



NEWTOWN LINFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 27th April 2022 at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting opened at the slightly later time of 7.20pm whilst attendees took their seats.

0513/22 Members present:

Councillors Sue Pritchard (Chairman), Tim Porte (Vice-Chairman), Sue Greasley, Rob Haylock and Vicki Lightfoot

Also in attendance: Clerk – Hannah Shaw, Borough Councillor – David Snartt, County Councillor – Deborah Taylor, Tree Warden – Brian Anderson, PCSO Katrina Hallmark, Bradgate Park Director – James Dymond, Newtown Linford Biodiversity representative – Claire Costello and 92 residents.

0514/22. Apologies for absence:

Councillor Tara Pickles.

0515/22. Confirm and sign minutes of the 9th February 2022 meeting:

These were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

0516/22. 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.

Although, not present at the meeting, Councillor Tara Pickles had recused herself from forthcoming discussions regarding a pre-planning consultation by Pegasus Group on behalf of Davidsons Developments for land at the rear of Markfield Lane, Newtown Linford and Leicester Road, Field Head and any related planning consultation thereafter.

0517/22 Planning – Other – Item 11 (o) on the agenda

The Council resolved to bring item 11 (o) forward on the agenda. The Chairman delivered a presentation as shown in Appendix One and 4 residents had requested to speak by permission of the Chairman.

The Chairman introduced Councillors and other attendees and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chairman acknowledged the concern and anxiety amongst residents following news of a pre-planning consultation in relation to proposals for a residential development on land between Markfield Lane and Leicester Road on the northern edge of Markfield, indicated by a leaflet delivered to households and that was received by Newtown Linford Parish Council late on Friday 22nd April 2022.

The Chairman expressed her concern following information given to the Clerk regarding a flyer delivered to households containing false information stating that “Newtown Linford and Charnwood Borough

Councils are knowingly exploiting boundaries". This is not true. NLPC had no forward knowledge of these proposals and are just as concerned as residents.

Newtown Linford is described as a small settlement suitable for limited infilling for example, the bungalows agreed for the Lady Jane Mobile Home Park and both Markfield and Anstey are identified as the service centres. NLPC stand by this, proven by a similar cross boundary application for 93 dwellings on land between Ashby Road, Markfield and the A50 on fields within Newtown Linford Parish. NLPC strongly objected to this proposal and the Chairman had spoken at both CBC and HBBC Plans Committee meetings. The outcome of this planning application was that CBC granted permission (albeit not in the local plan) and HBBC refused on the grounds of impact on Markfield and its environs.

When a planning application is received and validated, members of the public, the Parish Council and other agencies e.g. LCC Highways, can express their views via letter, email or by submitting comments via Borough Council planning portals but comments must be based on material planning issues.

The Chairman went on to explain material and non-material planning considerations as outlined in the Powerpoint presentation and said how vitally important it is for as many people as possible to submit comments once a planning application is registered, however, NLPC could not declare their position until an application had been submitted and plans had been thoroughly considered by Councillors. To do so, would be considered predetermination before an application is formally lodged.

NLPC will be studying these plans very closely and assessing their impact on the community, as will Planning Officers at CBC.

The Chairman invited Councillor Snartt to speak.

Cllr Snartt thanked residents for attending and echoed the sentiments outlined in the presentation and had submitted the pre-planning information for publication in the Village Magazine. Cllr Snartt explained that pre-planning consultations for larger developments gave developers the opportunity to mitigate concerns submitted through the consultation. The land concerned had been identified in the CBC Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) 2020 but to date, was not included in the Draft Charnwood Local Plan which is now at the formal examination stage, however, representations had since been received from Pegasus Group on behalf of Davidsons Developments and are now part of the submission documents for the Local Plan examination for possible inclusion, for consideration by the Planning Inspectorate. They can be found on the following webpage under the reference number Responses 619 and 622: https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/lp_representations

Cllr. Snartt encouraged residents in attendance to submit comments of objection or support once a formal planning application has been validated at CBC.

The Chairman opened the meeting to four residents in attendance wishing to speak.

Resident A was shocked by the pre-planning consultation information received through doors and was dismayed the plans did not detail where Section 106 monies would be directed, nor the layout of dwellings and stated the big impact this would have on residents who need to make a stand against this forthcoming application.

Resident B spoke on behalf of a group of residents and highlighted potential loss of hay meadow that had remained untouched for 30 years and loss of habitats and native species. Resident B continued by stating that since December 2021, a mature hedgerow had been flailed, a pond was now dry and trees had been removed, all resulting in loss of habitats and species including frogs and newts and it was felt this work had been undertaken to make the planning process easier for the developers.

If planning is allowed, noise, light and air pollution will increase. Resident B ended by stating this land must be saved to protect animals, birds, flowers and insects and associated habitats.

Resident C thanked the Chairman and said the presentation had already answered a lot of questions. The volume and speed of traffic in the area of Markfield Lane is already staggering and having two small children, had installed a gate for added safety.

The proposals laid out in the pre-planning consultation would increase traffic movements at an already busy junction with the A50 at the Field Head Roundabout.

Resident C informed attendees of a Facebook group for sharing pictures, facts and ecological information. The group can be found on Facebook by searching for 'Field Head Opposition Group'.

