

Witham on the Hill Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Witham on the Hill Parish Council
(Min 17-02) 17th July 2017 at 7.00 p.m. in St Andrew's Parish Hall

Present: **Councillors:** Charles Henriques, Andrew Greenwood and Janet Kirkwood,
 Residents:
 Others: Bernard Champness – Clerk, District Cllr Martin Wilkins and County Cllr Bob Adams
 Not Present: Cllr Sue Pennant Jones,

Open Forum

There were no residents present so there was no open forum and the meeting was formally opened at 19.00

21. Apologies for absence, acceptance of Apologies

21.1 There were no apologies.

22. Declaration of Interest – To receive Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests, as set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 and the nature of those interests relating to any Agenda item

22.1 No one declared an interest in any matter that was on the agenda.

23. Minutes of the annual meeting of the Parish Council held on the 31st May 2017

23.1 **Resolved:** That the minutes of the 31st May 2017 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

24. Matters to Report

24.1 Regarding the current vacancy on the Parish Council, the Clerk reported that no one had requested an election and therefore the PC was free to make an appointment by co-opting someone. The appropriate notices have been placed on the noticeboard and on the website and it was hoped the matter could be resolved at the next meeting.

24.2 The Parish Council would like thanks to be recorded for those residents that cleaned up the Stocks and surrounding area.

24.3 It was to be recorded that the state of the Horse Chestnut trees on the green have been reported and an Arboriculturist has been out to inspect them. They will continue to be monitored by SKDC

24.4 Consideration on planting small fruit trees along the side of the footpath by the Boules court. will go onto the agenda for the next meeting. The wild flower area is becoming neglected and something needs to be done to eradicate the weeds. Cllr Henriques said that he would strim the area in the hope the weeds would die back and the wild flowers flourish. He might do the same on the boules pitch.

25. To receive a report from the County and District Councillors.

25.1 County Councillor Bob Adams explained that he had spoken to Rowan Smith in the Highways Dept who was in the process of looking into old problems previously raised by the PC. All future issues should be referred to Rowan Smith and he would like to be copied in and would

lend his support where he can.

- 25.2** District Councillor Martin Wilkins urged the Parish Council to consider the initiative taken by SKDC called The Big Clean. Whilst he accepted that there might not be a problem of graffiti in the village no doubt there were others such as weeds growing along footpaths. He also explained that there was a Community Cleaner Grant which would help towards paying a litter picker who would work for say 1 hour a week cleaning up litter. Many villages had taken this offer up.

26. Clerks Report and Correspondence received.

26.1 The following letters/e-mails had been received:

1. An email from the External Auditor regarding our Annual return.
2. The mobile library timetable for Manthorpe and Witham on the Hill – July 2017 to March 2018
3. Planning Applications consultation. Hard copies are no longer going to be sent by post.

27. Planning applications:

27.1 At the time that the agenda was posted there were no plans to consider. However since then a planning application has been received S17/1263 which is to fell 1x prunus tree at Burnside House, Main Street, Witham On The Hill. Response date 26th July. It was **resolved** that the Clerk would have delegated authority to respond and it was further **resolved** that there be no comment.

28. To discuss whether or not we wish to purchase a projector having received notification that all planning applications will be notified to us by e-mail and no hard copies received.

28.1 After discussing the matter and concluding that as we did not have that many planning applications to consider, it was **resolved** that we would not purchase a projector. Councillors could look at applications and supporting documents on line and the Clerk would if necessary print copies if required.

29. To respond to an e-mail from Highways asking if we could email them with all the outstanding highway matters affecting the Parish

29.1 Following on from what Cllr Adams had said it was felt that the main outstanding issue related to the problem of the crossroads at the junction with the A6121. The clerk was to highlight the following:

1. We are still very concerned about the speed of traffic travelling from Bourne towards Stamford which has contributed to many of the regular accidents at the junction.
2. One way of making the road safer might be the addition of double white lines in the middle of the road.
3. The crossroads is a busy junction where many school children congregate after walking to meet the bus on the Manthorpe side of the road.
4. The junction has a long history of accidents and the traffic volume has increased with the significant expansion of housing provision in Bourne which will continue to until 2021.

30. To receive an update on the play equipment on The Green

30.1 Cllr Greenwood explained that in June he had met Mike Smith from South Kesteven District Council on The Green and discussed options. It was felt that the Tower should be preserved and a quote was being obtained by SKDC. Cllr Greenwood said that he had sent a reminder to try and make sure the matter is resolved soon.

31. To discuss how best to use the potential offer of funds from Witham Hall.

31.1 We could not discuss this matter until the item above was concluded. This item to remain on the agenda until we are in a position to progress talks.

32. To discuss the public consultation on the Local Plan and whether we wish to attend any meetings and whether we wish to submit any comments

32.2 The Local Plan will set out the strategy for delivering sustainable development including the vision, objectives and spatial strategy. It will also establish development requirements including the amount of housing and employment land needed, and allocate specific development sites to meet need.

This is the third stage of informal consultation on the new Local Plan. This stage differs from the previous stages as it sets out draft policies. Previous consultations set out the issues facing the district and the options available to tackle them.

There are meetings in Bourne and Stamford on the following dates and times]:

1. 20 July Market Stall Bourne 20 July 10am - 3pm
2. 20 July Bourne Corn Exchange Bourne 5pm - 7.30pm
3. 28 July Market Stall Stamford 10am - 3pm
4. 28 July Stamford Arts Centre Stamford 5pm - 7.30pm

Any Councillor could attend and both County & District Councillor urged parishioners to attend. Cllr Greenwood said that he would attend and we would remain open minded on the need for a special meeting if it was felt necessary to make any formal comments.

33. To discuss whether or not we wish to apply for a Community Cleaner Grant and whether we wish to involve The Big Clean in cleaning weeds from the streets in the village.

33.1 Details of the Big Clean were sent by Cllr Wilkins. Full Council voted on June 15 to launch the Big Clean, a major programme for street cleaning which aims to set a new higher standard. South Kesteven District Council will be asking residents, community groups and businesses to help identify areas to target over an initial 12 week programme starting in August.

This will positively transform the district's grot spots and tackle litter, weeds, fly-tipping, graffiti and broken street furniture across 365 square miles.

In doing so they will aim to set a standard that consistently exceeds the national average by also cleaning road signs, washing pavements, removing moss and bird mess and cutting back overhanging vegetation to keep footpaths clear.

The Clerk pointed out that the SKDC website sets out a form which can be completed by anyone and was not just for Parish Councils. Anyone can highlight up to 10 areas needing improvement on the map.

34. To confirm Expenditure

[]denotes those payments paid between meetings, which have been approved by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Parish Council or at a previous meeting but not listed

Payments made by Direct Debit - £

34 1 There were no payments to approve.

35. Any other business – Reminder – by law no decision can be made under this item only information exchanged.

35.1 There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 20.00

36. The date of the next meeting – to be held on **Monday 18th September 2017 at 7.00 p.m. at St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill.**

