



NEWTOWN LINFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting was held on Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall.

0401/21 Members present:

Councillors Sue Pritchard (Chairman), Tim Porte (Vice-Chairman), Rob Haylock, Vicki Lightfoot and Tara Pickles

Also in attendance: Clerk - Hannah Shaw

0402/21. Apologies for absence:

Councillors Stuart Eyre and Sue Greasley, Borough Councillor - David Snartt, County Councillor - Deborah Taylor, Bradgate Park Director - James Dymond and Tree Warden - Brian Anderson.

0403/21. Confirm and sign minutes of the 23rd August 2021 meeting:

These were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

0404/21. Declaration of Parish Councillor's personal and/or prejudicial interests on agenda items:

There were no new declarations of interest.

The Chairman represents the Gardening Club on the Village Hall Committee.

The Chairman is a member of the Management Committee at Lingdale Golf Club.

Councillor Tara Pickles represents the Council on the Magazine Committee.

0405/21. Police Matters and NHW reports:

No crime statistics had been received. The Clerk reported on a Road Traffic Collision on Bradgate Road 08/09/21, which had closed the road for over 2 hours. Three pedestrians had been taken to hospital with serious injuries.

Resolve: Noted.

0406/21. Bradgate Park

Bradgate Park Director, James Dymond, had sent apologies to the meeting and no report was received.

0407/21. Report by County Councillor Deborah Taylor.

Councillor Deborah Taylor had sent apologies to the meeting. Report had been received by email 13/09/21. See Appendix One.

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

0408/21. Report by the Borough Councillor, David Snartt.

Councillor David Snartt had sent apologies to the meeting. Report had been received by email 13/09/21. See Appendix Two

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

0409/21. Village Governance and Residents:

- Newtown Linford Biodiversity had requested support from the Parish Council to help launch the group by funding an initial open evening event, to be held at the Village Hall on 12/10/21. Total amount required is £30 to cover the cost of hall hire. NLB will fundraise themselves for future events.

Resolve: Councillors voted in favour of supporting this event to the value of £30. Clerk to inform Newtown Linford Biodiversity.

- The Clerk reported an informal consultation had been completed with Groby Lane residents, regarding a small area of the central reservation becoming an Urban Wildflower Verge. Mixed comments had been received by the Clerk. Councillors were asked to consider progressing the suggestion further.

Resolve: Councillors voted unanimously in favour of applying to the LCC Urban Wildflower Verge Scheme but on a trial basis for 2 years initially. Clerk to update residents and Newtown Linford Biodiversity Group. Councillors suggested sowing native wildflower seeds for a splash of colour.

0410/21. Planning: Buildings and Tree Issues:

- **Decisions**

a) P/21/1548/2 - Proposed 20.0m Phase 8 Monopole C/W wrapround Cabinet at base and associated ancillary works - Markfield Lane - Refusal of Approval 02/09/21.

Resolve: Noted.

- **Comments submitted through Planning Explorer**

b) P/21/1416/2 - Newtown Linford Cricket Club - Replacement of existing cricket practice net with double bay practice nets (24m depth x 7.32m wide). NB height is 3.66m. - Mixed Comments 27/08/21

"Councillors have no objection to this application, which appears to be a like-for-like replacement, providing it does not restrict water flow in the event of flooding. Councillors would also ask the nets and posts are coloured dark green, in keeping with the rural nature of the conservation area. Thank you."

c) P/21/1489/2 - 454 Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford - Erection of single storey extension to rear and alterations to door and window to front of house - No Objection 08/09/21.

d) P/21/1688/2 - Jasmine Cottage, 15 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Withdrawn 03/09/21

Resolve: Ratified

- **Discuss**

There were no planning applications to discuss

- **Trees**

e) P/21/1710/2 - TPO works related - 516 Bradgate Road - Willow - to pollard

f) P/21/1738/2 - Conservation works related - Beech Farm, 552 Bradgate Road - T1 (Yew) - Lift crown by no more than 500mm; T2 (Hornbeam) - Crown reduction by no more than 3m; T3 (Apple) - Crown reduction by no more than 2.5m; T4 (Cherry) - Crown reduction by no more than 2.5m. T5 (Sycamore) - Re-pollard at approx. 6m above ground level; and, T6 (Oak) - Selective pruning to rebalance canopy.

Tree Warden, Brian Anderson had no objection to the application for trees at Beech Farm, however, the Willow tree at 516 Bradgate Road looks strong and healthy and in good shape and he sees no reason to pollard at this time. Received by email 11/09/21.

Resolve: Noted.

- **Other**

The Chairman highlighted application P/21/1926/2 - Barn South Of Heatherfield Cottage, Benscliffe Road, Newtown Linford, LE67 9PZ - Certificate of lawfulness (existing) for the material change of use of a barn to an independent dwelling (Class C3) and the material change of use of land to residential curtilage. This application dates back to 2014 and is for information only.

Resolve: Noted

0411/21. Bob Bown Memorial Field:

The Clerk reported contractors, organised by CBC, had attended to the drains, filled the potholes and had felled the Sycamore Tree on the access track leading to the Bob Bown Memorial Field.

