



## NEWTOWN LINFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting was held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall.

### **0379/21 Members present:**

Councillors Sue Pritchard (Chairman), Tim Porte (Vice-Chairman), Stuart Eyre and Rob Haylock.

Also in attendance: Clerk - Hannah Shaw, County Councillor - Deborah Taylor, Bradgate Park Director - James Dymond and PCSO Mitchell Jarvis.

### **0380/21. Apologies for absence:**

Councillors Sue Greasley, Vicki Lightfoot, Tara Pickles, Borough Councillor - David Snartt and Tree Warden - Brian Anderson.

### **0381/21. Confirm and sign minutes of the 26th July 2021 meeting:**

These were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

### **0382/21. 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.

### **0383/21. Police Matters and NHW reports:**

PCSO Mitch Jarvis confirmed a nil return for the July crime statistics and reported there had been one incident of criminal damage and one vehicle crime recorded so far during August.

The Chairman asked if future visits by the Speed Camera Van had been arranged. PCSO Jarvis was not aware of any planned dates but will speak with Sgt. Chris Wharton to request attendance.

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks.

### **0384/21. Bradgate Park**

NLPC welcomed newly appointed Bradgate Park Director, James Dymond, to the meeting.

Mr Dymond introduced himself and gave Councillors a brief overview of his experience in park management to date.

The Conservatory Tearoom had recently be leased for a 5 year period to an experienced locally based company, MB Cafes. A soft opening had taken place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August and staff recruitment was underway. Hot breakfast and lunches, teas and coffees will be available to purchase and will be under review depending on clientele.

A tender will go out later this year for the refurbishment of the Deer Barn Café. BPT will continue to run it for takeaway orders only until the refit has been completed and will reopen with indoor seating and a revised menu. The Chairman commented that a condition of the planning permission for the Deer Barn Café was that hot meals were not included on the menu. Mr Dymond said it was unlikely the menu would include hot meals but rather light lunches and snacks.

The Visitor Centre is currently open every day throughout school holidays. However, due to staffing constraints, the visitor centre will open at weekends only during term time, unless there are volunteers available to staff it.

School visits are currently self-led, however, there are two vacant posts which will be advertised imminently which will be focused on educational visits and activities.

The Chairman asked if buses were now able to enter and exit the Newtown Linford car park for school visits/group trips, following the installation of a new bridge across the River Lin.

Mr Dymond advised buses would be able to use the car park and bridge.

Mr Dymond informed Councillors planning permission had now been granted for the alteration works to the overflow car parks at Newtown Linford and Hallgates to allow for all year round use. Gravel surface roadways will be installed at Newtown Linford and rearrangement of the access to the Hallgates overflow from the main car park, which includes resurfacing of the access track and a planting scheme. Quotes for the work were now being sought and priority will be given to the Newtown Linford overflow car park. It is hoped work will commence in Autumn 2021 and will be completed Winter 2021/2022 depending on costings.

The Chairman advised Mr Dymond of the huge difference it makes to the village and surrounding roads when the overflow car parks are open and that it will be interesting to see the impact of the newly installed double yellow line restrictions on vehicle movements in the village and on car parking capacity at Bradgate Park during Winter months.

Mr Dymond informed Councillors ANPR had now been installed at the Newtown Linford car park and there had been some initial teething troubles. Car parking charges remain the same following the recent review and parking is paid on exit. Any issues at the exit are dealt with through an intercom service connected to the BPT office.

A full review on larger events held at Bradgate Park will be carried out to see what has worked well previously and what didn't. There are no current plans for large, commercialised events but a gap in provision had already been identified for low key family friendly events, such as mini beasts and pond dipping and a more formalised forest school provision. Mr Dymond said the recent Family Theatre had been a success in the meadow and was more appropriate located here than at the ruins.

The Chairman asked if there were any licensing plans for the sale of alcohol during events at the Tearoom/Café, to which Mr Dymond responded there were no plans currently.

The Chairman asked if BPT were still bound to the 10 year plan published a few years ago. Mr Dymond explained that BPT were almost at a mid-point review stage of the plan and would be discussed with Bradgate Park Trustees.

The Chairman enquired if a residential facility for small conferences (mentioned in the 10 year plan) was still being considered. Mr Dymond said this was not something he was aware of, however, BPT are looking at a possible new meeting space for use during school visits etc.

A new Funding and Grants Manager had been appointed and was currently looking at capital funding sources for projects in mind, one focus being reduction of the Trust's carbon footprint.

BPT continue to work in partnership with Natural England and had recently had a positive site visit conducted, particularly relating to bracken management. A 3 to 5 year plan for more partnership based working, will focus on access improvements to create surfaced routes in areas that have suffered wear and tear from foot traffic. More surfaced routes to areas of high footfall, would hopefully encourage visitors to keep to pathways, therefore, preventing further erosion.