Resident D spoke to encourage residents to work together to put valid points forward to both the pre-planning consultation and imminent planning consultation.

The Chairman opened up the meeting for any further questions or comments.

Councillor Taylor spoke regarding current planning applications for nearby Anstey of 920 dwellings and implored residents to work together to block such applications of large development.

A Councillor of nearby Groby Parish Council and resident of Field Head was in attendance and described the proposals as cross boundary and echoed concerns regarding the already dangerous and busy A50 roundabout and the impact additional vehicle movements would have.

Two attendees asked what action could be taken with regards the damage to habitats and ecology already carried out on the site. Cllr. Snartt said he would ensure the Enforcement Officer at CBC was aware. An Environmental Assessment would be carried out once a planning application is submitted.

A resident was concerned that homeowners might be approached by the developers with a view to purchasing gardens. Cllr. Snartt responded by saying if further land was being purchased, this would be shown on detailed plans when a planning application is submitted.

A resident asked if two properties were to be demolished as part of the proposals to allow access to the site. The Chairman said the precise details would be included in a planning application but access would require safe visibility and suggested a one house width would possibly not be wide enough. Safe access would be assessed by LCC Highways through a planning application consultation. An existing track shown on the pre-planning information, leads out onto the Leicester Road at Field Head.

An attendee spoke of evidence in the area that Barn Owls and Tawny Owls are present on the land as they can be heard by residents. Barn Owls are in decline and field voles are their main source of food. Barn Owls do not leave their habitat to hunt and therefore, would starve and die as they lose body weight quickly.

The Chairman suggested residents might like to keep a journal to record sounds and sightings that could be sent to the environmental assessor at CBC.

A resident was concerned following tree felling in the Markfield Lane area and also carrying out works during nesting season. The Chairman advised this could be reported to the Senior Landscape Officer at CBC, as can trees where residents feel strongly there should be a Tree Preservation Order in place.

The meeting closed for a short break at approximately 8.10pm whilst 88 attendees left the meeting.

The meeting reopened at 8.20pm

0518/22. Police Matters and NHW reports:

PCSO Katrina Hallmark attended on behalf of PC Greg Moore and PCSO Mitch Jarvis and reported the following crime statistics for April:

1 x Report of Theft – Watch stolen from pocket of wheelchair.

1 x Criminal Damage – Damage to gate at Bradgate Park.

There had been an earlier spate of burglaries in Newtown Linford and Cropston. Residents are advised to call 101 to report suspicious activity and to sign up to Neighbourhood Link for email updates.

A beat surgery will be held at the Police Box on Saturday 7th May between 11.15 and 12.15pm.

The Chairman asked if speed checks were being carried out in Newtown Linford. PCSO Hallmark said PC Greg Moore and PCSO Mitch Jarvis continued to carry out speed checks, one having been conducted in recent weeks.

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

0519/22. Bradgate Park

Bradgate Park Director, James Dymond, was present at the meeting and gave an update.

Bradgate Park Trust is proposing to carry out some resurfacing and repair works to the main off-road route from the Deer Barns to Old John and across to Newtown Linford following significant deterioration. This will stop further erosion, improve accessibility and prevent damage to/allow the recovery of sensitive habitats. Extensive landscape, visual and heritage impact assessments of the works have now been carried out to support the submission of a planning application in April. A Design and Access Statement has also been produced and pre-application advice has been sought from Charnwood Borough Council. Signage and finger posts would be used to encourage use of the new track to allow other areas to recover. Initial funding has been set aside for the works and an application for Community Funding will also be submitted.

A review of the works to the main Newtown Linford overflow car park had been carried out and works to overflow car park two, will commence shortly.

Bradgate Park will also be holding Platinum Jubilee events using arts funding received. An oral history project will capture visitor's memories of the park and a local artist will be running workshops. A street party style event will also take place on 2nd June. Events will be advertised on the BPT Facebook page.

A resident asked if BPT staff would undertake the resurfacing work to the track leading to Old John. James Dymond said a tender process inviting quotations from external companies would commence once planning permission had been granted.

Resolve: Noted with thanks. Clerk to send details of Village Archivist to BPT and will share event details on the Parish Council Facebook group.

0520/22. Report by County Councillor Deborah Taylor.

See Appendix Two

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

0521/22. Report by the Borough Councillor, David Snartt.

See Appendix Three

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

0522/22. Village Governance and Residents:

- A Notice of Vacancy in Office of Councillor had been published on 04/04/22. The CBC Elections Team had advised an election had not been requested and therefore, the Parish Council were now able to fill the vacancy by co-option. The Chairman reported Councillor Eyre had been presented with a card and flowers and had expressed how much he had enjoyed his time with NLPC. Cllr. Eyre had volunteered to continue with play park inspections at the Bob Bown Memorial Field.

Resolve: Noted with thanks

- Tracey Sowerby, Community Recover Worker for Charnwood Communities on behalf of the Public Health Department at Leicestershire County Council, had requested to defer her attendance until the May meeting to speak regarding recovery work following the pandemic.

Resolve: Noted

- A resident asked if the Parish Council had organised anything for the Platinum Jubilee bank holiday weekend.

