

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 2nd July 2019

Public Forum

There were five members of the public present one of which spoke on behalf of those present raising their concerns of SKDC Planning Application S19/0812. The residents aired their concerns and Chairperson Caroline Hainsworth explained that the planning application and the concerns raised would be discussed by the Councillors in the Planning section of the meeting.

Present

Councillors: C Hainsworth, C Russell, A Walden, F Selby, L Bennett, G Henton, J Clark, A Bouvie, L Mc Shane, R Brocklebank & M Ramage.

In Attendance

Sue Grant Parish Clerk. District Councillors Bob Adams and David Bellamy arrived at 7.57pm.

Agenda Item No	Item	Action By
19.77	Apologies for absence: Cllr D Cox valid reasons given	
19.78	Chairman's Remarks: The Chairperson Caroline Hainsworth commented that the evenings agenda was full, and this was a really very good sign of a proactive Council. She also commented that it is really encouraging to see how many Cllrs have been involved in the business on the agenda. A lot of work has been carried out behind the scenes between meetings which is commendable and thanked everyone, especially to those who had contributed to some of the discussions around issues as they arise between meetings.	
19.79	Declarations of interest in accordance with the LGA 2000: Cllr Selby Agenda Item 19.84.	
19.80	Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting: It was proposed, seconded and Resolved That the official minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 4 th June 2019 be approved as a correct record and duly signed and dated by the Chairman.	
19.81	Co-Option for Councillor for Gunby and Stainby: No applications, the vacancy will be re-advertised.	Clerk
19.82	Co-Option for Councillor for Colsterworth: No applications, the vacancy will be re-advertised.	Clerk
19.83	Communications Policy Review. (Cllr Clark): It was proposed, seconded and Resolved To include a Communications tracker and reference to ensure that every piece of communication is answered. Cllr Clark and the Clerk to work together on producing a format for review for the September meeting. The Communications Policy is due for review in September and Cllr Clark agreed to present a reviewed Communications Policy to Council for ratification at the September meeting.	Clerk Cllr Clark
19.84	A working Group is established to explore with the Charities Commission the formation of a new Youth Activities Charity (name to be decided) with wider scope under the Sole Trusteeship of the Colsterworth and District Parish Council as described under OPTION 2 CH/AW 30 April 2019 document. (Cllr Cox & Cllr Selby). It was proposed, seconded and Resolved The proposal was postponed pending the Working Party confirming that Council would not be financially exposed by becoming Sole Trustees. Cllrs Walden, Hainsworth and McShane will report back at September meeting.	Cllr Hainsworth Cllr Walden Cllr McShane
19.85	To resolve to investigate funding to install new play area at North Witham. (Cllr Clark)	Cllr Walden Cllr Clark

Agenda Item No	Item	Action By
	<p><u>It was proposed, seconded and Resolved</u> Unanimously agreed and a working group set up consisting of Cllr Walden, Cllr Hainsworth and Cllr Clark.</p>	Cllr Hainsworth
19.86	<p>Agree to bring forward the November Parish Council Meeting from 5th November to 31st October 2019: <u>It was proposed, seconded and Resolved</u> Unanimously agree to move the meeting to Wednesday 30th October, at 7.30pm, venue North Witham Village Hall due to Colsterworth Village Hall being unavailable.</p>	Clerk
19.87	<p>Risk Exception Report. (Previously circulated) <u>It was proposed, seconded and Resolved</u> Unanimously agreed the updates made.</p>	Clerk
19.88	Clerks Report	
1	Report of a dead tree Colster Way Playing Field.	Clerk contacted SKDC Planning confirmed that no TPO in place. Arranging for 3 x estimates to remove the tree.
2	CSW 30mph sign replaced on Woolthorpe Road.	Monitor sign for damage.
3	Glass panel shattered in North Witham Parish Council Notice Board.	Police 101 report made by Clerk and arranging for glass panel to be replaced.
4	Report of overgrown weeds on footpath 7.	Report made to SKDC who attended and cleared the weeds.
5	HM Land Registry change of Parish Council correspondence address complete.	Copy of Deeds filed.
6	Overhanging tree branches on footpath 7.	Landowner contacted and arranging for tree surgeon to attend.
	19.88.1. Correspondence Received up to 30.06.19:-	
1	LALC News hard copy price increase from £5 to £6 per annum.	Cllrs agreed hard copy not required as soft copy circulated to all members by the Clerk.
2	Email received re the grass on Belvoir Close roundabout. Rare wild bee orchids found.	Wildlife Trust contacted and recommended the grass is not cut until end of July for the management of wild bee orchids.
3	Email request to erect green house on Stamford Road allotment 8ft x 6ft.	Agreed, Clerk to write to the tenant.
4	Grant request for October 2019 from Gunby PCC for assistance with grass cutting.	Forward agenda to the F&A October 2019 Meeting.
5	Rural Services Network Transport Consultation to explore the potential for rural mobility to address rural needs.	-
6	Email received from resident chasing up when the work on the road markings will commence on High Street/Back Lane.	Still awaiting notification from LCC Highways for a start date.
	19.88.2 Planning Applications:	
	<p>SKDC Planning Applications S19/0812 – 2, Colster Way, Colsterworth. Stone & Brick boundary front wall & electric sliding gate & personal gate.</p>	S19/0812: Agreed that the PC would submit comments to SKDC in support of the resident concerns from the earlier Public Forum.

