position following council cuts, these problems have increased year on year.*

*We had a Public meeting February 2018 - 90 attendees, BPT and Leicestershire County Council Highways and our County and Borough Councillors.*

*Subsequent Public Consultation (funded by BPT) involving Bradgate Road and Grey Crescent in 2018, resulted in yellow lines and 'bays' on Bradgate Road (Highways stated that solid yellow lines along Bradgate Road would lead to increased speeding problems) and H bars across drives in Grey Crescent, as opinion amongst residents was divided as to the benefit of yellow lines in this location. Following this NLPC instigated a Traffic Survey August 2019 - we had replies from 90 households and these were analysed and all responses forwarded to LCC.*

*I attended a BPT meeting in Jan 2020 and expressed our great concerns re the effect of BPT visitors on highway safety in and around the village including blocked pavements and obscured driveways etc. Then we were hit by the pandemic...*

*When BP reopened after the first lockdown there was chaos.... With dangerous and vexatious parking on roads within the village and roads surrounding the park.*

*In June 2020, following discussions at LCC, who had new availability of 'pandemic' funding, areas around the park were proposed for double yellow lines, due to the danger and chaos caused by BPT*

visitor parking on the open highway along Bradgate Road towards Anstey, at the top of Sharpley Hill/Hunts Hill and Rocliffe Road towards Hallgates. Obviously, there was a necessity for central regions in Newtown Linford to be included in this and other areas that could be affected by displaced parking.

In August, NLPC agreed to fund consultation (and part of the installation cost) – with yellow lines to be offered where our traffic survey results indicated a problem and also where numerous complaints had been submitted (hundreds of emails and messages -from at least 66 households) -often with picture and video evidence of blocked pavements, obscured driveways, pavement driving, and traffic gridlock and also many reports made to Police. All areas where yellow lines might be required were included in this consultation, as it is not possible to retrospectively add parking restrictions.

The consultation was eventually issued at end of Nov 2020.

300 replies and 900 comments were received by LCC. NLPC does not have sight of these as it is a confidential, democratic process (bound by the legal processes of local government).

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb at the Parish Council meeting, we reported analysis at LCC was ongoing.

A meeting was held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February whereby Hannah, myself, Councillor Deborah Taylor, Councillor David Snartt, Fiona Blockley and Lee Quincy (LCC Highways), discussed results of the LCC analysis and the planned areas for parking restrictions were defined by LCC. All regions were discussed on the basis of highway safety and the responses to the LCC consultation (although we were not privy to these). A region of upper Main Street was suggested as a suitable location for a region of no restrictions in order to provide on road parking where a) lines of visibility were not reduced by the curvature of the road and b) there would be less BPT parking due to distance from village centre. All other regions were confirmed as restricted parking as offered by the consultation. LCC were to draw up the proposed plans for the village and surrounds and have them agreed at LCC level.

NLPC were specifically requested not to publish details before LCC had obtained approval from the Lead member. On the afternoon of 23<sup>rd</sup> March we received the email detailing the approved plans that had been signed off at LCC, stating that letters would be sent to those who had responded to the consultation. We requested confirmation these plans could now be publicised but did not receive this confirmation as it was out of LCC office hours.

Great efforts were being made to install the lines before the Easter holiday and refreshment of existing lines and new lining outside the village had already commenced provoking some discussion on Facebook on the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> March during which the LCC approved plans were reproduced from the Bradgate Conservatives page and posted to a private Facebook page. At this point the Parish Council published them on our PC and NHW page to inform the wider Facebook group.

This obviously led to many comments and many views. Some residents on Bradgate Road were disappointed the gaps in yellow lines were to remain (albeit with time limited parking); some residents in upper Main Street were concerned yellow lines were to be installed near their properties.

I endeavoured to provide factual background regarding the consultation process and correct inaccurate information being shared within some 'vigorous' commenting. Where comments were overly rude or derogatory, these were removed.

After LCC received communication from several residents, the lining on upper Main Street was paused for review (and also the lines on lower Main Street as all comments from Main Street would be reviewed in this process).

