

Minutes of the Meeting of the Burton-by-Lincoln Parish Council
Held at the Burton Estate Club on Monday 17th July 2006

Present: Eric Bell (Chairman) Gary Lisseman, Steve Chadderton, Peter Russon, Joan Osterfield, Gillian Jolly.

In Attendance. Gordon Hickmore (Clerk), Cllr Ray Sellars,

Also Present: - 10 parishioners

Apologies: Cllr John Copeland, Cllr Sarah Anyan, Cllr David Cotton, PC Martin Clark (Lincolnshire police)
Peter Coates (Midas)

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th May were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

2. Clerk's Report

2.1 Vehicle Activated Road Sign (para 4.3). The Clerk reported he had had an unsatisfactory response from the Road Safety Partnership who had refused to endorse the purchase of an interactive road sign. In his view, the LRSP failed to communicate properly with parish councils and he had expressed his dissatisfaction with the LRSP through the Lincs Association of Local Councils. It was clear from responses from other Clerks that he was not alone in his criticism of the partnership. A meeting had been arranged on 19th July by the secretary of the LALC with the LRSP to try and resolve the problem of communication. In the meantime the Clerk had written to the County News, expressing the Council's dissatisfaction with the services to parishes offered by the LRSP. Councillors agreed to put the purchase of an interactive road sign on hold until the policy of the LRSP and Lincolnshire Highways is clarified.

2.2 County Assembly – Sleaford 24th May. The Clerk attended the County assembly in Sleaford on 24th May. The meeting which was called to debate the future of local government, was attended by over 300 councillors and clerks from across the County. Unfortunately the size of the meeting did not lead to an informed debate with the agenda side-tracked on issues that had little bearing on the proposed changes outlined in government consultation papers. The government white paper which was expected to be published in June, has now been delayed until the autumn and it is expected to contain proposals to empower local communities so they have greater control over local affairs. Pressure to introduce unitary authorities in Lincolnshire appears to have eased and the current belief is that the existing County and District Council structure will remain. The white paper is expected to contain mechanisms by which parishes can federate to provide a range of local services such as transportation and community policing.

2.3 Area Forum – Fiskerton 12th June. The Clerk reported that Area Forums and regional assemblies play increasingly important role in local democracy by enabling members of the public to express their views and concerns about the services provided by the District and County Councils. This meeting was attended by 150 people from Parishes in West Lindsey and included a presentation by the Fiskerton postmaster covering the problems faced by village post offices with the reorganisation of the Royal Mail. Road safety was an issue and again the LRSP was severely criticised for failing to respond to invitations to be represented at a meeting when road safety is discussed.

2.3 Defective Drain – Main St. The meeting was pleased to record that the defective drain had been repaired following further pressure by the Council and WLDC.

2.4 Graffiti. Responsibility for cleaning road signs on the B1398 was disputed by the District Council and Lincolnshire highways. A member of the Parish Council later removed the graffiti.

2.5 Litter Picking Equipment. The Clerk has received litter picking equipment from WLDC for use by the Burton Waters litter squad. The volunteer litter squad continues to operate along Fen Lane and the B1398.

3. Finance

3.1 Parish Balance. The parish balance on 1st July was £2489 with £2613.95 in the deposit account. The Parish had received £60 from a parishioner who wished to remain anonymous, as a donation to help towards the printing and distribution cost of the Burton Journal. A total of £70 has been received for Journal advertising.

3.2 Audit of accounts. An internal audit of the parish accounts was completed by Nigel France and the accounts forwarded to Moore Stephens for external audit on 30th June.

3.3 Authorisation of Expenditure. The follow expenditure was authorised by the Parish Council:

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|---------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Staples | £117.45 | | |
| Hickmore – admin expenses | £92 | | |
| | | Purchase of HP5 printer with spares | £45 |
| | | Black laser toner | £35 |
| | | Travel expenses | £12 |
| Cash Account | £50 | | |

4. Planning

4.1 Planning Applications. Planning applications were received as follows:

4.1.1 M06/P/0600 The Coach House, Burton. Planning application for extension of former coach house to dwelling house with enabling alterations and extension. The Parish Council opposed the application on the grounds that the coach house as a listed building, should remain as part of the Old Rectory and not be developed as a separate dwelling.

4.1.2 M06/P/0235 Burton Estate Club. Revised planning application for proposed extension for kitchen, bar and WC facilities. The Parish Council was unable to comment on the proposed plans as 5 of the 7 Councillors hold executive positions on the club committee. The application was passed back to WLDC for a decision.

4.1.3 M06/P/0305 Extension to Chandlery building Burton Waters. WLDC granted permission to erect a single story extension to the chandlery at Burton Waters.

4.1.4 M06/P/0344 Walnut Garth. The application to install a bay window at Walnut Garth was approved by WLDC.

4.1.5 M06/P/0394 Units11/12 Burton Waters. The application to install new shop front canopies at Unit 11/12 at Burton Waters was approved by WLDC.