Councillor Stuart Eyre had highlighted an issue with shrinkage of the wet pour surface, prior to the meeting.

Resolve: Noted. Clerk to investigate possible solutions to the gap in the wet pour surface.

0412/21. Village Magazine:

There was nothing to report.

Resolve: Noted. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman will meet to organise a VAS Data update and analysis for the November edition of the Village Magazine.

0413/21. Parish Council Website/Facebook Page:

The Clerk reported Facebook group membership had increased to 364 members.

Resolve: Noted.

0414/21. Village Hall:

There was nothing to report.

0415/21. Highways, Footpaths, Street Furniture, Traffic and Transport:

- Councillors considered a final list of suggestions for Cllr. Taylor, regarding the Members £25k Highways Fund.

Resolve: Councillors agreed the following suggestions for inclusion as follows:

Mobile VAS Unit and associated works;
Re-siting of Bradgate Road VAS Unit to Markfield Lane;
Wooden posts to prevent verge parking on Benscliffe Road and Roecliffe Road by the Swithland Woods entrance;
New Parish Welcome signs x 4 locations at Bradgate Road, Groby Lane, Markfield Lane and Ulverscroft Lane (without planters);
Birds Mouth Style Fencing or similar for urban wildflower verges on Markfield Lane and Groby Lane (NB application to the UWVS pending for Groby Lane);

- An update had been received from Cllr. Taylor following a response from LCC Highways, regarding issues with the speed hump on Main Street (by Tyburn footpath). Councillors agreed that removal of the hump was not a viable option due to possible safety implications this could have on the school. The Chairman commented the other speed table further along Main Street had recently undergone improvement works and asked if the same could be considered for the speed table by Tyburn Footpath.

Resolve: Noted. Clerk to contact LCC Highways to see if improvement works could be carried out on the speed table at Tyburn footpath, to reduce the gradient, thus minimising impact noise and the jarring effect on vehicles.

- An update had been received on the TRO for Main Street. The consultation for alterations on Upper Main Street is due to go live on 24th September. Letters will be issued to residents. Cllr. Taylor has asked the Parish Council is informed prior to it going live.

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

0416/21. Churchyard and Cemetery:

The Chairman asked if there had been an update from Bradgate Park, regarding the collapsed stone wall rebuild at the Churchyard.

Resolve: Clerk to enquire with Head Ranger, Matt Smith.

0417/21. Correspondence:

- Local Government Boundary Commission – Electoral Review Draft Recommendations for Ward Boundaries – Consultation runs until 8th November 2021. Received by Email 01/09/21 and cascaded to Parish Councillors.
- National Highways & Transport (NHT) Public Satisfaction Survey (deadline 31st Oct 2021) – Received by email 06/09/21.
- Remembrance Sunday Invitation received by email from Rev. Richard Trethewey 06/09/21.

Resolve: Noted. Clerk to respond to the NHT Public Satisfaction Survey on behalf of the Parish Council. Parish Councillors to attend Remembrance Sunday Service, should they wish to.

0418/21. Scheme of Delegation

Councillors were asked to review the motion to provide for delegation to the Clerk, any decision that must be made if the council is incapacitated and unable to hold a meeting.

Resolve: Councillors unanimously agreed that in response to the Covid-19 outbreak in the UK and in the event that it is not possible to convene a meeting of the council in a reasonable time, the Clerk shall have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the council where such decision cannot reasonably be deferred and must be made in order to comply with a commercial or statutory deadline. The delegation does not extend to matters expressly reserved to the council in legislation or in its Standing Orders or Financial Regulations. Any decisions made under this delegation must be recorded in writing and must be published in accordance with the relevant regulations. This delegated authority will be reviewed monthly at meetings of the council after the delegation was put in place, until such time a decision is made to rescind the agreement when the Covid-19 outbreak is stable.

0419/21. Reports on Meetings and Training by Councillors and Clerk:

Clerk attended LCC Parish Clerks' Liaison Meeting 10/09/21.

0420/21. Items of Interest or for future meetings:

A retirement presentation will be held for previous Parish Council Clerk, RFO and Registrar of Burials, Pam McMorrان, at Coffee and Cake on 07/10/21 from 11am at the Village Hall. The Chairman will present a gift of appreciation.

Resolve: Noted.

0421/21. Finance:

The Clerk advised the second precept instalment had been received from CBC on 13/09/21, to the value of £27, 037.50

Authorisation for payment of invoices:

27.08.21	HS	August Broadband and out of plan calls	£53.67
27.08.21	HS	August Salary	£1,024.98
02.09.21	NEST	Pension Contributions	£42.35
03.09.21	RCC	Membership	£60.00
03.09.21	SLCC	Membership	£166.00
	Total		£1347.00

Bank Balances:

Business Current Account @ 08/09/21	£ 3,073.27
Business Reserve Account @ 08/09/21	£ 52,000.00
Total	£ 55, 073.27

Copies of the bank transactions for the month are attached to the filed hard copy of the minutes.