The Chairman thanked Mr Dymond for attending the meeting and offered an extended invitation to Parish Council meetings to re-establish clear lines of communication between Bradgate Park Trust and the Parish Council.

### **0385/21. Report by County Councillor Deborah Taylor.**

See Appendix One

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks. The Chairman asked Cllr. Taylor if a coordinated approach could be taken in cascading information to residents regarding the further TRO consultation on Main Street. Cllr. Taylor advised the Clerk would be informed of the date when residents will receive further communication.

### 0386/21. Report by the Borough Councillor, David Snartt.

Received by email. See Appendix Two

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks.

### 0387/21. Village Governance and Residents:

Nothing to report

### 0388/21. Planning: Buildings and Tree Issues:

- **Decisions**

a) P/21/0744/2 - Ivy House Farm, 72 Main Street - Refurbishment of windows retaining original frames, cutting out perished timber and splicing in sections of new frame. Re-glaze with heritage slim profile double glazing. Replacement of existing non-original – Grant Conditionally 09/06/21

b) P/20/1568/2 - Bradgate Park - Works to Newtown Linford and Hallgates overflow car parks including alterations to an existing vehicular access to Roecliffe Road, new internal access and egress roads to Hallgates overflow car park, new hard-surfaced access – Grant Conditionally 30/07/21

**Resolve:** Noted.

- **Comments submitted through Planning Explorer**

c) P/21/1074/2 - The Linford, 66 Main Street - Erection of single storey extension to rear of building - No Objection 03/08/21

d) P/21/1436/2 (Listed Building Consent) and P/21/1354/2 for Roecliffe Hall, Swithland Road - Improvements and installation of timber gates to existing East side site entrance - No Objection 03/08/21

e) P/21/1260/2 - Land at Ashby Road, Markfield - Outline planning application for residential development of up to 93 dwellings, public open space, landscaping and associated works. All matters reserved except for access - Objection 04/08/21

*“Newtown Linford Parish Council support and stand with our colleagues at Markfield Parish Council and residents of Markfield and Newtown Linford, by objecting to this application.*

*Land for development in Markfield has been identified for future housing needs through the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan and an area south of the Village with access off London Road, has been allocated for considerable housing growth, with a planning application submitted in late 2020 for 282 dwellings.*

*This application for a residential development of up to 93 dwellings on land north-east of Ashby Road, Markfield, lies outside the identified area for growth and encroaches into an elevated part of Charnwood Forest; an area of natural beauty within the parish of Newtown Linford, which Councillors strongly believe should be protected and remain undeveloped to retain this area of green space.*

*The proposed development would increase pressure on already stretched services, including the GP Surgery on Chitterman Way which serves a large number of Newtown Linford parish residents, Mercenfeld Primary School and South Charnwood High School.*

*Mercenfeld Primary School has an admission number that is capped at 50, meaning once the school has filled to 50 children in any year group, all other applications for places are refused. We believe other schools in nearby villages are already at capacity and may struggle to accommodate additional applications from Markfield families who are refused places at the village primary school.*

*Highway safety would also be compromised by having the entry and exit road to this proposed development located so close to the blind bend leading onto Whitwick Road, where a national speed limit of 60mph is in force. Traffic flow would also be considerably increased at peak times by motorists leaving Markfield via Leicester Road and the A50 roundabout at Field Head, where there are no traffic signals in operation. Residents already struggle exiting both Markfield and Newtown*

*Linford safely onto the dual carriageway at busy times and further vehicles leaving Markfield would only add to this ongoing local problem.*

*The Parish Council Chairman has asked this application be called in by Plans Committee and wishes to speak. Thank you."*

f) P/21/1688/2 - Jasmine Cottage, 15 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Installation of small boiler flue to external wall – No Objection 09/08/21

**Resolve:** Ratified

- **Discuss**

g) 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 x 3.66m high).

**Resolve:** Councillors had no objection to this application, providing the nets and posts of the practice bay are coloured dark green in keeping with the rural surroundings and the construction does not restrict water flow in the event of flooding. Clerk to submit comments through Planning Explorer.

- **Trees**

There were no tree applications to discuss and no issues had been reported by Tree Warden, Brian Anderson.

- **Other**

h) For information - P/21/1535/2 – Discharge of condition 6 of P/21/0272/2 – relating to submission of proposed landscaping scheme for 48 Groby Lane, Newtown Linford.