Agenda Item No	Item	Action By
	S19/0952 – 8, Pasture Close, Colsterworth. 2 storey side extension.	-
	S19/1094 – 4, Colster Way, Colsterworth. 2 storey side extension	-
	S19/0894 – 5, Ash Close, Colsterworth Wrap around extension.	S19/0894: Agreed the PC will submit comments to SKDC.
	SKDC Lawful Development Certificate S19/0893 – 5 Ash Close, Colsterworth.	
	SKDC Approval	
	S19/0759 – Removal of Weeping Ash to ground level. The Old Rectory, Rectory Lane, North Witham.	
	S19/0703 – Ashleigh, Bourne Road. Extension to straw barn	
19.89	Group Reports:	
19.89.1	<p>Highways and Footpaths Working Group Report. (Previously circulated) Appended to these minutes. Second CSW Training session completed 02/07/19. Dates of CSW activities to be shared with the PCSO Stuart Bowden.</p> <p>HGV's at North Witham To resolve that the Parish Council delegates its power to the H&F Working Group, to open formal channels of dialogue with SKDC, LCC and the Police to consider the options put forward in this report. It was proposed, seconded and Resolved Unanimously agreed.</p> <p>Cllr Hainsworth also suggested a signage survey and Cllr Brocklebank agreed if there was a clear purpose for this</p>	<p>Cllr Hainsworth/Clerk</p> <p>H&F Working Group</p> <p>Cllrs Hainsworth and Brocklebank</p>
19.89.2	<p>Environment & Amenities Working Group Report</p> <p>i) War Memorial Trust Grant application progress update. (M Ramage) Once the decision from the WMT is received this will be circulated electronically by the Clerk for agreement 'Yes' or 'No' for the September meeting.</p>	Cllr Ramage Clerk
19.89.3	<p>ii) To resolve to join the Volunteer Emergency Telephone System, to support the Defibrillator's. (Cllrs Ramage & Russell). It was proposed, seconded and Resolved Discussion took place and it was clarified that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers would co-ordinate the volunteers. • All volunteers will be indemnified by VETS not the Parish Council • Start up costs of £220.00 with £100.00pa subscription to VETS <p>Agreed by a majority to join the Volunteer Emergency Telephone System. The Working Party identified Stainby, Gunby and Lobthorpe are not sufficiently covered by Defibrillators and this has been noted as a gap in the service.</p>	Cllr Ramage/Cllr Russell/Clerk
19.89.4	Finance and Administration Committee Report. (Next scheduled quarterly reconciliation meeting is July 2019 with report to Council in September 2019.)	
19.89.5	District Councillor Bob Adams Report. The new contractors responsible for the Colsterworth Bus Service have restored it to its normal service.	
19.90	Finance: Approve Accounts for Payment. <u>Online Payments</u>	
	In Touch Editing May Issue	£60.00