4.2 Central Networks – Proposed new sub-station, Burton Village. The Chairman and Clerk met with the Central Networks Wayleaves Officer on 1st June and agreed positioning of the proposed new sub station in the wooded area between Beechcroft and Hawthorn cottage.

4.3 The Local Plan and The Local Development Framework. The Clerk explained that the new Local Plan was adopted on 19th June 2006 but it will become redundant in 2007 when it is replaced by the Local Development Framework (LDF). The problem with the current planning system is that the Local Plan is a very expensive and time consuming process which rapidly becomes outdated. The LDF is a rolling programme which does away with the need for periodic reviews and introduces flexibility into the planning system. There is far greater emphasis placed on public consultation and this is set out in the “Draft Statement of Community Involvement” A copy of the WLDC statement has been circulated to Councillors. The new local plan will, however, form part of the LDF and the plan will dovetail into the Lincolnshire and Regional plans.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Correspondence received included the following items:

WLDC information booklets

WLDC trees of Importance or Interest in Burton

WLDC Parish Council Survey

WLDC Adoption of the Local Plan review

WLDC Impact of windfall housing

David Lloyd Lincoln Triathlon 16th July

5.2 Tree felling orders. Following a complaint by a parishioner who was not informed of a decision to fell a tree close to his property, the Council sought clarification from WLDC on the procedure for removing trees that are not covered by a tree preservation order within the conservation area. WLDC stated that the Parish Council received a courtesy copy of the decision but it was up to householders to inform neighbours if they were seeking permission to fell a tree that was not protected. WLDC maintain that it is impracticable for the Council to be part of a consultation process.

6. Burton Waters and Odder

6.1 The Chairman and Clerk were invited to attend the formal opening of The Landings at Burton Waters on Friday 9th June. In addition to the premises already occupied, Yots Bistro has now opened and the Harbour Lights Chinese restaurant nears completion. Negotiations continue to find a tenant for the convenience store at units 1 and 2. Phase 5 on the residential site nears completion and it is expected that a start will be made shortly on the 59 dwellings to be built around the new basin. This will bring the total number of residential properties to 299. It is expected that the final phase of development, the commercial area on site B, will start in 2007.

6.2 No further planning applications have been received for the BW 2 site that includes the fishing lodges, holiday cottages and hotel complex. However, the council has been informed by the developer that they are in consultation with the WLDC planners to resolve the planning issues raised in the Inspector's report. It is hoped that the infrastructure work for the fishing lodges will commence in early September.

7. Highways and Road safety

7.1 White lining of the village road markings was completed in June and a request made to repair the road surface in Manor Lane. The Clerk agreed to contact the Highways Dept and request the following improvements to road signing along Fen lane:

7.1.1 The extension of the village 30mph limit to New Farm and a 50mph limit to the A57

7.1.2 The provision of cattle signs approaching the dairy farm and other field entrances where there are cattle movements.

7.1.3 The extension of the winter griting of Fen lane to the A57 roundabout.

7.1.4 Improvements to the road markings at the Dunster Lodge, Abbots View and Bridge Farm bends.

7.1.5 Replacement of the Chevrons at the Dunster and Abbots View bends.

8. Anglian Water Bench Seat

8.1 The Chairman reminded Councillors that it was agreed at the May meeting to review the decision on the siting of the Anglian Water Bench Seat. Two locations were suggested – in the wall recess on the footpath leading to St Vincent's Church or in the grounds Burton Estate Club. Following discussion it was agreed by 3 votes to 2 with one abstention that the seat should be located at the St Vincent's Church site. The Clerk agreed to speak with David Hansord to reaffirm his decision to allow the seat to be located on his land.

Resolved:

1. That the seat be located at St Vincent's church

2. That the Clerk reaffirms the decision with the landowner

9. Repairs to the Wellhead

9.1 The Clerk confirmed that he had been in indirect contact with Mr Atkin who appeared unwilling to meet with the council to discuss repairs to the wellhead. The Clerk had sought advice from another stonemason who suggested that the damage to the stonework had been caused by the poorly fitted coping stones that had allowed water to penetrate from above which then froze, causing the mortar to crumble. This allowed water to pool within the structure and be absorbed by the surrounding stonework. He had received an estimate of £1500 for repairs that included replacing the arch stone damaged by frost. There was little prospect of getting Mr Atkin to contribute to the cost of the work and legal redress would be difficult. He agreed to seek further estimates and seek a sponsor who would be willing to contribute to the cost of repairs.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 The Burton Journal. The summer edition of the Journal will be published on 21st July. The new editorial team has put together an excellent series of articles which include interviews and news items. The recently purchased HP5 printer, although somewhat slow and antiquated, produces good colour type and graphics which extends the colour content of the magazine. The team has secured some additional advertising to cover the cost of production.

10.2 Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th October at 7.30pm in the Estate club. The meeting approved the absence of Cllr Gillian Jolly from the meeting on 10th October.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9pm.

Eric Bell

Chairman