

HEATHER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Heather Parish Council Held on Tuesday December 12th at 7pm at the David Taylor Memorial Hall

Present: Councillor Steve Pettitt, Councillor Garry Johnson, Councillor Alison Wright, Councillor John Clarke, Councillor John Petty.

Donna Purday (Parish Clerk)

In Attendance Leicestershire Police & Crime Commissioner Rupert Matthews, County Councillor Dan Harrison, County Councillor Craig Smith, District Councillor Guy Rogers, District Councillor Simon Lambert.
PCSO Edward Fowkes, PC Rich Willett.
Peter Fell (Resident), Virge Richichi (Resident)

Apologies Councillor Phil Harris

Declaration of Interests: None

93. Minutes

- The minutes of the Parish Meetings held on Tuesday the 14th of November 2023 had been circulated before the meeting and it was proposed by Councillor John Clarke and seconded by Councillor Garry Johnson that they were a true and accurate record all were in favour.

94. Matters Arising

- There were no matters arising.

95. Report from Rupert Matthews Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner

- Mr. Matthews reported that the police had received various complaints in the village about traffic problems such as speeding, noise from motorbikes and vehicles going down roads such as

Pisca Lane and Mill Lane that are over the weight limits. He reported that usually taking down the details of the vehicle and contacting them giving a warning usually works and they tend to go the other way.

- He also reported that in the area Police Officers have been out to various locations observing drivers, and noting if they were speeding or driving erratically or not wearing seat belts or on Mobile Phones etc. They located plain clothes officers further down the road who were stopped 4 had no seatbelt, 4 were speeding and one was under the influence of drugs and was also in possession of drugs. One was also over the weight limit.
- Councillor Clarke asked if there had been an increase in Road deaths. Mr. Matthews confirmed that road deaths had increased but the number of Road Traffic accidents has gone down since lockdown.

- Councillor Johnson expressed concern that the exit from Gadsby Road onto Swebstone Road has a poor sight line and there is also a chicane, and the signs also need cleaning. The speed limit increases from 30MPH to 60MPH just after the junction. He has observed vehicles driving down Swebstone Road as if it's Brands Hatch, and that it is an accident waiting to happen. Councillor Johnson will be sending photographic evidence of the problems at the junction to Mr. Matthews.

He asked what could be done about it. Mr. Matthews believed that the necessary measures should have been implemented at the time of building the properties. The Chair went on to explain about the reduction in the planned properties (only 35 out of the original 190) were built on Gadsby Road and the traffic calming measures were not implemented by the builders. It was discussed and determined that a collaborative approach with Leicestershire County Highways and the police should be pursued.

Councillor Johnson confirmed that the speeding problems are not just on Swebstone Road, but also take place on Pisca Lane, and Mill Lane. The chair also confirmed the problem times are between 7am to 9am and 4pm to 6pm and that the police have never been down to do a surveillance between these times.

- County Councillor Craig Smith asked what provision was being made over the Christmas Period. It was confirmed that lots of publicity has been put out telling people not to drink and drive, and that there is extra police provision out to observe vehicles being driven erratically equipped with ANPR that is linked to Swansea computer systems to identify vehicles not taxed.
- Councillor Clarke asked what number of people have been prosecuted driving through Ibstock. Mr. Matthews stated that he was not aware of the figures and would need to find out.

Mr. Matthews confirmed his email as.
rupert.matthews@leics.pcc.police.uk

96. Public Question and Answer Session

- No questions asked.

97. Community Policing

- PC Willett reported that the incidents of Note are on the 5/12 there was a report of a stolen vehicle, 9/12 a car parked in a layby and no action was taken. It was requested by Councillor Johnson if the Cadets could be brought down to the village and the handheld speed cameras be used in the village to do some speed checks. It was confirmed that it could be done but the weather and light need to be good. It was suggested that perhaps Spring would be a good time to do it.

98. District and County Councillors Comments

- Councillor Harrison stated that he would like to pay a visit to the Bridal Way at Cattows Farm and would like two Parish Councillors to go down with him. It was agreed Councillor Harrison will arrange the day and time and that Councillor Pettitt, and, Councillor Wright will go down with him to discuss the return of the Bridal way to its' original state.
- He also said that considering the recent events at Cattows farm, something needs to be done with regards to traffic management at future events. The Chair confirmed that 2 Four 6 Events are keen to work with the Parish and want to set up the forum that was in place when James Dean used to run them.
- Councillor Rogers said he had asked the question at the full District Council meeting and confirmed that a full meeting with all agencies had taken place at Cattows Farm. All events going forward were to be notified to the relevant authorities and the Forum to be reset up Councillor Rogers has confirmed he is keen for both the Parish Council to be involved.
- Councillor Harrison raised the VAS sign funding that is allocated for the village. The Parish Clerk confirmed that the last email that was sent confirming the required locations was in October and that she had heard nothing since. It was requested that the email confirming our requirements be sent again and the email be also circulated to Angie Dunn.