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19.91	<p data-bbox="304 1469 986 1536">Matters requiring attention such as potholes and faulty streetlights.</p> <ul data-bbox="352 1570 1102 1664" style="list-style-type: none"> • Overhanging vegetation Woolsthorpe Road • Footpath from Bridge End to Co-op very narrow, difficult for mobility scooters and wheelchair users. 	Clerk Clerk																																						
19.76	<p data-bbox="304 1700 1131 1733">Date of next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 3rd September 2019.</p> <p data-bbox="304 1767 1131 1834">There being no other business Chairperson C Hainsworth closed the meeting at 10 pm.</p> <p data-bbox="352 1868 464 1901">SIGNED:</p> <p data-bbox="304 1935 504 1968">CHAIRPERSON</p> <p data-bbox="927 1935 1007 1968">DATE:</p>																																							
	<p data-bbox="304 1995 1131 2051">Attendance to date (May 2019 to April 2020) – annual maximum 10 (No meeting August & January)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="304 2051 1131 2148"> <thead> <tr> <th>Cllr Name</th> <th>Constituency</th> <th>Attended</th> <th>Apologies</th> <th>Absent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>J Clark</td> <td>North Witham & Lobthorpe</td> <td>3</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Cllr Name	Constituency	Attended	Apologies	Absent	J Clark	North Witham & Lobthorpe	3	0																														
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	A Bouvie	Colsterworth	3	0		
	Vacancy	Colsterworth	-	-		
	C Hainsworth	Gunby & Stainby	3	0		
	G Henton	Colsterworth	3	0		
	L McShane	Colsterworth	2	1		
	C Russell	Colsterworth	3	0		
	L Bennett	Colsterworth	3	0		
	F Selby	Colsterworth	3	0		
	D Cox	Colsterworth	2	1		
	A Walden	Colsterworth	3	0		
	Vacancy	Colsterworth	-	-		
	Vacancy	Gunby & Stainby	-	-		
	M Ramage	Colsterworth	3	0		
	R Brocklebank* Co-opted June 19	North Witham & Lobthorpe	1	-		

HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS WORKING GROUP
Report to Parish Council 02 July 2019
Lead Cllrs: L Bennett, J Clark, C Hainsworth (Co-ordinator),

1. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

	Update at 28 May 2019
<p>Sign up to the Community Speedwatch Programme (Resolution carried forward from July 2018)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £5,000.00 ringfenced in Council Reserves to take this forward in accordance with identified Powers and Duties for road safety Ward Grant £200 received from SKDC for expenditure for clothing (with logo), signage and equipment for volunteers Currently there are no plans to purchase an additional VAS until the current one has been installed and tested. Costs may be incurred for maintenance and software 	<p>Phase 1: SIGNAGE Complete - Passive signs have been installed Update: Sign on Woolsthorpe Road has been replaced</p>
	<p>Phase 2: APPROVED LOCATIONS Complete – Monitoring sites identified along B676 Potential new sites at Woolsthorpe and North Witham to be identified and confirmed with LRSP - TBC</p>
	<p>Phase 3: VOLUNTEERS AND TRAINING Recruitment and Training of volunteers Training carried out with seven volunteers on 8th May 2019 at North Witham Village Hall. Indemnity forms completed Additional volunteers identified – dates given by CSW Trainer for June/July – awaiting details of uptake from Cllr Bennett</p>
	<p>Phase 4: VAS Complete - Vehicle Activated Sign installed at Stainby Update: Data can be retrieved “roadside” onto laptop. Analysis takes some time using the software provided.</p>
	<p>Phase 5: EQUIPMENT/EXPENDITURE Equipment received and being used Potential further expenditure anticipated (Council Reserves):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar charger for VAS – enquiries being made of Unipart (£1200) Additional Speed gun – not required at this stage (£200) Additional VAS sign – not being considered at this stage (£2000)
	<p>Phase 6: MONITORING Update: Schedule being implemented and PCSO kept informed. Inclement weather currently affecting scheduled sessions. One session carried out in Stainby and first set of data submitted.</p>
	<p>Sustainability Once set up there needs to be a planned programme of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer monitoring – where and when Data returns and outcomes regarding enforcement In Touch updates promoting the scheme Ongoing recruitment of volunteers