The Chairman reported an event will be held at the Linford, organised by The Linford in conjunction with volunteer residents. The Parish Council will be providing a new piece of play equipment for the Bob Bown play park in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Primary School will be holding an event for the pupils, as well as the events being held by BPT.

The Clerk had advertised twice in the Village Magazine that LCC had waived the charges for street party road closures, however, there was no take up and the deadline had now passed.

Resolve: Noted

0523/22. Newtown Linford Biodiversity

- Councillors considered allowing Newtown Linford Biodiversity a page on the Parish Council website, to be maintained by Toby Manning on behalf of the group.

Resolve: Councillors voted unanimously in favour of allowing Newtown Linford Biodiversity a page on the Parish Council's website.

- Bird/Bat/Owl boxes and insect/hedgehog hotels had been purchased as part of NLPC's successful SHIRE Environment Grant application. Installations will be carried out at the Bob Bown Memorial Field and Cemetery in June and permission had now been granted by the Church of England for installations at the Churchyard.

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

- Claire Costello, Chair of Newtown Linford Biodiversity, attended the meeting and gave a brief update of work (see Appendix Four).

Resolve: The Chairman expressed her gratitude on behalf of NLPC for the enthusiasm and work undertaken by Newtown Linford Biodiversity volunteers and suggested the group might like to consider prioritising parish mapping of wildlife and wildflowers in the upper Markfield Lane area, subject to access.

0524/22. Planning: Buildings and Tree Issues:

- **Decisions**

a) P/21/2200/2 - Field Lodge, 38 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Erection of single storey extension to rear of house - Grant Conditionally 08/02/22.

b) P/21/2161/2 - 103 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Refurbishment and alterations to join 103 and 105 into a single family residence, proposed canopy replacing existing conservatory and alterations to existing garage building - Grant Conditionally 25/02/22.

c) P/21/2455/2 - 51 Markfield Lane, Newtown Linford, LE6 0AB - 2 storey and single storey extensions to front, side and rear of dwelling and alterations to roof – Withdrawn 08/03/22

Resolve: Noted.

- **Comments submitted through Planning Explorer**

d) P/21/2569/2 - 520B Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford - Erection of outbuilding for use as annexe/garage to side of dwelling – Objection 07/03/21

“Councillors wish to object to this application on the grounds that despite stating on the application form that there is no change to the number of dwellings, the proposed independent 'granny annex' appears to be of a similar size and adjacent to, the existing house. These proposals would not result in a large material change at this juncture (replacing an existing shed) but the potential exists for:

a) A proposal to separate into two independent dwellings and;

b) The merger of the two structures creating a much larger 'footprint' for upward development.

Both of these possible outcomes would be concerning and Councillors ask that this be considered as part of the planning conditions, should this application be granted.

Please note, Councillors had difficulty deciphering these plans due to the poor quality of print.”

e) P/22/0157/2 (Listed Building Consent) and P/22/0155/2 for Linford Farm, 36 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Works to enable proposed alterations to the front entrance, construction of single storey extension to rear of existing dwelling and installation of swimming pool and associated plant room to rear – Mixed Comments 02/03/22

“Councillors have no objection in principle to this application but will be guided by the Conservation Officer on the suitability of the proposed new fenestration at the rear of this listed building.”

f) P/22/0156/2 for 39 Grey Crescent, Newtown Linford - Proposed construction of porch to front and erection of single storey extension to side and rear of existing dwelling – No Objection 02/03/22

g) P/21/2263/2 - 124 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Replacement windows to a listed building – No Objection 02/03/22

h) P/21/2359/2 - Land to the West of Bradgate Road, Anstey -Hybrid application comprising 1) Outline application (access only) for up to 350 dwellings, public parkland and amenity space, community uses, and a site for a two form entry primary school and associated infrastructure. 2) Full application for 150 dwellings, including access and associated highway and drainage infrastructure and landscaping – Objection 23/03/22 (see Appendix Five).

i) P/22/0219/2 - 100 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Proposed construction of summer house and swimming pool to rear of existing dwelling – No Objection 11/04/22

j) P/22/0503/2 for 51 Markfield Lane, Newtown Linford - Single storey rear extension, 2 storey front and side extensions, single storey front extensions, roof extension and loft conversion – Objection 20/04/22

“Councillors wish to object to this proposal.

This revised proposed design remains over-bearing and out of scale in appearance compared to existing properties in the vicinity and represents over-development of the site, overshadowing neighbouring properties and having a detrimental impact on the residential amenity due to loss of existing views.

Although now slightly reduced since a previous application, Councillors believe the excessive height of the proposed 2nd floor extension will still drastically alter the current roof lines that naturally follow the slope of the land, visible from not only the vicinity but in general vistas from Sharpley Hill and Grey Crescent.

This remains an enormous extension with the footprint of the 1st and 2nd floors more than doubling in area. Development is proposed right up to the boundary, extending across the whole of the plot and according to the block plan, extends beyond number 53 at the rear. The visual space (as seen from the road) occupied by this proposed enlarged house, will be at least double that currently.