**Resolve:** Noted

### **0389/21. Bob Bown Memorial Field:**

LCC have awarded NLPC, in partnership with Newtown Linford Biodiversity, a SHIRE Environment Grant to the value of £591.00 which is 75% of the total cost to install bat/bird/owl boxes and insect/hedgehog hotels at the three Parish Council maintained sites. Total sum of match funding required from NLPC is £182.29 plus a small donation to the Leicestershire & Rutland Ornithological Society and Leicestershire & Rutland Bat Group, who have kindly offered to install the boxes.

**Resolve:** Councillors agreed unanimously in favour of match funding the SHIRE Environment Grant to the value of £200, to include the donations to the supporting groups. Clerk to action.

### **0390/21. Village Magazine:**

Vice-Chairman, Councillor Tim Porte, will write a report on recent VAS data analysis for a forthcoming edition of the Village Magazine. The Clerk had responded directly to residents of Roecliffe Road following a complaint of increased speeds.

**Resolve:** Noted

### **0391/21. Parish Council Website/Facebook Page:**

The Clerk reported Facebook group membership had increased to 357 members.

**Resolve:** Noted.

**0392/21. Village Hall:**

The Chairman reported the Village Hall Committee were slowly starting to welcome users back following an 18 month closure due to the pandemic. So far, Yoga, the Choral Society and Gardening Club had returned to face-to-face meetings and there had been bookings for children's parties. The weekly Coffee and Cake morning will also recommence late September.

**Resolve:** Noted.

**0393/21. Highways, Footpaths, Street Furniture, Traffic and Transport:**

Councillor Taylor had contacted LCC Highways regarding the issues residents are experiencing with the speed table on Main Street (by Tyburn footpath). It was noted the speed table outside the Bradgate pub had recently been resurfaced and was much improved. The Clerk had since forwarded all documents presented by residents to Cllr. Taylor, who will chase LCC Highways for a response.

**Resolve:** Noted.

**0394/21. Churchyard and Cemetery:**

The Chairman reported a faculty application submitted to the Church of England for installation of the Eco Bronze Award plaque, had not yet been granted. The plaque will be sited on the copper beech stump within the wildflower area, facing out towards the footpath, so it is visible to passers-by.

**0395/21. Correspondence:**

Woodhouse Neighbourhood Plan Referendum. Email received 16/08/21.

**Resolve:** Noted.

**0396/21. 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.

**0397/21. Reports on Meetings and Training by Councillors and Clerk:**

Nothing to report.

**0398/21. Items of Interest or for future meetings:**

Nothing to report.

**0399/21. Finance:**

The Chairman advised Councillors the Staffing Committee would be holding a yearly pay review with the Clerk during September. Date to be arranged.

**Resolve:** Noted.

**Authorisation for payment of invoices:**

28.07.21	HS	July Salary	£1,025.18
28.07.21	HS	July Broadband and out of plan calls	£52.15
30.07.21	Wicksteed Leisure Ltd	Installation works	£11,904.00
02.08.21	NEST	Pension Contributions	£42.35
05.08.21	P Haddon	Village Maintenance March – July '21	£355.00
05.08.21	P Haddon	Cemetery – works to privately owned bench (recharged to family)	£150.00
12.08.21	SC Maintenance	Grass Cutting Schedule Invoice 2 of 4	£3425.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£16,953.68</b>

**Bank Balances:**

Business Current Account @ 16/08/21 £ 2,644.79  
Business Reserve Account @ 16/08/21 £ 53,000.00

**Total £ 55, 644.79**

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

**0400/21. Dates of the next three Parish Council Meetings:**

The Clerk advised Councillors the large hall of the Village Hall would only be available on Wednesday evenings after September. The small hall remains available on Monday evenings. Councillors agreed to continue meeting in the large hall, to allow for better social distancing.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 7.15pm  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021 7.15pm  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed by Chair:-.....

Dated:-.....



## Appendix One – Report by County Councillor Deborah Taylor

### *Green Buses*

New cleaner, greener buses – powered by 100% renewable energy – have been introduced to replace diesel vehicles on Leicester’s three park and ride routes: Meynell’s Gorse, Birstall and Enderby.

The fleet of 11 bright green electric buses have brought cleaner, greener travel to Leicester and Leicestershire and are now proudly bearing the names of the Leicester City football players who helped win the FA Cup for the city for the first time. People catching a bus into Leicester from the park and ride sites could find themselves travelling on a bus called Schmeichel, Vardy or even Tielemans. The players’ names and numbers are prominently displayed beneath the windscreen of each bus, making them easy for people to spot. The 11 buses are called:

- ☞ Schmeichel;
- ☞ 3 Fofana;
- ☞ 4 Söyüncü;
- ☞ 6 Evans;
- ☞ 8 Tielemans;
- ☞ 9 Vardy;
- ☞ 14 Iheanacho;
- ☞ 17 Ayoze;
- ☞ 25 Ndidi;
- ☞ 27 Castagne;
- ☞ 33 Thomas.