2. UPDATE ON FOOTPATHS

- 2.1. The only footpath issue that Cllr Bennett is aware of is the short stretch from Newton Way across Woolsthorpe Road leading to the Nature Trail; is very overgrown and therefore very unpleasant to use; On either side there are thorn hedges growing into the path and stinging nettles underneath, not a nice type of vegetation to brush against. Community Gardener did attend to this in the past and Clerk will be investigating this further.
- 2.2. There have been no other reports to Cllr Bennett about blocked or unusable footpaths.
- 2.3. Report of overgrown weeds and low overhanging tree branches from the Colsterworth Primary School playing field on footpath 7 which runs from Colster Way to Back Lane. A report has been made to SKDC Big Clean regarding the overgrown weeds and a letter has been sent to the Primary School informing them that the overhanging branches need some attention
- 2.4. Report of overgrown bushes on Houghton Lane adjacent to the Doctors Surgery and The White Lion Public House. The Clerk to investigate and write to both parties if necessary.

3. LCC PRIORITIES

LCC Priorities have been fully documented in May 2019 report. Works will be monitored, and new issues raised will be considered to inform any review of priorities.

Priority	Current Situation and updates
1 Junction of Back Lane/High Street	The H bar marking will be marked out on site and the local team will get this painted on the ground as soon as possible. Update: Outstanding – no notice of when work starting has been received although summer line painting has commenced.
2 High Street/B676/Stamford Road Crossroads Consider moving 30mph speed limit area/sign entering Colsterworth eastbound back towards Stainby This is too close to the crossroads, is often obscured by overhanging branches and is too close to crossroads <i>Cllr Mason has highlighted a precedent that may have been set in that the 30mph speed limit signs at the west end of Woolsthorpe Road were moved further west a few years ago as a safety issue regarding speeding traffic arriving in Woolsthorpe.</i>	The extension of the 30mph speed limit is not possible as it does not meet the county council's "current policy". Still not clear what the current policy is? Update: Cllr Brocklebank has raised a specific concern: "Last year I reported the 30mph signs on the B676 Stainby Road approach to the Bourne Road High Street Junction were obscured by vegetation. Highways decided there was no issue and declined to cut back the foliage. Unsurprisingly the signs are obscured again. The first pair, Reduce Speed and partially obscured, the right hand (south) 30 mph is almost totally obscured and the other not much better. My observation is that trucks and vehicles travelling towards the A1 increase speed up the Stainby Road towards the crossroads. In my opinion the exit from High Street is particularly hazardous with fast traffic from the right. Can you please pass on my concerns to the Highways subgroup to try and get them to press LCC for proper action on the obscured signs"? <u>This has been reported by the Clerk to Cllr Adams as per agreement regarding communications around Highways.</u>
3 Consider extending 50mph speed limit from Leicestershire border from Buckminster with a view to educate drivers regarding their speed as they approach and go through Stainby and Colsterworth	There is a Community Speed Watch scheme in progress in the area which will assist with this issue. LCC policy is not met to extend the current 50mph limit Roadside monitoring and data collection to take place from June 2019
4 High Street Details of proposals received for traffic calming on the High Street (particularly at Houghton Lane due to the narrowing of the road and children crossing) have been shared with LCC. Whilst we understand that there currently is little quantitative evidence of accidents or injuries held by LCC, this is still a priority for Parishioners. There have been anecdotal incidents reported of "near misses", blocked road due to buses not being able to	LCC are not currently processing traffic calming scheme requests but they will place the requested restrictions on the list for further investigation. There are obvious issues with schemes of this nature including displaced parking, increased speeds etc. This is something that will be considered when the investigation takes place, but there are no timescales available for this at the minute Update: Still no contact to date from LCC regarding "further investigations". Incidents will be logged to inform any further representations.