NLPC has received complaints both from residents who are concerned that the published plans have not yet been implemented on Main Street and also from residents that object to them. These have all been passed to LCC who have also had direct communications from concerned parties. We await further comment from LCC and will be guided by their recommendations and advice taking into account highway safety, consultation responses and the availability of off street parking and on street parking for residents in the disputed area.

*Meanwhile, the lines have been installed in those regions around the village which has greatly reduced the dangerous parking in these areas. BPT has also been able to utilise their overflow parking during the past few weeks which has helped.*

*This has been a very long process run over 5-10 years and Councillors at Parish, Borough and County level have worked very hard to obtain this formal consultation process. This process is now at an end, apart from the review of Main Street responses by LCC highways dept.*

*After the implementation of LCC recommendations, the PC will continue to monitor and report on traffic and parking issues but we cannot afford and do not intend to request any further consultations on these issues.*

Councillor Taylor thanked the Chairman for her summary and reiterated key points. The review of Main Street will be carried out along with remaining areas of Cropston which are currently undecided and all comments submitted will be taken into account. Once a decision is reached on these areas, lining work will be carried out where required. Cllr. Taylor will meet with LCC Highways officers sometime after the forthcoming elections and NLPC will be consulted thereafter.

The Chairman opened up the meeting to residents wishing to speak and allowed a maximum of 5 minutes per speaker.

Resident 1 thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to speak and wished to appeal to the Parish Council regarding practical issues that will affect properties between numbers 75 and 91 Main Street and including some even numbered properties on the opposite side. Visitor parking in this area is limited and further double yellow lines would impede parking for visitors, trades people, elderly relatives and immediate family. This would make social lives unbearable and day-to-day life difficult. Due to this impossible position, residents need some provision for on road parking opposite the properties mentioned.

Resident 1 had put forward a suggestion to LCC of what they consider essential limited parking. The provision for on road parking that had been made further along the area of upper Main Street, was not considered within walking distance and would be impractical for visitors and unsuitable for all residents of upper Main Street. Resident 1 disagreed with previous comments made regarding parking in the location of 122-126 Main Street and their preference would be for a more centralised area of parking provision. More spaced parking would allow for traffic flow and continual double yellow lines along upper Main Street would impact on traffic speeds. By spacing on road parking, residents believed this would control traffic speeds but would also allow overtaking of vehicles whilst maintaining traffic flow.

Resident 1 also reported traffic and parking had reduced recently with the reopening of BPT overflow car parks and the easing of lockdown restrictions. They would ideally like restrictions to remain the same, however, it is appreciated that not everyone would agree as other households are in support of yellow lines to aid entering and exiting driveways for example.

In summary, resident 1 did not feel there had been any provision made for suitable on road parking in response to the issues raised through the consultation and which would enable residents to live a normal life by offering households and their guests a place to park.

Resident 1 thanked Cllr. Snartt and Cllr. Taylor for listening to resident pleas for a sensible solution.

Resident 2 spoke in support of resident 1 and agreed with everything they had said regarding those residents who have inadequate off road parking provision.

Resident 2 acknowledge BPT's planning application to extend overflow parking provision and since current overflow parking had reopened, had recorded no more than two cars parked between 8am and 6pm on Saturdays and Sundays and including Easter Monday. There had been a dramatic difference in the traffic and parking since yellow lines have been

installed on Sharpley Hill and with the current situation, in their view, yellow lines are no longer required on upper Main Street. If yellow lines were required, residents had discussed the issue collectively and had agreed they could accommodate some limited parking which would still allow for traffic flow.

Resident 2 requested Councillor support to ensure essential parking for visitors and carers and standard of living for the heart of the village.

Resident 3 thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to speak and supported comments made by residents 1 and 2 and appealed to Councillors for help in considering the needs of the residents in the affected area of upper Main Street and the needs of those who require access to properties.

Resident 3 also appreciated there were a couple of properties where yellow lines opposite would benefit residents in accessing and exiting driveways but reported the last two Saturdays had been remarkably different since restrictions had eased and overflow car parks had opened.

Resident 3 requested help and a sensible approach to parking restrictions to provide where possible, some on road parking bays for those who require it and implement yellow line restrictions in between to assist traffic flow and those exiting private roads and driveways.

