

Witherley Parish Council

Atterton, Fenny Drayton, Ratcliffe Culey and Witherley

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 9th January 2020, 7.30 p.m.
At the parish Room, Witherley.**

PRESENT: Councillors: B Conway, (Chairman), M Simpson, K Liggins, R Reading, R Trivett, D Flude, A Wright, A Brittain, G Robinson, M Cook. **Other Attendees:** Borough Councillor K Morrell, County Cllr I Ould, Angela Forsyth (Clerk), 2 members of the public. **ABSENT:** A Cartwright.

The meeting began at 7.32 p.m.

20/001: WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Cartwright sent his apologies which were accepted.

20/002: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.

20/003: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: A member of the public showed the Council a copy of the Ecological Survey which had been conducted on behalf of the Council in 2019 as part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan research. There were no questions raised.

20/004: APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF MINUTES: The minutes of the December 2019 meeting were agreed and signed as correct.

20/005: BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT: Due to the period of purdah prior to the general election which was closely followed by the Christmas holiday period there was not a lot of information the Borough Councillor could report. The next full Council meeting will be held next week, and the agenda is very short.

The Borough Council will consider a motion to reduce the amount of time fireworks can be set off and limiting the amount of noise and light which is generated by individual displays as opposed to a few large well organised events.

The Borough Council is in a vulnerable position currently as it does not have a 5-year land supply for developing new homes, this means it will have to consider all applications.

Cllr Conway asked why the brown bin had not been collected during the holiday period. Cllr Morrell advised he would find out. Cllr Cook pointed out in the contract residents pay for a specific number of collections; so, they had not been short-changed by the scheduled non-collection.

20/006: COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT: Cllr Ould's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. He raised the issue that since the agreement of the Local Development Framework some pieces of land had changed ownership and new owners were putting forward their plots which fall outside the Framework, leading to some large developments being planned in small villages.

CrimeStoppers is an excellent service which allows members of the public to anonymously report crime or antisocial behaviour without recourse to themselves. Call 0800 555111 or online at

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

20/007: CRIME REPORT: Cllr Robinson circulated his report prior to the meeting: damage to electric gates and parcels taken from outside the property, in Ratcliffe Culey. Generator pump stolen from roadside in Witherley, and a vehicle stolen from a driveway in Sheepy Magna without keys.

20/008: CORRESPONDENCE:

- Email regarding a memorial bench on Old Forge Road, Fenny Drayton. Clerk to reply with Roadside Memorial Policy.
- Emails from Witherley resident regarding the flooding issue on Mythe Lane.
- Emails regarding the deadline to submit the parish Community Response Plans to qualify for up to £600 per village for emergency equipment to be used in an emergency. Cllr Conway moved for this project to be discussed at February's meeting.
- Five invitations to tender for the grass cutting contract were sent out, four received.

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20/009: CLERK UPDATE:

Atterton: Traffic calming gates in hand with LCC Highways, prices being obtained for whole project.

Fenny Drayton:

- Reported moss on footpaths in Rookery Close.
- Reported moles in Rookery Close again. LCC have advised “they will not be dealing with or funding at this time. They are a native species and it wouldn’t want to destroy animals for what seems to be a minor inconvenience.”
- Have requested the family remove the memorial on the A444/Old Forge Road junction by the end of January 2020.

Ratcliffe Culey:

- Reported muddy verges on Church Lane as slip hazard.
- Reported fly tipping on A444.

Witherley:

- Church Road signs are not correctly positioned, contacted LCC officer to rectify their position.
- Ordering additional bracket for VAS machine.

Parish:

- Clerk is now qualified; and the Council can consider becoming a “Quality Council”. The Chairman asked that thanks and congratulations to the Clerk be recorded in the minutes.

Clerk

20/010: PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- 19/01335/HOU 25 Atterton Lane, Witherley. The council does not object to the plans for the extension and remodelling; but does consider the balcony incongruous and out of character with similar properties.
- 19/01400/HOU 50 St Peters Close, Witherley. The Council objects to the building line used.

Clerk

20/011: DECISION TO APPOINT GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT:

The Clerk had previously circulated the four tender details to the Council. After careful consideration of all submissions, Cllr Robinson proposed the Council award the contract to cut the grass to M & BG Limited, and the “other works” contract to Lewis Burchell. Seconded by Cllr Simpson. Agreed by all. Clerk to write to all tendering companies.

Clerk

20/012: 2020/21 BUDGET AGREEMENT: The Clerk had previously circulated forecasted operational costs for 2020/21 financial year, including proposed projects for the villages. The Council discussed the figures. Cllr Wright proposed the agreement of the drafted expenditure, seconded by Cllr Cook.