The creation of a large window at the rear of the property at 2nd floor level, will remove any privacy of the adjacent gardens and the design has extensive glazing to the front of the house. There is nothing like this design in the adjacent run of houses and the nature of the road and street scene will be vastly changed if this proposal is granted.

So far, this region of Markfield Lane has escaped the wholesale enlargement of properties such as on Grey Crescent. The houses here are much more modest in size and have far smaller plots and are closer together. There is more unity of design in these houses than the diverse properties in Grey Crescent or elsewhere in the parish. The combined changes in proposed size and design would lead to a vast monolithic house completely out of character with all the properties on this service road and would negatively impact on the current street scene.

The Chairman asks this application be considered at Plans Committee and wishes to speak please.”

k) P/22/0422/2 - 6 Grey Crescent, Newtown Linford - Proposed loft conversion with dormer windows. Construction of porch to side of dwelling with associated window alterations – No objection 21/04/22

Resolve: Ratified.

- **Discuss**

l) P/22/0457/2 (and Listed Building Consent P/22/0757/2) - Linford Farm, 36 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Proposed alterations to front porch, part two storey and part single storey extensions to rear of dwelling and installation of swimming pool with additional detached plant room at rear of dwelling.

Resolve: Councillors had no objection to this application in principle but would be guided by the by the Conservation Officer on the suitability of the proposed new fenestration at the rear of this listed building

- **Trees**

There were no tree applications to discuss.

- **Other**

m) IM Properties proposal for a new Employment Park on land north of the A50 at Groby, off Anstey Lane was discussed. Councillor Rob Haylock gave a brief overview of the plans following his attendance at a Groby Parish Council Meeting.

n) Neighbourhood Plan Housing Requirements Position Statement received from CBC by email 04/03/22 and circulated to Councillors.

Resolve: Noted

o) Land at rear of 273 Leicester Road, Field Head, adjacent to Lawn Woods. Chairman/Clerk to advise.

Resolve: Councillors resolved to bring this item forward on the agenda to the start of the meeting. See minute reference 0517/22.

Councillor Snartt reported a planning application had been submitted by Newtown Linford Cricket Club that was yet to be validated, with regards to varying condition 2 of planning application P/21/1416/2. This is in relation to the galvanised frame not being coloured dark green and the white screens within the green nets. The new application reference number for the variation of conditions is P/22/0574/2.

Resolve: Noted. Clerk to cascade details once application is validated and notified by CBC.

0525/22. Bob Bown Memorial Field:

The Clerk reported another rope swing had been attached to a tree at the Bob Bown Memorial Field.

Resolve: Noted. Councillors agreed signage would be appropriate with regards to liability. Clerk to query with Insurers for advice and to arrange for removal of the rope swing.

0526/22. Village Magazine:

The Clerk had contacted the Village Magazine Editor regarding a commemorative Platinum Jubilee edition of the Village Magazine in June. Plans include changing the colour of the front cover and adding the official commemorative image of the Queen, to be printed in colour.

Resolve: Noted. Councillors agreed to cover any additional printing costs within reason, associated with additional colour printing.

0527/22. Parish Council Website/Facebook Page:

The Parish Council Facebook group had increased to 391 members.

Resolve: Noted.

0528/22. Village Hall

- Councillors considered an increase in contractual hours for the Clerk to assist the Village Hall Committee during a closed session.

Resolve: Councillors voted unanimously in favour of a contractual increase of 1 hour per week from a date yet to be decided.

- The Clerk advised the Village Hall Rent Review was now in progress. APB on behalf of Everards had requested a 160% rent increase to £4550 per annum which had been refused. Discussions were ongoing.

Resolve: Noted.

0529/22. Highways, Footpaths, Street Furniture, Traffic and Transport:

The Chairman reported repatching works to Main Street requiring a temporary road closure, had been delayed until a later date to be confirmed, however, road markings had now been sprayed out suggesting work is imminent.

Resolve: Noted.

0530/22. Churchyard and Cemetery:

The Eternal Light Sculpture at the Cemetery had been completed on 16/03/22. Tree Warden, Brian Anderson, asked what had been used to treat the sculpture.

Resolve: Noted with thanks to Peter Leadbeater and residents who had contributed funds towards the cost. Clerk to inform Brian Anderson of the treatment recommended for the Eternal Light sculpture and advised it would need treating 3 times per year.

0531/22. Correspondence:

- Review of Statement of Licensing Policy received by email from CBC 18/02/22 and sent to Councillors for comments.
- Village Hall Rent Review correspondence received by post from APB 18/02/22 requesting point of contact for negotiations. Clerk has responded and awaits to hear further.
- Resources and Waste Strategy for Leicestershire received by email from LCC 21/02/22. Consultation closed on 25/04/22. Circulated to Councillors 21/02/22.

Resolve: Noted and actioned where appropriate.

- Membership of CPRE Leicestershire - the Countryside Charity received by email 08/03/22. Councillors to consider.

Resolve: Councillors resolved not to resubscribe to CPRE Leicestershire.

