

MINUTES OF OSGATHORPE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT HARLEY HALL, OSGATHORPE AT 7PM TUESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2023

	<p>Present:</p> <p>Members: Councillor A. Bate (Chair) Councillors J. Elson (Vice Chair), S. Olsberg, A. Dodson, J. Lowth.</p> <p>Officer: M. Mitchell (Parish Clerk/RFO)</p> <p>Members of the Public: There were six members of the public present.</p> <p>The Chairman explained that there would be two public sessions during the meeting. The first being to allow representations to be made in respect of the business to be transacted on the agenda, the objective of assisting the Councillors in their decision making. The second session is to allow any matters that members of the public would like to be considered at the next Parish Council meeting, i.e on the 14th November.</p>
73/23-24	<p>Apologies There were no apologies received – all members were present.</p>
74/23-24	<p>Public Participation (1) A member of the public introduced himself as a member of the OCPL – a group whose objectives are to secure the Storey Arms as a public house. He commented on agenda item 84/23-24(a) – Application ref: 23/01063/FUL – Change of use of public house to one dwelling – The Storey Arms, 41 Main Street. He explained that the group had talked to the owner but had so far been unsuccessful with regards to making progress on the community taking ownership of the pub. The OCPL had distributed leaflets around the village and the planning application had attracted 106 comments with 102 being in favour of retaining the pub.</p> <p>A member of the public updated the Parish Council with regards to potentially installing a defibrillator in the bus stop on Dawsons Road. He explained that, as there was no electrical power to the bus stop, the only option would be a battery operated defib unit. The case lock cost £569 and the defib unit was £995. The chairman thanked the member of the public for his effort in establishing costs and requirements.</p>
75/23-24	<p>Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.</p>
76/23-24	<p>Requests for Dispensation There were no applications for dispensation.</p>
77/23-24	<p>Minutes of previous Parish Council Meetings On the motion of Councillor Bate, seconded by Councillor Elson,</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 10th July 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>
78/23-24	<p>Police Speaker There was no police speaker present. The local PCSO advised in advance of the meeting that they are hoping to attend the 14th November Parish Council meeting, shift arrangements permitting.</p>
79/23-24	<p>Neighbourhood Watch No one has yet volunteered to fill the vacancy for a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator. The Parish Clerk said she would obtain a new poster to be displayed on the noticeboards and electronically so that it could be placed on the various village social media available.</p>

	Financial Matters
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80/23-24	A summary of accounts and bank fees was provided by the Clerk and Chairman
81/23-24 (a)	Revisions to bank accounts Carried over from July meeting - resolution to close the Play Area Account and to hold these funds in the 'Savings' account. Other moneys to be held in the General Account. This will save the Parish Council some £100 per annum in bank charges whilst also allowing interest to be earned on the Play Area balance. No action has yet been taken on this as the Parish Council is looking at potentially changing banking providers. To be reviewed at a subsequent meeting.
(b)	Resolution to investigate internet banking The Clerk has been in contact with HSBC but the solution offered is not adequate. The Clerk will be exploring moving to another bank as recommended by another local clerk
(c)	Financial provision to cover replacement of equipment in the play area. On the motion of Councillor Bate, seconded by Councillor Lowth, RESOLVED: that the Parish Council starts to list all play equipment that needs to be replaced or maintained over the next financial year and beyond so that funds can be accrued to pay for this.
82/23-24	Cheques / Payments On the motion of Councillor Bate, seconded by Councillor Elson RESOLVED: Resolution that the following payments be made/approved:
(a)	Retrospective approval - Payment to Owen Mace of £21 (Cheque no. 100480) for the Boogie in the Barn drinks licence
(b)	Retrospective approval - Payment to Community First £375.82 (Cheque no.100839) for PC insurance (not incl. the ride-mower, which is separately insured)
(c)	Hire of Harley Hall on 12 th September - £25
(d)	Clerk's salary - £800
83/23-24	Correspondence Received
(a)	Request to relocate bus stop on Main Street Councillor Bate has been in contact with the Local Highway Authority (LHA) to look at the potential of relocating the bus stop nearer the footpath near to Orchard Close. It is now in the hands of the experts at the LHA who will be assessing the suitability of a potential change in relocation.
(b)	Email regarding hedging along Main Street The Councillors raised concern with regards to potential flooding cause by vegetation. Councillor Olsen suggesting contacting the LCC and also the Environmental Agency. Councillor Bate advised that he was attending the annual flood warden meeting at Leicestershire County Council on the 16 th September, so would enquire there about all potential flooding issues faced by the village.
(c)	Communications regarding the Storey Arms planning application. Councillor Bate advised that there had been a great deal of communication regarding this application and people had been asked to send their comments directly to the planning department at NWLDC.
	Planning Matters
84/23-24	New consultations received from NWLDC. Resolution to agree consultation responses:
(a)	Application ref: 23/01063/FUL – change of use of public house to one dwelling – The Storey Arms, 41 Main Street. Councillor Bate explained that the Parish Council had three options: to make no comment, to support the application, or to object to the application. Councillor Lowth stated that he had already commented on the application as an individual but had entered this meeting with an open mind. Councillor Elson commented that he had spoken to between 30 to 40 villagers, all of whom had spoken against the application. Councillor Olsberg added that he had received similar feedback from parishioners and that there was agreement that the villagers needed somewhere to meet, particularly with all the new people that had moved to the village.