99. Report from Allotment Holder Co-ordinator

- The Allotment Co-ordinator was not present the clerk has reported that there is a holder that wants to move to a quarter plot it was agreed that she should move to plot number 11b1 and this would leave two half plots (8a & 8b) to let out.

- The location of the bench in memory of a resident was discussed, and it was decided that it should be located towards the far end of the allotments towards the stile the chair has advised that Mrs. Draper has agreed with Councillor Pettitt that the Parish Council source the bench on her behalf but it should not be too expensive.

100. Village Issues

- **Play Area Inspection Dates: 13/11, 28/11. 05/12**
- **Table Tennis Table** – It was agreed that we request that the Scarecrow Festival funding for the Table Tennis table is to be ring fenced.
- **Cemetery Progress** – We are down to the last 12 plots in the cemetery. The Clerk is to contact Cuckoo Gap to organise for some test bore holes to be dug.
- **Community Chest Grants** – The Chair is to Contact Cat Ridgeway about the grants as the quotes have come in very high and the Parish are unable to afford to pay the remaining balance for the swings. The Clerk confirmed that the closing date for this round is due to close on the 31st of December 2023. The application is to be shelved pending a further decision.
- **Hanging Baskets** – The Clerk has confirmed that she has accepted the quote from Springthorpes for Summer 2024.

101. Village Hall

- The Clerk advised that she had received an email from one of the users of the hall asking if it was possible to still hold her class during scarecrow week due to a potential loss of income. It was discussed and decided that we are to allow her to do so. The Clerk is to action.
- **Boiler** – Still requires a service.
- **Hall Hire during Scarecrow Festival Week** -The Clerk raised that she has been contacted by a lady that does a regular class to request if she could still use it during the festival week it was agreed that we would allow her to hire the hall during the evening.

102. Accounts

- **To Approve the Following Payments for November 2023**

£1083.69 Clerks Salary
£ 20.64 Clerks Expenses
£3680.00 SDI Landscaping and Gardening Services
£ 118.80 Scribe Accounting*
£ 402.76 E Holmes*

- ***The above payments should usually be approved and paid for out of the Recreation Ground Account. Which through difficulties setting up the new account and the retired clerk no longer able to authorise cheques cannot be done yet it has been agreed that the payments be made from the Parish Council account then the money be transferred when the new Recreation Ground account is open.**

- **Council Income for November 2023**

£ 205.00 Burial Fees

- **Village Hall Expenses November 2023**

£ 468.65 AJ Bartlett
£ 80.24 Eon
£ 27.34 British Gas

- **Village Hall Income November 2023**

£ 354.00 Hall Hire Fees

- Clerk to declare £50.00 Compensation Cheque from Lloyds Bank.
- To Receive Lloyds Bank Statements for The Parish Council November 2023.
- To Receive Lloyds Bank Statements for Heather Recreation Ground November 2023.
- Clerk raised if anyone else is willing have full access to the bank accounts to enable authorise payments on the accounts. Councillor Johnson has requested to see the T's & Cs of the account. It has been agreed that all Councillors should view the accounts and then to add another authority onto the account. The Clerk is also to check with the Bank how much the liability is for authorities should a payment fail

103 Planning Applications

Decisions this month and decision awaited.

- 23/01211/FUL Old Thorntree Farm Heather Extension to Existing Commercial Premises and change of use to Joinery Workshop
- 23/01510/OUT Land off Swebstone Road Heather Self Build Dwelling (Outline all matters Reserved)
- Councillor John Clarke declared a Non-Pecuniary in Planning Application number 23/01510/OUT.

104. Chairpersons Comments

- Councillor Clarke stated that he still wishes to push planning enforcement on the Bridal Way at Cattows Farm to return the track to its' former state.
- There was another discussion about the speeding problems in Heather and Councillor Johnson has confirmed that we may have a visit from the new Sargeant at Coalville soon.
- Councillor Petty had nothing to add.
- Councillor Johnson raised the possibility of the approach from the cricket club about using the Recreation ground to play cricket again to create revenue and use the ground. The Chair confirmed that he believed the club had been approached by Market Bosworth Cricket Club. Councillor Johnson felt it would be of benefit to the Recreation Ground.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday the 9th January 2024 7pm at The David Taylor Memorial Hall.

Future Meetings

13th February 2024, 12th March 2024

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

Website address: www.heatherparishcouncil.org.uk