Residents are worried and concerned and would appreciate measures be considered for all resident's requirements on Main Street between the junctions with Markfield Lane and Ulverscroft Lane.

Resident 4 explained they felt lower and upper Main Street areas should be treated as two separate areas regarding restrictions, as they have very different requirements. There are 4 adults in their household, owning a vehicle each but only two off road car parking spaces. The situation has been very stressful for all involved particularly as elderly parents would have nowhere to park when visiting.

Resident 5 indicated they agreed with much of what resident 1 and 3 had said but hoped a more bespoke arrangement could be reached for upper Main Street, as they favour and would welcome double yellow lines opposite their property.

Resident 5 reported when parking occurs directly opposite their driveway, they struggle to exit and enter their garage and this happens on most days of the week at any time, in addition to Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays. This is a huge inconvenience when trying to leave or return to the property. On returning to the property, parked cars opposite greatly reduce the turning circle, making it impossible for them to park in the garage and therefore, have to park on the road until other parked cars leave. With great difficulty, shunting forwards and backwards until the required angle is achieved, it could be possible to enter their property, however, the resident reported a number of near miss incidents at busy times where other vehicles have almost collided with them whilst trying to manoeuvre. In this case, double yellow lines outside this property would enable the residents safe entering and exiting of their garage.

Resident 6 echoed everyone else's views who had spoken and was sympathetic towards resident 5's situation. Resident 6 explained that all residents are in unison in finding an agreement that meets everyone's needs, are hopeful for a solution and are not against the Parish Council.

The Chairman explained the Parish Council have no set position on the restrictions, however, Councillors are eager to find a solution that will address road safety issues. Parking, regardless of whether it is due to residents or visitors, is considered dangerous when vehicles are unable to pass, resulting in pavement driving and near misses with pedestrians.

The Parish Council will be guided by LCC's recommendations following the review of comments submitted during the consultation, including any possible recommendation that



space should be provided for further on street parking that does not impede highway safety, nor is located directly outside a property where it has been stated there are difficulties in exiting driveways/private roads.

The Parish Council are aware there is a mixture of views along upper Main Street whereby, some residents are not in favour of yellow lines but also some who are. LCC will need to balance these views through their review of the comments submitted during the legal process of consultation.

Cllr. Taylor confirmed she will also be guided by the LCC's review of the comments submitted during the consultation period and by road safety. Cllr Taylor had found the meeting useful to hear everyone's views and will ensure the comments noted are discussed and all parties will try the best they can to accommodate requirements where possible and to work with residents to find a solution.

The Chairman asked if anyone wished to make any further comment. As there were no further comments, this agenda item was closed.

**Resolve:** Noted. Comments had been recorded for the purpose of the minutes. Parish Councillors await further contact from LCC Highways officers once the review of upper Main Street has been completed.

- The Clerk reported an application for attachments to highway street lighting columns for the installation of hanging baskets in 2021, had been refused. LCC had advised an additional structural test and report outside of their maintenance agreement, was now required. A quote had been received for the test and report at £990 plus VAT. The Plantscape order for the 2021 Flower Tower and Hanging Baskets had therefore, been cancelled until a decision is agreed. Councillors discussed various ideas for future consideration, including new Parish highways signage with planters as part of possible traffic calming measures. It was suggested for this year, NLPC hold a Summer Floral Display competition for residents, which would be advertised in the Village Magazine.

**Resolve:** Councillors agreed unanimously to hold a village competition and for residents to be invited to submit their entries via images sent by email to the Clerk. Entries could include planters, hanging baskets and front garden displays. Clerk to action.

#### **0321/21. Churchyard and Cemetery:**

- An application for tree works within a conservation area, had been submitted to CBC on 15/01/21. The proposed fell of 3 x Sycamore trees will enable the Churchyard stone wall rebuild. Permission was granted on 01/03/21 and faculty applications for tree removal and the stone wall rebuild had been submitted to the Church of England.

**Resolve:** Noted

- Councillors considered a quotation received for the tree fell as above at £600.

**Resolve:** Councillors voted unanimously in favour of accepting the above quotation.

- Registrar of Burials, Pam McMorran, retired from the role on 31/03/21, The Clerk has taken on the role and her contractual hours have increased to 20 per week.