	Priority	Current Situation and updates
	pass parked cars, etc. this will continue to be monitored through the Council's Highways and Footpaths Working Group.	
5	Bridge End: New issues have arisen with the move of the Co-op; (e.g. parking on verges, lack of pavement, risks of flooding). As indicated in point 4 above, there have been no reported accidents or injuries, but the situation will be monitored. In respect of the lack of pavement we would urge LCC to consider this as consultees in any housing developments in that area.	The PCs comments are noted and have been passed on to those who look at developments and their impact. Update: Following resolution by Council at June 2019 meeting, the Clerk wrote to LCC Highways to enquire what road furniture could be installed – this work has now been scheduled to install posts either side of the Co-op entrance
6	A1: The Parish Council has consistently raised concerns about the safety of the A1 and this is reported at monthly meetings as the closures and congestion impacts directly on our Parish.	The A1 does not fall within the remit of LCC; LCC are putting pressure on Highways England to undertake the survey/review that was promised some time ago. Update: County Cllr Bob Adams is now on the LCC Highways & Planning Committee and confirmed that there will be a consultation about the A1 – CAD Parish Council will be invited to attend. Cllr Bellamy continues to monitor the situation.
7	Flooding/Drainage/Soakaways: There has become a noticeable deterioration in drainage of surface water due to the lack of maintenance, particularly on the B676 (from crossroads to A1)	Continue to monitor and report issues through standard processes.

4. ISSUES LOG – Traffic and road safety

4.1. Cllr Clark has reported an HGV driver to their employer when clearly contravening the speed limit and driving threateningly close to the vehicle in front who was adhering to the speed limit. It was pointed out that there were breaches of S2, S3 and S5 of the Road Traffic Act and S4 of the Public Order Act (careless driving, dangerous driving, aggressive driving and conduct that can be reported to the East Midlands Traffic Commissioner).

There was a favourable response and hopefully this sort of reporting will continue to educate the professional drivers who are driving without due consideration to the law and the community.

4.2. Clerk continues to report potholes etc. as they arise however, it is within the remit of all Cllrs and indeed members of the public to report issues on the **Fixmystreet website** (<https://fixmystreet.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>)

This is a useful monitoring tool with a detailed map of defects reported and the Clerk will arrange for this to be advertised in "In Touch" and also on the Parish Website.

4.3. Several issues have been reported by Cllr Brocklebank on "Fixmystreet" which has been exacerbated by the heavy rainfall week commencing 10 June 2019. Some issues previously reported have been closed as not requiring attention but LCC will continue to monitor these as part of their safety inspection schedule. It is not clear how this is monitored and actioned?

5. NORTH WITHAM

In February 2019 the longstanding issues about HGVs using the roads in and around North Witham were highlighted to the Parish Council (specifically the bottom of the village via Bull Lane, Water Lane and Rectory Lane). Full details and photographic evidence were provided and is available.

No specific action was taken by the Parish Council in response to the detailed and thorough outline of the problems presented at that time and possible solutions.

North Witham is a small, intimate, rural south Lincolnshire village. At the bottom end of the village, the lanes are very narrow and there are no pavements. It has no industry or commerce of its own excepting one farm whose traffic routes almost exclusively via Stamford Road and Church Street and so does not contribute to our problem. The

result is a pleasant and pastoral, albeit fragile environment. We have a growing population of young families with children whose parents feel concerned enough by the HGV traffic to not let their children roam free around what should be a very pleasant environment to grow up in.

The impact of these HGVs is devastating for the residents in North Witham with damage to property, grass verges destroyed and the potential risk of injury and potentially death from accidents.

Cllr Clark would like to highlight the circumstances and impact of this and make the following proposal for consideration by full Council. Background information is contained in Appendix 1 of this report.