	<p>The Parish Councillors discussed the application and parishioner feedback on the proposals.</p> <p>On the motion of Councillor Elson, seconded by Councillor Olsberg,</p> <p>RESOLVED: with four votes in favour and one abstention*, to object to the planning application on the grounds of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proposal being contrary to the provisions of the adopted Local Plan especially, but not exclusively, Policy IF2. The application fails to demonstrate that the Public House is unviable. Just because the current owners did not make it a roaring success does not mean it is unviable. The application also fails to identify what steps were investigated to maintain the facility or service. Changing the use of the Storey Arms to a dwelling house would be detrimental to the social and cultural fabric of the village. The pub can be more than just a business; it can become a vital part of the village's identity and history. The permanent loss would leave a void that cannot easily be filled. It would also remove employment opportunities for members of our community and support for local suppliers and producers. <p>*Councillor Louth abstained on the basis that he didn't wish to run any risk of prejudicing procedure as a consequence of him having submitted a personal objection prior to the parish council meeting</p>
(b)	<p>Application Ref: 23/01055 – Approval of details reserved by conditions – Land adjacent to 29 Main Street.</p> <p>Councillor Bate explained the background to this planning application. The area highlighted on the planning application sat outside the land that had originally been given planning approval (Ref:16/00183/FUL). The parish council and local residents had been in dialogue with the Planning Authority. It is understood that NWLDC will be inviting the landowner to submit a change of use planning application for the area which does not have planning permission for use as a garden. Councillor Bate explained that the original application had stated that there would be no development in the area, as the area is prone to flooding but clearly development has subsequently taken place.</p>
85/23-24	<p>Planning applications in process of being determined by NWLDC for which consultation response has been provided by the Parish Council.</p> <p>The Parish Council received and noted both of the application outcomes as detailed below:</p>
(a)	<p>Application Ref: 23/00770/AGP - Erection of a portal framed agricultural storage building - Stordon Grange Ashby Road – Granted.</p>
(b)	<p>Application Ref: 23/00771/AGP - Provision of hardstanding - Stordon Grange Ashby Road - Granted</p>
	<p>Other Planning matters</p>
86/23-24	<p>Complaint regarding breaches of planning conditions on planning application 16/00183/FUL, Meadowgate House, 29 Main Street, Osgathorpe. This application was discussed on agenda item 86/23-24 (b)</p>
	<p>Cemetery</p>
87/23-24	<p>Spring bulbs – NWLDC will cover 50% of cost. Resolution to include in budget for 2024/25</p> <p>On the motion of Councillor Lowth, seconded by Councillor Olsberg</p> <p>RESOLVED: to include the purchase of spring bulbs into the budget for 2024/25</p>
88/23-24	<p>Maintenance – Tree/hedge pruning/cutting Councillor Dodson asked if there was a formal arrangement on place to prune the hedges. Councillor Elson explained that local farmers were generally asked to help and that a local farmer had already been approached with regards to cutting back the hedge row imminently</p>
	<p>Play Area</p>
89/23-24	<p>Spring bulbs – NWLDC will cover 50% of cost. Resolution to include in budget for 2024/25</p> <p>As with agenda item 87/23-24 all Parish Councillors were in full support for next year's budget</p>
	<p>Signage – resolution to purchase a playground sign & clips (approx.£60)</p>