**Resolve:** Noted. The Chairman reported a presentation would be held once Coffee and Cake resumes and a flowering shrub would be purchased for Pam using the Chairman's discretionary budget.

- Councillors considered a quotation received for a replacement post and exit gate at the cemetery as it was currently difficult to open. Total cost would be £1100 to include all materials and waste removal.

**Resolve:** Councillors voted unanimously in favour of accepting the above quotation.

**0322/21. Correspondence:**

- Councillors discussed The Local Government Boundary Commission – Electoral Review of Charnwood. Newtown Linford currently lies within Forest Bradgate Ward with Woodhouse, Woodhouse Eaves and Ulverscroft.

**Resolve:** Clerk to submit a response on behalf of NLPC in favour of keeping the current Forest Bradgate Ward boundary unchanged.

**0323/21. Scheme of Delegation**

- Councillors were asked to review the motion to provide for delegation to the Clerk, any decision that must be made if the council is incapacitated and unable to hold a meeting.

**Resolve:** Councillors unanimously agreed that in response to the Covid-19 outbreak in the UK and in the event that it is not possible to convene a meeting of the council in a reasonable time, the Clerk shall have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the council where such decision cannot reasonably be deferred and must be made in order to comply with a commercial or statutory deadline. The delegation does not extend to matters expressly reserved to the council in legislation or in its Standing Orders or Financial Regulations. Any decisions made under this delegation must be recorded in writing and must be published in accordance with the relevant regulations. This delegated authority will be reviewed monthly at meetings of the council after the delegation was put in place, until such time a decision is made to rescind the agreement when the Covid-19 outbreak is stable.

**0324/21. Reports on Meetings and Training by Councillors and Clerk:**

- Chairman and Clerk attended meeting with Cllr. Taylor and Highways officers regarding TRO Consultation responses 27/02/21.
- Chairman and Clerk attended meeting with RCC regarding formalisation of the Community Action Response 02/03/21.
- Clerk attended LCC Parish Clerks’ Liaison Meeting 25/03/21.
- Clerk attended CBC Parish Clerks’ Liaison Meeting 15/04/21.

**Resolve:** Noted.

**0325/21. Items of Interest or for future meetings:**

Nothing to report.

**0326/21. Finance:**

- Payroll services are now provided by Jane Hancox at Early Years Bookkeeping, Castle Donington as of 01/04/21.

**Resolve:** Noted

- An insurance premium had been received for Public and Employer's Liability Insurance with BHIB – 1 year policy £793.98 or 3 year agreement, £746.80 per annum. The current policy with Came & Company expires on 31/05/21. The Clerk advised this was considerably cheaper than last year's premium and includes cover for street lighting columns in the event of non-stop collisions, £30,000 cover for walls and emergency tree cover which aren't insured under the current policy.

**Resolve:** Councillors voted unanimously in favour of accepting the quotation received on a 3 year agreement. Clerk to action.

- Councillors considered to approve removal of Pam McMorran as an Authorised Signatory on the current mandate for both the Natwest Current and Reserve Accounts. The current mandate will continue as amended with Chairman, Sue Pritchard and Clerk, Hannah Shaw as the two remaining signatories.

**Resolve:** Councillors approved removal of Pam McMorran as an Authorised Signatory on the current banking mandate for both the Current and Reserve accounts held with Natwest.

- Internal Audit completed by Peter Lowe 20/04/21. AGAR to be signed off at the May meeting.

**Resolve:** Noted.

- Donation requests – several donation requests have been received by the Clerk. Councillors to consider criteria for future donation requests to be considered at Parish Council meetings.

**Resolve:** Councillors agreed only very local donation requests would be considered at Parish Council Meetings in future and the Clerk should decline all other non-local requests.

**Authorisation for payment of invoices: -**

|          |                        |   |          |
|----------|------------------------|---|----------|
| 18.02.21 | LCC                    | Street Lighting Maintenance Recharge  | £4015.06 |
| 19.02.21 | East Goscote Nurseries | Memorial Tree (recharged to family)   | £49.95   |
| 19.02.21 | East Goscote Nurseries | Compost, stakes and ties (recharged to family)                                    | £16.20   |
| 26.02.21 | HS                     | February Salary   | £936.50  |
| 26.02.21 | PAMc                   | February Salary   | £185.15  |
| 26.02.21 | HS                     | February Broadband and out of plan calls  | £55.97   |
| 26.02.21 | PAMc                   | February Broadband  | £5.58    |
| 08.03.21 | HMRC                   | Tax and NI Contributions Q4   | £177.72  |
| 08.03.21 | CBC                    | Bob Bown Annual Inspection 2020   | £51.60   |
| 11.03.21 | P. Haddon              | Maintenance Dec '20 – March '21   | £206.88  |
| 12.03.21 | East Goscote Nurseries | Memorial Tree, stake and tie plus previous delivery charges (recharged to family) | £110.30  |

|              |                                 |   |                 |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 12.03.21     | Alan Barnacle                   | Grave levelling and<br>returfing x 7  | £420.00         |
| 16.03.21     | APB                             | Village Hall Rent<br>25/03/21 – 23/06/21  | £437.50         |
| 18.03.21     | Equals Money                    | Funds transferred for<br>online purchase –<br>Timpson Memorial<br>Plaque (recharged to<br>family) | £42.00          |
| 26.03.21     | HS                              | March Salary  | £936.50         |
| 26.03.21     | PAMc                            | March Salary  | £185.15         |
| 26.03.21     | HS                              | March Broadband and<br>out of plan calls  | £51.14          |
| 26.03.21     | PAMc                            | March Broadband   | £6.74           |
| 29.03.21     | CBC                             | Bob Bown Rent 2021-<br>2031   | £5.00           |
| 31.03.21     | HS                              | Travel and Expenses   | £88.51          |
| 31.03.21     | CBC                             | Cemetery Rates  | £127.25         |
| 07/04/21     | Jane Hancox – EY<br>Bookkeeping | Payroll Services 2021-<br>22  | £150.00         |
| 08/04/21     | LRALC                           | LRALC and NALC<br>Membership 2021-22  | £306.47         |
| 08/04/21     | Symbiosis                       | Duty of Care Tree<br>Inspections and<br>Report  | £666.00         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                                 |   | <b>£9233.17</b> |

**Bank Balances:**

|                                     |                    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Business Current Account @ 08/04/21 | £ 2429.94          |
| Business Reserve Account @ 08/04/21 | £ 56,000.00        |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>£ 58,429.94</b> |

Copies of the bank transactions for the month are attached to the filed hard copy of the minutes.

**0327/21. Dates of the next two Virtual Parish Council Meetings:**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 7.15pm – Annual Parish Meeting  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 7.30pm – Annual Parish Council Meeting  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 7.15pm  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed by Chair:-.....

Dated:-.....



## Appendix One – Report by County Councillor, Deborah Taylor

### **County Council Report – April 2021**

#### HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

Following the sad news announced on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April at lunchtime by Her Majesty the Queen announcing the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Michael Kapur OBE and The Chairman of the County Council, Pam Posnett MBE issued statements and sent their condolences to the Queen and the royal family on behalf of Leicestershire residents. As a mark of respect, the Union and County Flags have been lowered to half-mast at County Hall.

A virtual book of condolence is available online for people to leave messages:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/book-of-condolence>

#### Covid Restrictions

Leicestershire County Council's director of public health said COVID-19 infection rates are the lowest since the summer of 2020. This is welcomed news, but we are being asked to re-iterate a 'stay cautious' message as lockdown restrictions further ease from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April. Rates of infections are due to stop being reported at a local level and national rates will now be made public. I view this as a positive step and if we continue to practice social distancing and limit our contact as much as possible, hopefully we can keep the infection rates down.