To Resolve that the Parish Council delegates its power to the H&F Working Group, to open formal channels of dialogue with SKDC, LCC and Lincolnshire Police to consider the options put forward in this report

- To have the police react properly and appropriately to reports of HGVs being in the village when they shouldn't be – especially where property damage is involved.
- A physical width restriction being placed at the eastern end of Bull Lane near its junction with the A1. If this was set at 7'6" it would stop HGVs using the route as a short cut. Legitimate access to North Witham would be possible via the B676 and Old Post Lane
- The closure of Bull Lane at its junction with the A1. Whilst unpopular, it would solve the problem; this must be considered in the wider A1 consultation.
- The creation of an absolute 7.5 tonne weight restriction for a short section of the east end of Bull Lane. Contact local businesses at North Witham Rd, South Witham, and at Sewstern to request that their suppliers are provided with 'special instructions' such that delivery vehicles do not attempt to use the Bull Lane exit from the A1.
- The fitment of 'HGV – don't follow sat nav' signs on the A1, to the north and south of Bull Lane, to discourage HGV drivers from blindly following sat-nav guidance from the A1. HGV drivers know what these are about and only the foolish ignore them. This might prove to be a cheap and surprisingly successful solution?

6. A1 ISSUES

1. Incidents impacting on our area (accidents, delays, tailbacks/diversions) on A1 (Source: <https://www.newsnow.co.uk/h/UK/Travel+&+Transport/Road/A1>)

28 May 2019: A two vehicle collision was causing both lanes of the A1 northbound to be blocked this evening. It was closed between the A47 junction at Wansford and the Carpenter's Lodge junction for Stamford. This was a separate incident to the breakdown on the opposite side of the carriageway.

28 May 2019: A man has been charged after a two-lorry crash on the A1. He has been charged with driving a motor vehicle dangerously after the collision on Wednesday morning. The crash happened just before 6.30am, just past the A52 Barrowby slip road, closing the northbound carriageway and causing traffic chaos on the A1 and in Grantham. Traffic backed up south along the A1.

20 May 2019: The northbound carriageway was reported to be at a standstill between Colsterworth and South Witham at lunchtime. The cause of the delays was unclear with no incidents reported. Highways England confirmed it is not aware of any work under way on that stretch of road.

Highways & Footpaths Working Group
14 June 2019

APPENDIX 1: BACKGROUND INFORMATION REGARDING HGVs AT NORTH WITHAM

- North Witham and other surrounding villages are covered by an area wide 7.5 tonne 'except for access' weight restriction
- Whilst there may on occasions be a legitimate requirement for some HGVs to come through the village the levels of HGV traffic being experienced cannot be solely servicing businesses and properties within the weight restriction.

- It is thought that the legitimate traffic servicing local businesses would be better routed via other roads.

The HGV traffic experienced at the bottom of the village appears to fall into 4 categories:

- Those that serve local businesses such as the Auriga Estate at South Witham and Gunby Industrial estate.
This traffic consists of those who intend passing through the village, and those who are lost.

North Witham has experienced some horrendous incidents where drivers of large HGVs – some almost 60 feet in length – have attempted to turn around in the junction of Rectory Lane, Water Lane and Bull Lane – a tight junction surrounded by 19th century buildings. Damage to adjacent properties has occurred on a number of occasions as a result of these reckless manoeuvres.

- Traffic whose drivers are blindly following sat-navs and ignoring the weight restriction signs to get from or to the A1.
- Drivers who know there is a way through from the A1 to Melton Mowbray via North Witham, Gunby and Wymondham – this has been substantiated by eyewitnesses on several occasions as they did not visit addresses within the weight restricted area.
- Drivers who are exploring round the back lanes to avoid A1 traffic jams or road closure events.

The effect these HGVs are having on the village is real.

- The lanes through the village are tiny and are not suited to such large vehicles.
- There is nowhere on this route where two cars can pass without using the verges.
- When the HGVs use the verges, the effects are devastating and permanent. There have been two HGVs step onto the verges, sunk to their axles and require heavy recovery equipment to get them on their way.
- The road surface itself is showing real signs of damage too with rutting and longitudinal cracks appearing at several places.

On an individual basis attempts have been made to address these concerns with the relevant Authorities with no acknowledgement, e.g., reports to the police regarding the deliberate Road Traffic Sign violations in relation to the weight restrictions and the acts of Careless Driving, and the reckless intent of HGV drivers who really should know better (as “professional” drivers) to seek out these tiny country lanes looking for short cuts.

-End-