20/013: 2020/21 PRECEPT AGREEMENT: The Clerk had previously circulated draft figures of how any increases to the precept would impact on each household. There was discussion around the actual amount instead of a percentage. Cllr Conway proposed to increase the precept by £1335.82 (5% on 2019/20) to take account of increased costs the Council would be incurring. This was seconded by Cllr Robinson. A show of hands indicated a majority vote agreed, one abstention. The increase is equivalent to £2.92 per household across the year (averaged at Band D Council Tax).

Clerk

20/014: FINANCE & CHEQUES FOR SIGNATURE:

- Clerk explained there was 1 additional cheque:
- Clerk expenses £27.04
 - YourLocale (consultancy) £3000.00
 - Castlemount Ltd (ID cards) £58.98
 - Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (dog waste and bins) £251.16
 - M Bowles (planting) £15.00
 - M & BG Ltd (grass cutting) £592.00
 - Screatons Ltd £16.22
 - Witherley PCC (Church room hire) £40.00

Clerk

20/015: AGREE NEW STANDING ORDERS: Due to changes in legislation the Council’s Standing Orders must change. Adoption was proposed by Cllr Cook, and seconded by Cllr Reading. Agreed by all. Clerk to post on website.

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20/016: VILLAGE UPDATES:

Atterton: Cllr Flude enquired if there was any news on the proposed traffic calming project. Clerk advised still waiting on LCC for costs.

Fenny Drayton:

- Cllr Wright advised there is a dog fouling problem now in Drayton Lane.
- Cllr Cook had brought photographs of the mud in front of St Michael's Church where it is a safety hazard. Cllr Ould had taken them from her to report to LCC.
- The Clerk advised LCC feedback was they would not be dealing with the moles in Rookery Close, and residents should plant borders which the moles avoid.
- Cllr Simpson reported that a resident had emailed to request a footpath be created along the A444 and the edge of farmland from the village to the Royal Red Gate pub, to allow safe access on foot. Whilst a welcome idea, discussion immediately followed that this had been suggested previously however and costs were prohibitive (estimated now to be around £300k).
- Cllr Simpson summarised VAS data from 2019: Drayton Lane ave' speed = 29mph, 85th percentile speed = 34mph; Old Forge Road ave' speed = 25mph, 85th percentile speed = 30mph; George Fox Lane ave' speed = 19mph, 85th percentile speed = 24mph.

Ratcliffe Culey:

- Cllr Trivett suggested more grasscrete grid system be laid in the playing field between the pieces of equipment. Clerk advised prices would need to be obtained for budgeting if not next year but the following.

Witherley:

- Cllr Trivett had visited Mythe Lane and suggested the building of a bank on the Atherstone side of the road might prevent the flood water inundating the road. Cllr Conway agreed the idea should be suggested at the planned multi-agency meeting later in the month.
- Cllr Robinson reported Severn Trent was still struggling to repair/replace the collapsed sewer and preventing raw sewage flowing onto Atterton Lane. Cllr Conway suggested escalating the issue publicly to point out the incompetence of Severn Trent in allowing a public health issue to continue. Clerk to draft a letter raising the matter with all parties and the MP Dr. Luke Evans.
- Cllr Conway reported December statistics for the VAS located outside the hunt kennels: average speed of 23.9 mph, 85th percentile: 33.2 mph, max speed recorded 60 mph at 4.15 p.m. on 13th December. Total cars recorded travelling down Kennel Lane from the A5: 28,253.
- Cllr Conway reported a local resident had allegedly been refused access onto the No.7 bus school service. Leicestershire County Council has advised that the school service was open to all. Such refusals should be reported to them by email: choosehowyoumove@leics.gov.uk or by calling their Customer Service Centre on 0116 305 0002 and they will raise the issue with the operator.
- Cllr Reading reported mud and dirt on Kennel Lane and Atterton Lane caused by farm machinery accessing fields.
- St Peter's Avenue resident had reported to Cllr Liggins problems with school user car parking. Clerk to raise with LCC.

20/017: NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP) UPDATE: Cllr Conway reported that work on drafting the various chapters of the Plan is nearer completion. There will shortly be meetings with the landowners of the most sustainable sites selected. The intention is to hold three informal consultation drop-in events in February to gauge resident's views on the draft Plan. After taking comments on board where appropriate the draft Plan will be brought to the Parish Council for approval before the Regulation 14 consultation takes place. The Treasurer had resigned, the Parish Clerk had agreed to take on the role (as she administers the expenditure) which would mean a slight increase in hours. Cllr Cook proposed agreement, seconded by Cllr Flude, all agreed.

20/018: ITEMS FOR INCLUSION AT THE NEXT MEETING: Thursday 13th February: Report on Community Resilience Plans, Clerk's Pay Increase. Meeting closed at 9.23 p.m.

Clerk

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