Locally from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April:

- Students return to their classrooms and the county council is sending out letters to all primary and secondary schools, with reminder messages around staying safe in and out of school which will then be distributed to parents;
- Libraries across the county are also back open for [browsing and taking away books](#) from Monday - with extensive work going on behind the scenes to make them as safe as possible with one-way systems, restrictions on numbers so that people can socially distance and returned books being removed from circulation for up to 72 hours before going back on to the shelves.
- Weddings and civil partnership ceremonies are permitted for up to 15 people, with receptions and celebrations also able to take place outside, with the same limit on numbers in place.
- Lateral flow tests are now available for everyone. The government's expanded testing for people without symptoms will be delivered through:
  - a home ordering service
  - community testing - there is a test site in each district; Charnwood's is at Gorse Covert Community Centre on Maxwell Drive
  - collection at a local 'PCR' test site during specific collection times

- testing at schools and colleges
- a new 'pharmacy collect' service
- Private sector workplaces

### Compost

Residents across the county are being encouraged to take up composting this spring with cut-price compost bins. Many residents will soon be starting to think about cutting their grass and pruning plants ready for new growth – and the best way to dispose of garden waste is to compost it at home.

Composting reduces the amount of food and garden waste sent to landfill, which cannot decompose properly without air and, instead, produces methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

Rod Weston is a volunteer Master Composter, who promotes composting to residents in partnership with the council.

Compostable items include fruit and vegetable peelings, grass cuttings, coffee grounds, newspaper and cardboard which will all decompose in around a year. The resulting compost can then be dug back into the garden next spring to provide nutrient rich food for the garden.

Residents can buy a discounted compost bin from as little as £12, with a second one offered at half price. The bins are made from 100% recycled plastic and are available in two different sizes and colours to suit individual needs.

For more details or to order a compost bin, visit: <http://www.getcomposting.com/>

### Grass Cutting

The routine urban grass cutting started around Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

There is an interactive grass cutting map by postcode or place name to find upcoming cut dates, just click on the map to see when it will be cut or any reported issues. The council aim to cut on, or within, 3 working days of the programmed cut date.

33 Parish Councils [cut grass in their areas](#) on our behalf and that includes Anstey and Thurcaston & Cropston in my area.

- Grass on the verges either side of 60mph roads linking towns and villages is classed as rural grass. Tractors are required to cut grass growing along these roads, this will start mid to late April – dependant on growing conditions
- Junctions and bends in the road are cut right back for safety purposes – the council have a duty to ensure visibility is maintained for road users. Junctions and bends will be cut three times.

### *Urban wildflower verge scheme*

41 Parish Councils are displaying Blue Hearts on 54 verges across Leicestershire, indicating that the verge has been left as part of the [rewilding Britain's roadside verges campaign](#).

If you would like to join the campaign and see verges left uncut in your town or village, please get in touch with the council or through myself about taking part in the 2022 urban verge scheme.

More info on the website: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-maintenance/grass-cutting#FAQ>

### Shire Grants - Environmental Projects

Residents are being reminded they can apply for environmental grants worth up to £3,000 to support local projects which help the environment and reduce household waste in the county.

Leicestershire County Council is encouraging people to apply for its SHIRE environmental grants which are available until the end of June 2021.

The grant will only be available for projects where the main beneficiaries are residents of Leicestershire county and should help reduce the amount of household waste or greenhouse gas emissions within communities, improve biodiversity or support sustainable green spaces. A simplified application process is also available for smaller grants of up to £300.

The deadline to apply for a grant is Friday 25 June. Visit for more information: <https://www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/grants/environment-grant> or email: [environmentgrant@leics.gov.uk](mailto:environmentgrant@leics.gov.uk)

### Top Performance

New analysis suggests Leicestershire is one the top performing county councils in the country and reveals improvements in a number of areas.

Based on around 250 different measures ranging from adult social care, the economy and environment to schools, the research places the county council in second place.

The ranking - based on a group of 33 two-tier and unitary county areas – puts Leicestershire third for children's social care, whilst being among the lowest spenders per head in this area, and first for transport and highways. To carry out the analysis, the council has used around 250 performance indicators from the last 12 months across 12 service themes - the data used has all been obtained from nationally published sources.

The analysis can be found here:

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/r.i.team.leicestershire.county.council#!/vizhome/BenchmarkingDashboard2019-20/Introduction?publish=yes>

*Cllr Deborah Taylor*

### **Appendix Two – Report by Borough Councillor, David Snartt**

Report from David Snartt, April 2021.

The Duke of Edinburgh.

I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh.