- Registered Local Bus Service Notification: Arriva 29/29A received by email from LCC 09/03/22.
- LCC communication - Have your Say - Resources and Waste Strategy for Leicestershire received via LRALC Round Robin and circulated to Councillors 29/03/22. Consultation closed 25/04/22.
- LRALC/LCC Annual Parish Conference - Save the date Monday 4th July 2022 5pm onwards. Councillors to nominate attendee on behalf of NLPC.
- Leicestershire Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme (Bus Services) received by email 13/04/22 and cascaded to Councillors for information.
- Invitation to the online launch event for the Sistership Agreement between the Discovery UNESCO Global Geopark in Canada and the Charnwood Forest Geopark, UK received 21/04/22 and forwarded to Councillors.

Resolve: Noted and actioned where appropriate.

0532/22. 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.

Councillors asked if the Scheme of Delegation could be kept ongoing as a permanent arrangement. The Clerk will seek advice from LRALC on the matter.

0533/22. Reports on Meetings and Training by Councillors and Clerk:

Chairman attended HBBC Planning Committee on 15/02/22

Clerk attended webinar 22/02/22 and Cllr. Rob Haylock attended Groby PC Extraordinary Meeting 23/02/22 regarding IM Properties' proposal for a 57 hectare Employment Park, north of the A50 at Groby.

Clerk attended LCC Parish Clerks' Liaison meeting on 04/03/22

Clerk attended Newtown Linford Biodiversity meeting on 22/03/22.

Chairman attended Charnwood Forest Stakeholder Forum at County Hall on 30/03/22.

Clerk attended Village Hall Committee meeting as an observer on 06/04/22.

Clerk attended CBC Parish Clerks Liaison Meeting on 12/04/22.

Chairman and Clerk attended New Code of Conduct training at LRALC on 27/04/22.

Resolve: Noted.

0534/22. Items of interest of for future meetings

The Clerk reported the cost of this years' insurance cover with BHIB Councils Insurance as part of NLPC's 3 year agreement is £826.86, which was between an 8 and 10.75% index increase.

Resolve: Noted and agreed. Decision to be ratified at the May Annual Parish Council Meeting.

The Clerk handed out to all Parish Councillors a new Register of Members' Interests form for completion and return at the May Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Resolve: Noted and to action at the May Annual Parish Council Meeting.

A resident reported the VAS on Bradgate Road not working.

Resolve: Noted. Clerk to investigate at earliest opportunity.

A resident reported a Parish Council owned bin had been painted with graffiti.

Resolve: Councillors agreed all bins and troughs require repainting. Clerk to obtain costs. Decision to be ratified at the May Annual Parish Council Meeting.

0535/22. Exercise of Public Rights

Councillors considered and approved the dates for the period of exercise of public rights of the unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return (accounts are for the year ended 31st March 2022). Suggested dates are Monday 13th June 2022 to Friday 22nd July 2022.

Resolve: Dates agreed and noted. Clerk to publish on the website one week before the suggested dates.

0536/22. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/2021 Part 3

To consider and approve and for the Chairman and Clerk to sign Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/2022 Part 3.

Resolve: Councillors considered and approved Section 1 Annual Governance Statement of the AGAR 2021/2022 and was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

0537/22. Finance:

- To note, the NJC Pay Award for 2021/2022 has been agreed at an increase of 1.75% (cost of living rise). Payment back dated to 01/04/21 and included in the Clerk's March 2022 pay.
- First precept instalment received to the value of £28,389.50 on 14/04/22.
- Parish Council Zoom Subscription cancelled, effective from 28/04/22.
- Internal Audit completed 24/04/22 by Mr Peter Lowe.

Resolve: Noted

- To consider, approve and for the Chairman to sign Section 2 Accounting Statements 2021/2022 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/2022 Part 3.

Resolve: Councillors considered and approved Section 2 Accounting Statements of the AGAR 2021/2022 Part 3 which was signed by the Chairman.

Authorisation for payment of invoices: -

07.02.22	SC Maintenance	Grass Cutting Schedule	£3425.00
21.02.22	HM Land Registry	Land Registry Search Markfield Lane	£4.00
28.02.22	HS	Broadband and Out of Plan Calls February	£59.69
28.02.22	HS	Salary February	£1069.42
03.03.22	Nest	Pension Contributions	£47.21
09.03.22	Community Heartbeat	Replacement Defibrillator Battery	£318.00
09.03.22	CBC	Cemetery Rates	£127.25
15.03.22	APB	Village Hall Rent	£437.50
16.03.22	Bradgate Park Trust	Recharge for Churchyard Wall rebuild materials	£627.28
16.03.22	Equals Money	Online purchases of insect/hedgehog hotels and bat/owl/bird boxes re SHIRE Grant. Awaiting payment of £591 funding and VAT to be reclaimed.	£877.39
18.03.22	Firetree	Grounds Maintenance '22-'23.Invoice 1 of 12	£1062.50
25.03.22	HMRC	Tax and NI Contributions	£595.18
28.03.22	HS	Broadband March	£56.95
28.03.22	HS	Salary and Back Pay March	£1226.39
28.03.22	HS	Mileage and Expenses Oct '21 to March '22 inclusive	£170.12
31.03.22	NEST	Pension Contributions	£64.37
31.03.22	Peter Leadbeater	Cemetery Sculpture	£1025.00
06.04.22	LRALC	LRALC and NALC Membership	£324.47
14.04.22	Early Years Bookkeeping	Payroll Services 2022-2023	£150.00
19.04.22	Firetree	Grounds Maintenance '22-'23.Invoice 2 of 12	£1062.50
Total Expenditure			£ 12,730.22

Bank Balances:

Business Current Account @ 20/04/22	£ 1,354.51
Business Reserve Account @ 20/04/22	£82,000.00

Total

£83,354.51

Resolve: Councillors authorised and payments were ratified and the bank statements were reconciled and signed by the Chairman.