0422/21. Dates of the next three Parish Council Meetings:

- Wednesday 27th October 2021 7.15pm
- Wednesday 24th November 2021 7.15pm
- Wednesday 5th January 2021 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed by Chair:-.....

Dated:-.....

Appendix One – Report by County Councillor Deborah Taylor

Highway Fund

I have reported in my one of my reports previously, about the £25,000 highway fund allocated to each county councillor. This fund is to spend in our local area to make small improvements to the highway.

I am just in the process of collecting all the suggestions in from my various parish councils. I will then review the requests, select the projects that I think will present the best value for money and have the greatest impact. I will then discuss the options with my allocated highway officer, get the projects priced up and hopefully start to implement some improvements towards the end of the year and into next year.

School Term Dates

Nearly 18,000 responses have been received from people sharing their views on when school holidays in Leicester and Leicestershire should fall. In the eight-week consultations held by Leicestershire County and Leicester City councils this summer, the majority said they didn't want big changes to the existing term time patterns.

Leicestershire County Council's cabinet approved to opt to preserve Leicestershire's 'July Fortnight', an earlier October half term and a longer autumn term. The city council will also look to adopt the same option when their meet, following feedback from city residents.

The consultations ran separately, but at the same time and with the same proposed patterns, and presented a number of options, which included bringing the city and county in line with national holidays.

Secondary School Places

Parents and carers need to apply for their preferred secondary schools by Sunday 31st October 2021. Parents and carers with children due to start secondary school in Leicestershire in September 2022 can now apply for school places.

The application process is open and parents and carers are requested to complete the applications forms online.

More information about schools in Leicestershire and the application process can be found at here: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/school-admissions/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place>

Parents and carers unable to apply online can call the Customer Service Centre on 0116 305 6684 and request a form to be sent out.

Domestic Abuse

More than £1.1m is being invested in providing safe accommodation and support for victims of domestic abuse and their children in Leicestershire. The funding will ensure they are able to access much-needed support such as therapy and counselling, as well as a safe place to live.

Leicestershire County Council is now seeking feedback from anyone who has used domestic support services in the area in the past, to help shape the new plans.

The council has been allocated more than £1.1m from a £125m government funding pot so it can carry out a new duty placed on councils as part of the landmark Domestic Abuse Act, which aims to strengthen the support offered to victims. The county's seven district councils were also granted nearly £230,000 in total.

Plans for additional support in Leicestershire include more accommodation for families in need, specialist mental health support workers for children and a substance misuse worker to support families who need it.

If you live in Leicester, Leicestershire or Rutland and have experienced domestic violence or sexual abuse, you can contact the UAVA helpline on 0808 8020028. If you have used domestic abuse support services in Leicestershire and would like to help shape the new services, you can share your experiences in confidence via email: CommunitySafetyTeam@leics.gov.uk

Appendix Two – Report by Borough Councillor David Snartt

Political Map for Charnwood.

There is an opportunity to have your say on a new political map for Charnwood. A press release has been issued by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England about the new boundaries being proposed for Council Wards in the Borough. The Commission wants to hear what residents and local organisations think about the proposals. A ten week consultation on the proposals will run until 8th November 2021.

The Commission is the independent body that draws these boundaries, it is reviewing Charnwood Borough to make sure Councillors will represent about the same number of electors, and the Ward arrangements will help the Council work effectively. It is proposing that there should be three single Councillor Wards, 14 two Councillor Wards and 7 three Councillor Wards. All but two of the existing Ward boundaries will change under the proposals.

My Ward of Forest Bradgate which includes the Parishes of Newtown Linford, Ulverscroft and Woodhouse has a proposed small change to the boundary and will still be represented by a single Councillor. Since the development of Grange Park a small part of the estate encroached into Woodhouse Parish. Therefore, it is proposed that the 25 properties are realigned with the rest of the estate in the neighbouring Ward. I am pleased that the Forest Bradgate Ward largely stays the same, in my view, it reflects the nature of the rural communities within the heart of Charnwood Forest.

The Commission has a dedicated section on its website where people can see the detail of the proposals and comment on the names of the Wards and their boundaries. People can give their views by e-mail at reviews@lgbce.org.uk and by post, Review Officer (Charnwood), LGBCE, PO Box 133, Blyth. NE24 9FE. There is also information on the Charnwood Borough Council website.

Council Explores Options.

Charnwood Borough Council is looking to explore the feasibility of creating a more efficient and environmentally-friendly replacement office base in Loughborough. The Council has identified a potential location for new offices with a long term plan to move to new premises to reduce running costs and prioritise funding on services. It would also reduce the Council's carbon footprint. A report has come forward to Cabinet, seeking approval to explore the feasibility of creating new offices on Southfield Road Extension car park, about 50 metres from the current offices in Southfields Road.

The creation of any new building would enable the sale of the existing office complex. The site is identified as having potential for 163 homes in the Charnwood Local Plan 2021-37 Pre-submission Document.