I had the privilege to meet the Duke on two occasions when he visited Welbeck – The Defence Sixth Form College. His service to our country has been immense, which has earned the respect of not just this nation, but those around the world. After the time of mourning we should remember the Duke with pride and affection.

Nationwide Building Society.

I am sorry, with all the correspondence between Nationwide Building Society the Financial Conduct Authority and the Financial Ombudsman Service, along with my Councillor colleagues we were unable to stop the closure of the Anstey branch on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. It was so disappointing that Nationwide didn't keep to their promise to keep branches open until at least January 2023.

In my view, it was difficult to correspond with Nationwide, they seem not to understand the difficulties this decision to close Anstey branch would cause many members, especially the elderly who rely on public transport. There seems to be no organisation that could help to reverse this decision. The Ombudsman stated: 'Here at the Financial Ombudsman Service we deal with a wide range of complaints about financial services – but unfortunately, from the issues you have raised; it doesn't look like your complaint is something we would look into'. Similarly, the Financial Conduct Authority had a similar reply: 'Although we're unable to investigate or intervene in individual cases, we do have supervisory teams that are responsible for monitoring regulated firms to ensure they follow the correct rules and procedures. When concerns such as yours are shared with us regarding conduct of a firm, the information is recorded against them.

Again, I am sorry we were not able to save the Anstey branch from closure.

Have Your Say.

I have received information from the Local Government Boundary Commission that a new pattern of Wards are being developed for Charnwood Borough Council. At the moment Woodhouse Parish comes within the Forest Bradgate Ward which also includes the Parishes of Newtown Linford and Ulverscroft. This Ward was created in 2003 when I was elected the Borough Councillor for the first time.

The Commission have decided that the number of Councillors in Charnwood should be 52, the same as now. The Commission wants to hear what residents and organisations think about their local area. The consultation will run until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021.

The Commission is interested in views on which communities should be part of the same Ward. What issues do neighbouring communities face that they have in common, such as high numbers of visitors or heavy traffic? The Commission will use local views to help draw up proposals for new boundaries. There will be a further round of consultation once the Commission has drawn up those proposals.

It is easy to get involved, you can go to the Commission website, e-mail or write to them. They have dedicated a section on their website where people can give their views, just visit <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/25847> by e-mail [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) or by post to Review Officer (Charnwood), LGBCE, PO Box133, Blyth. NE24 9FE.

Charnwood Big Switch.

I thought I would just remind residents about Charnwood Big Switch. This is a collective energy switching scheme to help residents change suppliers and save money on their energy bills. The scheme is delivered by Charnwood Borough Council and iChoosr, an independent specialist provider in collective energy.

There are three auctions each year, where energy suppliers bid against each other to provide the lowest priced tariff. The next auction will take place on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2021 and registrations are now open. The cheapest supplier wins the auction and each registered household can then decide if they want to switch or not. There is no obligation for people to switch if they do not want to.

For more information visit [charnwood.gov.uk/charnwoodbigswitch](http://charnwood.gov.uk/charnwoodbigswitch). If you do not have internet access and need help with your registration please call iChoosr on 0800 0488439.

Fly-Tipping.

I would like to thank the residents who recently reported a big fly-tip on Groby Lane to Charnwood Borough Council. I also reported it, taking a photograph to show the size of the tip. I understand some of the bags contained cannabis plants.

Just a reminder, you can report any fly-tipping to Charnwood Borough Council. This is illegal dumping of household and trade waste, and it's a criminal offence that can result in unlimited fines or five years imprisonment. Charnwood Borough Council needs as much information as possible in order to prosecute



someone fly-tipping in the Borough, so any help you can give is very important. Please remember, do not disturb the fly-tip waste, but do visually inspect the waste, it does help the Council to know what has been dumped and how much.

To report fly-tipping to the Council, e-mail [cleaner.greener@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:cleaner.greener@charnwood.gov.uk) or telephone 01509 634564.

#### Planning Application.

Just for information. The planning application for up to 36 dwellings adjacent to Maplewell Road, Woodhouse Eaves, which was refused planning permission by Charnwood Borough Council has now gone to an appeal. This will now be determined by a Government Inspector. You may recall a previous planning application for this site was dismissed on appeal.