0538/22. Dates of the next three Parish Council Meetings.

- Wednesday 25th May 2022 7.15pm (Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting)
- Wednesday 13th July 2022 7.15pm
- Wednesday 24th August 2022 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

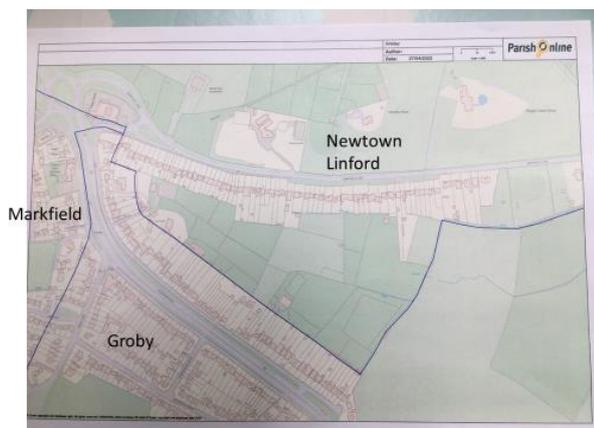
Signed by Chair:-.....

Dated:-.....

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Appendix One – Presentation slides given by Chairman, Dr. Sue Pritchard



Agenda Item 10 Planning (o)
Land at rear of 273 Leicester Rd
Field head



Keep it relevant
Keep it concise
Keep it respectful

Thank you

Appendix Two – Report by County Councillor, Deborah Taylor

County Council Report – April 2022

Simon Cole

I offer my sincere condolences to the family of the late Simon Cole, retired Chief Constable of Leicestershire Police. Simon was sadly found dead at his home on Wednesday 30th March. We have lost an outstanding public servant whose mission in life was dedicated to making our communities stronger and safer. My thoughts are with Simon's family, colleagues and the whole community who worked with Simon. I was personally looking forward to continuing working with Simon in another role as I am sure he would have taken up a new role after a period of deserved rest in retirement. A private family funeral has taken place. There is an online book of condolence on Leicestershire Police website if anyone would like to send in their memories of Simon or messages of support for the family: <https://www.leics.police.uk/>

Ukraine

A new team has been set up by Leicestershire County Council to lead the effort to provide vital support for refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine.

The team will work closely with a range of partner agencies helping to make sure refugees have access to vital services and support including accommodation, safeguarding, healthcare, education, translation, and employment.

The council also chairs a Local Resilience Forum (LRF) (<https://www.llrprepared.org.uk/>) Ukrainian Refugees Group which provides a forum for agencies across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to co-ordinate their work on this critical issue.

Further information about those schemes is available on the county council's website: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/support-for-ukraine>

The council is also hosting a welcome desk at East Midlands Airport which will provide initial advice, information and humanitarian support to arrivals from Ukraine as soon as they land in the UK. The welcome desk is manned from 8am until 2am by staff from the council.

So far, the local response is working well, and we have welcomed families to the county. The county council is carrying out the DBS checks and paying the sponsors their funding from the government and providing the refugees emergency cash payments. We are also carrying out

welfare checks once the families are settled with their sponsor. The district and borough councils are carrying out the accommodations checks.

Highway Fund

Late this afternoon I received an update regarding the requests I had put in for my highway fund. I have not had a chance to go through it yet, but hopefully by next week I will be able to update the Clerk and we can go from there.

The funding is again available for this year, so I have another £25,000 in my pot. I will probably use some of that money to fund requests that I have already received, but if there are any other suggests you would like me to consider, please let me know.

Beacon Hill

Steps taken last year to protect a small section of a Leicestershire beauty spot are starting to produce an ecological boost.

Last year, the county council temporarily closed Jewels' Hill in Beacon Hill Country Park – a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - to help replenish the heathland and protect wildlife that uses it as a habitat.

Ecologists subsequently found that, when undisturbed, the land – with grass and vegetation of varying heights – was creating small micro-climates which are ideal for insects, birds, lizards and plant growth.

A similar closure is now being put into place this year at the same location, which amounts to 3% of the total area of the country park – with restricted access from 1st April to 1st August 2022.

Beacon Hill, which is run by Leicestershire County Council has hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, and the park's team wish to conserve the wildness and wildlife that attracts so many throughout the seasons.

Please respect the closure period and follow the signed alternative diversion routes.

Cllr Deborah Taylor

Appendix Three – Report by Borough Councillor, David Snartt

Planning Matters.

I was pleased to see residents from the villages have had their say during the consultation, objecting to the proposed developments in Anstey, making it clear the negative impact this will have on village life. I have also written to the Local Highway Authority asking them to take all of the development in Anstey together when making decisions on highway matters. In my view, 920 extra dwellings will make an enormous difference to the already severe levels of traffic we see at peak times of the day. I have also alerted our MP Edward Argar about my concerns. If you would still like to have your say on these planning applications, e-mail development.control@charnwood.gov.uk including the application numbers P/21/2358/2 and P/21/2359/2. Residents living on Markfield Lane, Newtown Linford, near to Field Head have received a leaflet about possible development at the rear of the houses on the left hand side going towards Field Head. This land was put forward to Charnwood Borough Council to be included in the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability

Assessment (SHELAA). This land has not been included in the Charnwood Draft Local Plan which is now in the examination stage of the process. Details of the Draft Local Plan can be found on the Council's website.

I now understand, following the publication of the pre-submission Charnwood Draft Local Plan, the council received representations from Pegasus Group on behalf of clients regarding land in this area. These representations have been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and may be considered by the Inspectors during the examination in public. This information can be found by going

to https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/lp_representations, these representations are 619 and 622.

I have put my name forward to speak at the hearings which should be taking place during June/July.

Update on Council Tax Rebate.

Council Tax rebates to help with energy bills will start to be paid to Charnwood residents who pay by Direct Debit in May 2022. The Government announced a £150 council tax rebate payment to households in council tax bands A-D to help with rising energy bills.

Charnwood Borough Council will confirm details soon about how residents who do not pay their council tax by Direct Debit will receive their payment. Residents are urged to keep an eye on the Council's council tax rebate webpage, which is regularly updated. For those who receive Housing Benefit, Universal Credit or Council Tax Support, the rebate will not affect your entitlement to these benefits.

The Council will also be launching a discretionary scheme for vulnerable households who may not qualify for council tax rebate. Further details will be announced shortly. If you are unsure on which council tax band you are in, you can find out by visiting My Charnwood. To find more details on the council tax rebate, visit the webpage where there is further information and frequently asked questions.

Need a Dog Boarder?

I have received this information from Charnwood Borough Council. Going on holiday or returning to work? If you are having to leave your dog whilst at work or overnight, please make sure you use a licensed boarder. Anyone who carries out a business of boarding dogs in Charnwood must have a licence from Charnwood Borough Council, and therefore if you are paying someone to look after a dog then they need to be licensed.

Licensed dog boarders are assessed against minimum standards and the majority also comply with optional higher standards to ensure the welfare of your dog. Full information and regularly updated lists of current animal activity licences is available on the Council's website at www.charnwood.gov.uk/animalwelfare. If you are interested in running a licensable animal activity, please contact the Council on 01509 634628 or e-mail env.health@charnwood.gov.uk.

Outwoods Visitor Centre and Café.

I attend an event at the Outwoods to unveil a plaque dedicating the Outwoods Visitor Centre and Café in memory of David Slater, former leader of Charnwood Borough Council. David was a good friend and colleague at the Council. Therefore, I believe this was a fitting tribute to recognise his achievements whilst leader of the Council.

Last year, the Council invested in this project to convert the former ranger's cottage into a visitor centre and café. The café is being operated by popular Loughborough business Olivia's Coffee and Bakery which will be known to many local residents. I know by talking to people this café has already become a place to visit whilst enjoying one of the oldest surviving woodland sites in Charnwood. It will soon be time again to visit the Outwoods to see the wonderful display of bluebells in this 110 acres of ancient woodland.

Tenant Garden Competition.

Charnwood Borough Council tenants are being encouraged to enter an annual gardening competition. The event is run by the Council and is open to its nearly 5,600 tenants who are being urged to show off their green-fingered skills. There are six categories to enter including: fruit or vegetable garden, hanging basket, window box and balcony and house or flat garden.

Due to the changes in weather throughout the year and the effect that this can have on gardens, applicants can also submit pictures of their gardens between now and the judging dates to ensure that they are being judged at their very best.

Entries for the tenants garden competition need to be submitted by Friday, 3rd June and judging will take place between 11th-15th July. The winners and runners-up will receive high street shopping vouchers as prizes. To enter, tenants can call the customer engagement team on 01509 634955 or e-

mail involvement@charnwood.gov.uk. Alternatively, download an entry form via www.charnwood.gov.uk/gardens.

Charnwood Community Grants.

Applications are now open for the new rounds of Charnwood Community Grants. Community groups and voluntary organisations in Charnwood are being invited to apply for grant funding. Applications are also open for the Members Grant scheme which enables local groups to apply to their local Borough Councillor for up to £500 in funding. Over the past few years I have been able to help local groups with funding through this scheme. These include Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves Good Neighbours scheme, Newtown Linford Tennis Club, Newtown Linford Brownies and Woodhouse WW2 Aircrew Memorial Project.

Deadline for applications for the Charnwood Community Grant and the Community Facilities Grant is 5pm Friday 13th May 2022. Member Grants applications close on Tuesday 31st January 2023. Application Forms and more information about the grants is available at www.charnwood.gov.uk/grants, e-mail grants@charnwood.gov.uk or call 01509 634730.