	<p>On the motion of Councillor Olsberg, seconded by Councillor Lowth</p> <p>RESOLVED: to purchase a playground sign for the children's play area</p>
	Highways & Footpaths
90/23-24	<p>Meadow Lane update</p> <p>Councillor Bate explained that he had contacted the County Council Highways team who said that no problem had been identified with regards to slippery surfaces. Following further communications LCC has agreed to undertake remedial works, namely water jet the slippery area this winter.</p>
91/23-24	<p>Highway publication satisfaction survey from LCC.</p> <p>Councillor Lowth agreed to complete the survey on behalf of the Parish Council.</p>
92/23-24	<p>Temporary traffic regulation order - Ashby Road, Belton from Grace Dieu Lane for approximately 300m in a westerly direction – for a period of five days maximum commencing on the 18th October.</p> <p>This was received and noted by the Parish Council</p>
93/23-24	<p>Temporary traffic regulation order - Snarrows Road between Water Treatment Works and Grace Dieu Lane on the 18th September 2023 for three days.</p> <p>This was received and noted by the Parish Council</p>
	Website & Technology
94/23-24	<p>Resolution to include additional information on the website, e.g. copy of insurance policy, revised policies & procedures - update.</p> <p>The Parish Clerk explained that the insurance documents were now on the website. Policies and procedures needed to be reviewed by the Parish Council before these could be uploaded to the website although existing policies were already on the Parish Council website.</p>
95/23-24	<p>Back up data – Explore back up options for Council laptop – hard drive or cloud back up (Astley Computers offering 50% at £70 PA)</p> <p>Councillor Dodson agreed to explore options and feedback at the next meeting though it was likely that a hard drive would be the best and most cost effective solution.</p>
96/23-24	<p>Village Voice</p> <p>Councillor Bate explained that the previous Parish Council Chairman used to contribute to the village Voice, the last publication being April. He added that both a digital and paper copy were required. Councillor Olsberg volunteered to liaise with the administrator of the publication, Mark Robinson.</p>
97/23-24	<p>Osgathorpe Heritage Group</p> <p>Councillor Bate provided an update received from the Heritage Group regarding indemnity insurance for the Heritage Boards. The OHG had decided to take out their own insurance.</p>
98/23-24	<p>Grant Application - UK-SPF Community Grant - Update re application and related expenditure under agenda item 30/23-24. Resolution regarding future expenditure and record keeping.</p> <p>Councillor Bate provided an update on expenditure so far – one licensing application had been purchased and another was underway. A spreadsheet had been created to log all expenditure against the grant and this had been added to the accounts 2023-2024 workbook. It was confirmed that the parish council resolution relating to the grant application also covered expenditure of the grant in accordance with the application's objectives.</p>
99/23-24	<p>Harley Trust</p> <p>It was agreed at July's meeting that Councillor Bate would be the Parish Council representative. The Trustees of the Harley Trust are next meeting on the 19th September.</p> <p>Councillor Dodson asked if Councillor Bate would raise the issue of access to the car park at the back of Harley Hall and if the access could be improved.</p>
	Other Matters
100/23-24	<p>Resolution that all Councillors should receive training as needed. Councillor Dodson booked on November course. Agree additional participants.</p>

	Parish Councillors were asked to let the Parish Clerk know of their preferred availability for dates so that she could book the courses with LRALC.
101/23-24	<p>Defibrillator. To decide if the PC would like to progress an application for funding towards a defibrillator to be located in the Dawson's Road bus stop.</p> <p>Councillor Bate believed that there were grants available. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk and the Parish Chairman would investigate this though it was ascertained that the village already had three defibrillators so additional funding may be a challenge as the village was already well equipped.</p>
102/23-24	<p>Members of the public may raise matters for the parish council to consider at its next meeting, ask questions, address queries and give evidence to assist the parish council in undertaking its business.</p> <p>A member of the public wanted to thank the Parish Council for its decision to object to the current planning application for a change of use. If the Storey Arms can be secured as a village run pub, it would be financially viable with a lower turnover than that necessary for a commercially owned pub. He added that there is a cycle route running through the village which would be good to include in an objection.</p>
	The meeting closed at 8:19pm
	<p>Dates of Next Meetings:</p> <p>14th November 2023 9th January 2024 12th March 2024</p>

Chairman:

Date: