

## HEATHER PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of Heather Parish Council Held on Tuesday October 10th, 2023, at 7pm at the David Taylor Memorial Hall

Present: Councillor P Harris, Councillor A Wright, Councillor S Pettitt, Councillor J Clarke, Councillor J Petty, Councillor G Johnson.

Donna Purday (Parish Clerk)

In Attendance District Councillor Guy Rogers,  
Peter Fell (Resident),  
Ro Harding (Resident)  
Hannah Bruntnell (Resident)  
David Bruntnell (Resident)

Apologies Councillor Dan Harrison,  
Virge Richichi (Resident)

Declaration of Interests: None

#### **69. Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Meetings held on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of August and Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of September had been circulated before the meeting and it was proposed by Councillor Clarke that they were a true and accurate record and seconded by Councillor Pettitt that they were a true and accurate record all were in favour.

#### **70. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **71. Public Question and Answer Session**

1. A member of the public raised concerns about the recently laid track at Cattows Farm Heather. She stated that there are already problems with the sound of car horns and wheels spinning at the location and that there may be another accident as a result.

The path that has had work on is a bridal way and is the responsibility of Leicestershire Council.

Councillor Clarke advised that Planning permission had been sought but was not granted and that the farmer only has right of way to access his fields.

The member of public advised that she had no objections to the track being used for forestry work but not for public events. She also had concerns about road safety if the track was to be used for events and asked if it was possible to reduce the speed limit on Sweystone Road from 60MPH down to 50MPH. It was advised that there is already a proposal with Leicestershire County Highways for this.

Councillor Clarke added that the farmer had been spoken to by County Councillor Dan Harrison and that it had also been referred to NWLDC's planning enforcement.

It has been requested by Councillor Clarke that the Parish Clerk write to both the County Council and District Council's enforcement teams to "demand" that the track be put back to its' former use as no planning permission has been granted and request that a representative from Highways should come down to see the track. It has also been requested that we advise in the letter there is video and photographic evidence should they require it.

2. Councillor Rogers raised the question emailed by a member of the public regarding disabled access difficulties to the church yard and cemetery via Belcher Closed. The kissing gate has a piece of wood across the top which prevents access. It was agreed that the wood should be removed it was also discussed that there are some dropped kerbs on the footpaths that are mainly for private use but could be utilised to gain access.

## **72. District and County Councillors Comments**

Councillor Rogers reported that he had news from NWLDC that the free tree scheme is to be run again and that on offer there are Hazel, Rowan and Wild Cherry on offer and that there is also up to 30 metres of hedging on offer applications can be done online.

It was also discussed that 55 Mill Lane has now been passed and work has started Councillor Petty stated that they were pulling up trees from the bridal way adjacent and it was also confirmed that they do have permission to use Pisca Lane to gain access to the properties.

### **73. Allotment Inspections 19/09, 25/09, 03/10, & 10/10**

Councillor Wright reported that the letter that has been issued to the allotment holders has unsettled them. She has spoken to the allotment co-ordinator Paul who has agreed that they were getting into a poor state and that he felt it was the correct thing to do to contact them as the holders have been using black plastic whilst putting horse manure underneath and not cultivating the land correctly. It has been requested that Paul the co-ordinator be emailed and advised of the meeting dates to attend.

### **74. Village Tree Warden**

Warden not present

### **75. Village Issues**

#### **1. Play Area Inspections 19/09, 25/09, 03/10, & 10/10**

The Belcher Close play equipment still requires the rope repairing we are still the rope length is still required the Clerk is to arrange.

#### **2. Table Tennis Table**

Mark Chapman of Redlynch attended the village on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> October it has been decided that the table will be located near the youth shelter on the Recreation ground. It requires a concrete base to site the table on. QPI is to be approached to see if it is possible for them to lay the base.

#### **3. Cemetery Progress**

On Friday a visit was also made to Heather Cemetery the last burial plot (number 115) has just been taken, we are now on the last row. There are 16 plots left which at an average of 3 funerals per year means there is roughly 6 years space left. It was decided that the Council push on with the Cemetery extension application and that Ian Nelson of NWLDC be contacted. It has been requested that the burials team be spoken to about plans being pursued. There is also a mound on the proposed new cemetery site that may need investigation as there may be bricks underneath.

The clerk also advised that the on the Cemetery plan the row of graves just completed has been drawn incorrectly and plot 100 is on the left-hand side of the plan rather than starting in line with plot 109 (where it is in the Cemetery). It was agreed that the clerk should contact the Burials officers at NWLDC to seek advice.

**4. Green Shoots**

The chair asked if anyone was available to help plant the 2,000 bulbs that have been delivered to his property and there have been offers at various times throughout the next 2 weeks. It was suggested that bulbs be planted surrounding the play area at Belcher Close, in the garden at the Recreation ground, Newton Road where the services offices are, the Millenium boxes, near the bridges and boxes and benches.

**5. Tree and Grounds Maintenance**

It was discussed if an additional cut of the grassed areas was needed due to the warmer weather. It was decided against as it is forecasted to turn cooler this week.

Regular tree maintenance works was also discussed at the meeting as Ian had approached the Council about doing yearly maintenance work on them to avoid any costly remedial works. It has been requested that the contract with SDI be traced to establish if the work is already included in the contract.

**6. Register of Purchased Graves**

The Council approved the purchase of a new Register of Purchased Graves be purchased (we are down to the last line in the current book).

**7. Motion Activated Vehicle Signs**

The activated Vehicle sign funding that is on offer via Leicestershire County Highways was raised by Councillor Pettitt. County Councillor Dan Harrison has advised the Council to request permanent electrically operated VAS signs to be located on both Pisca Lane and Mill Lane under the funding scheme.

There was some discussion about where the signs should be located, and it has been decided that they should be on lampposts where there are power sources.

The locations that have been decided are:

**Mill Lane Lamp post number 12 and  
Pisca Lane Lamp post number 7.**

It has been requested that the signs say "Please Slow Down."

The Clerk will email Stephen Godfrey to request the installation of the signs and they be fully installed and maintained by Leicestershire County Highways and there should be no expense to the Parish Council.

**8. CPR Training -Free of Charge**

This was discussed and Councillor Clark and Councillor Harris are to attend. An email is to be sent to confirm.

## 76. Village Hall

1. **Boiler**  
Still requires a service to contact an engineer.
2. **Kitchen Blind**  
To contact Stephen Holmes, Councillor Johnson suggested sourcing from Blinds 2 Go.
3. **Gopak Tables**  
Three quotes were distributed by the clerk, and it was agreed that they be purchased from the Church Buying Group quote number 14562.

## 77. Accounts

1. **Scribe Accounting Software**  
The Clerk presented the proposal to introduce Scribe accounting software. There were no objections to introducing it and the Chair and Councillor Pettitt felt it would modernize and speed up the accountancy process. All were in favour of the introduction. Authority was then signed by all Councillors for Mrs LJ Weaver to assist in the installation of the software.
2. **Council Income for September 2023**
  - £ 205.00 Burial Fees
  - £ 132.92 Cheque from the National Grid for Wayleaves
  - £7305.00 Council Precept
  - £ 55.00 Memorial installation fee
3. **Council Expenditure for September**
  - £ ████████ Clerks Salary
  - £ 30.77 Clerks Expenses
  - £432.00 CJ Springthorpe Hanging Basket Watering
  - £109.00 LRALC Parish Clerk Training
  - £ 50.00 LRALC Parish Clerk Training
  - £ 82.37 Water Plus
4. **Village Hall Income for September 2023**
  - £304.00 Hall hire

## 5. Village Hall Expenses for September 2023

£160.29 E Holmes Cleaning

£ 91.80 Eon

£ 12.85 British Gas

All invoices are sent out until the end of September.

The Bank Statement for September for Heather Parish Council was received.

The Bank Statement for Heather Recreation Ground for September was also received.

## 78. Planning Applications

Decisions this month and decisions awaited.

19/01441/OUT Land rear of 55 Mill Lane Heather	Erection of two detached Dwellings - Granted
23/00466/FUL 5 Belcher Close Heather	1 <sup>st</sup> floor extn above ex garage Demol Conservatory build Single Storey rear Extension
22/01547/FUL Adj 2 Station Terrace	One Dwelling & Vehicular access
23/0052/FUL Whitehouse Farm Heather	Extn to breakfast room, garage/gym/ Games Room, alteration to existing area, and add driveway
23/01211/FUL Old Thorntree Farm Ravenstone Road Heather	Extension to Existing commercial Unit and change of use to Joinery Workshop

55 Mill Lane was discussed, and it was confirmed that access had been granted via Pisca Lane for vehicles to gain access.

Concerns were also raised by Councillor Petty that the extension at Old Thorntree Farm may increase heavy traffic on Ravenstone Road.

## 79. Chairpersons Comments

- Councillor Harris had nothing to report.
- Councilor Johnson also had nothing to report.
- It was confirmed that the lights on Pisca Lane are now repaired.

- It was also requested that the clerk contact NWLDC for a street sweep to be done on Pisca Lane
- Councillor Johnson suggested that due to the absence of the police being unable to attend meetings that crime figures for the area can be accessed at Police.uk.
  
- Councilor Pettitt had nothing to report
- Councillor Wright requested that the green bin be removed, Clerk to arrange.
- Councillor Wright has also reported that she is to arrange for Daniel Brown to repair the fence.

## **80. District and County Council**

District Council – Nothing to date

County Council – Nothing to Date

## **81. Correspondence and Circulars**

Clerks and Councils Direct

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> November at The David Taylor Memorial Hall.

## **Future Meetings**

12<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

All Meetings to be held at The David Taylor Memorial Hall at 7pm

Website address: [www.heatherparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.heatherparishcouncil.org.uk)