Appendix Four – Newtown Linford Biodiversity

Notes for Parish Council meeting

- 1) Newtown Linford Biodiversity was set up at the beginning of last year. We're very informal and have around a dozen active members who meet each month to plan events and activities. I'd like to thank the Parish Council, and Hannah in particular, for their support. We've also had advice and support from the Environmental Partnerships Officers at the County Council, and have made many useful contacts with other professionals and volunteers working for nature and wildlife in the County.
- 2) We want to continue to try and raise awareness of nature and biodiversity issues through regular items in the Village Magazine, and on our Facebook page. It'd be really helpful if we could have a page on the Parish Council website, if possible, to help keep residents informed of our work.
- 3) One of the things we do is to carry out practical conservation work, including pulling up invasive Himalayan Balsam and managing the wildlife section of Markfield Lane verge. We're pleased that a trial section of Groby Lane verge is now included in the County Council's Urban Wildlife Verge Scheme. We're looking to involve more local residents with conservation work, especially the HB-pulling which is good fun!
- 4) We've been helping with some of the background research for the Shire Environment Grant bid for wildlife boxes, and liaising with members of the Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society and the Bat Group who have kindly agreed to install the bat and owl boxes. It was hoped to have them installed by now, but the experts want to schedule the installation of these boxes for mid-June to reduce the disturbance to nesting birds.
- 5) We're looking for ways to increase involvement by local residents in learning about, enjoying and protecting the nature on our doorstep. One of the ways we try and do this is with our Wildlife Walks. We're keen to reach out to people of all ages in the parish. We're currently exploring the idea of Geocaching. We're going to have a Biodiversity Group scarecrow on Markfield Lane verge in September, and are planning another Open Evening at the Village Hall on Tuesday 4th October. (Next year we may organise an event at the weekend, perhaps a Wildlife Fair).
- 6) Other plans include networking with other community environmental groups in neighbouring villages, and continuing with nature recording in the Parish. We want to submit more records for the parish on the NatureSpot website - the County Council will be offering some nature recording training soon which will help. Ultimately, we'd like us to produce a Parish Nature Map.
- 7) So lots of plans and ideas for building on and extending last year activities.

Appendix Five – Comments of Objection to Planning Consultations P/21/2359/2 and P/21/2358/2

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Comments of Objection to Planning Consultations P/21/2359/2 and P/21/2358/2

Newtown Linford Parish Council strongly **object** to these proposals as they feel the adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits of this proposed development, for the following reasons.

1. The positioning of this proposed development, leads up to the Bradgate Park and National Forest boundaries. This surrounding area of beauty should be maintained as a natural space to protect the visual views to and from higher areas of Bradgate Park, which would otherwise be hugely impacted by a closer, 'built up' environment.
2. This proposed development would have a severe impact on biodiversity of the area. Many natural habitats would be lost and as suggested, proposed planting and green spaces should not be delayed until the build is completed, should planning permission be granted. Furthermore, the loss of green wedge between Anstey and Newtown Linford, would further reduce the separation area between settlements, whilst also having a detrimental effect on the countryside.
3. The poor positioning of the proposed new primary school at the top of the hill on Bradgate Road, close to High Leys Farm, would not be easily accessible by foot for those people it intends to serve, resulting in more car journeys and traffic congestion during peak times. The school should be repositioned to ensure easier accessibility and to encourage less car usage and more walking/cycling to school. The proposed mini roundabout on Bradgate Road will also add to traffic congestion in this area, particularly at school opening and closing times.
4. Given the current issues Newtown Linford Parish face with speeding vehicles and HGVs flouting the 7.5 tonne weight restriction in force, Councillors feel the speed limit between Newtown Linford and Anstey should be reduced from a 60mph limit, to help mitigate possible highway safety implications this development would bring with an increase in traffic. We believe a haulage company operates from High Leys Farm, the proposed access to which is past the proposed new primary school, thus impeding safety for pupils, the wider school community and residents.
5. Access to this development would be along Bradgate Road from Newtown Linford, along Groby Lane, Anstey or via an already congested traffic system at The Nook in Anstey. Should this planning application be granted, Councillors would like to suggest a new link road from and to the A50 to alleviate some of the pressure increased traffic would undoubtedly cause on both Newtown Linford and the surrounding road network in Anstey.
6. It has, however, been noted that the traffic surveys carried out prior to this application being submitted, did not include data collected at weekends and were also carried out during October 2021 when many people were still working from home and traffic was lighter. Councillors would, therefore, like to suggest this data is not truly indicative of current traffic flow, which has since returned to pre-pandemic levels and should be revisited.
7. A development on this scale will also adversely impact local amenities which appear to already be struggling with demand, such as the oversubscribed Doctors Surgery, inadequate Pharmacy and in the last fortnight, has seen the only Post Office serving the Anstey community, close. Bus services have also been heavily reduced in recent years.

Notwithstanding these objections, should this application be granted, Newtown Linford Parish Council kindly request inclusion in any Section 106 agreement to bring forward community benefits, namely Average Speed Cameras, in liaison with LCC Highways, to tackle the ongoing issue of speeding and the high level of poor compliance with the speed limits throughout Newtown Linford Parish and which would only worsen as a result of this development.

Kind regards,

Mrs Hannah Shaw

Parish Council Clerk
Newtown Linford Parish Council
Tel: 01530 249945
www.newtownlinford.org.uk