Leicester’s Park & Ride service costs just £3 return for a family/group ticket and is free for concessionary bus pass holders. The service is currently subsidised so that health workers can travel free of charge until further notice.

More information about Park & Ride in Leicester and Leicestershire can be found at: <https://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/park-ride/greenlines/>

### *Double Yellow Lines, Upper Main Street*

The informal consultation has now finished. I have had a meeting with officers today to review the responses. There was again, no clear majority as to the way forward. We have now agreed the plan going forward and this will be put out for formal consultation in due course. We have tried to consider everyone’s views but there will be some residents who will be unhappy. This must take into account, highway safety, speeding traffic, visibility and also the needs of the residents in the local area.

I have been advised by officers that this will be the last time we can look at this.

## Appendix Two – Report by Borough Councillor David Snartt

Charnwood Draft Local Plan 2021-37.

I have now sent my submission to Charnwood Borough Council outlining my concerns with the proposals, especially the ones, in my view, that affect the residents of my Forest Bradgate Ward.

My representations along with others will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate who will appoint a Planning Inspector to carry out an independent Examination of the Plan on behalf of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The Inspector will consider any representations which have been put forward by members of the public and other interested parties, along with evidence provided by the Borough Council to support the Local Plan. In most cases the Examination will include hearing sessions which are held in public and the dates for this will be confirmed by the Planning Inspector.

In my submission, I alluded to areas that I thought had a negative impact on my Forest Bradgate Ward. The impact the proposal to build 723 dwellings adjacent to Woodthorpe. This proposal encroaches into Woodhouse Parish with the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land, all of which is Grade 2 in the Woodhouse Parish. In my view, this is not consistent with the criteria set when the Plan was developed. I also raised the environmental issues especially the impact on the ancient woodland Mucklin Wood. I raised the issues that would arise if the proposal to build 647 dwellings in Anstey were included in the development allocations, this number is on top of the houses built in the current Local Plan. In my opinion this will have a detrimental impact on village life and certainly have a negative impact on the highway network, especially in the centre of the village (The Nook) which it has already been stated as having severe levels of traffic.

In my conclusions I stated. In my view, there are major areas of the Draft Local Plan to be reviewed to make the Plan sound. This is a plan going forward, I believe it does not recognise the changing environment that will occur over the next ten years which suggests to me there is a need to review the development allocations, especially the use of many green field sites including the excessive loss of Grade 2 agricultural land. The Draft Local Plan needs to understand the impact this will have on communities, especially the ones living in villages and hamlets, remembering shifting the focus of development which, in my opinion, this Draft Local Plan does not achieve. I will keep you informed as the Draft Local Plan continues through the process.

Maplewell Road, Woodhouse Eaves, Planning Appeal.

I did sit through the virtual Hearing which took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021. In my view, the day ran smoothly, albeit not the same as the previous Hearing in the Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall, where there was certainly more opportunity for local residents to participate. It seemed the two areas the Inspector focused on were the changes since the previous dismissed appeal, Charnwood Borough Council unable to demonstrate a five year housing land supply and reduction in the number of dwellings from 50 to 36. I was pleased that the Neighbourhood Plan was a significant factor in the Hearing proceedings. Indeed, the Inspector asked for an up to date position with the Plan on his return from holiday. In my opinion, this will carry more weight in the decision making process if the Plan has moved to a referendum position.

I was pleased to be recently informed by officers at Charnwood Borough Council the Woodhouse Neighbourhood Plan has now reached the referendum stage. The Council published its decision statement to hold a referendum on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Member Grant Scheme.

Charnwood Borough Council are again running the Member Grants Scheme for the 2021/22 financial year, allocating an annual budget of £500 to each Borough Councillor. The grant is to be used to support projects that will bring benefit to each individual Councillor's Ward. In the past, I have been able to help several organisations/groups with awards through this scheme including the Woodhouse Good Neighbours and the Newtown Linford Tennis Club.

Funding can be provided towards community events, activities or equipment. For more information please read the guidance notes and the eligibility checklist on the Borough Council's website, [www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/member\\_grants](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/member_grants). The last date for applications is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022. I



do hope organisations/groups will come forward to apply for this grant, which in some small way can make a difference and help the local community.

Plaque to Mark 800 Years.

A Charnwood Heritage Plaque has been unveiled to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Charters for Loughborough Markets and Fairs. The Plaque was unveiled during a ceremony at Loughborough Town Hall exactly 800 years to the day when the first fair was held in the town under the Charter.

In 1221 a young King Henry III granted a Royal Charter to Hugh le Despenser, the Lord of the Manor, to hold a weekly Thursday market and an annual fair in Loughborough. The fair is held in November, I know that residents from my Council Ward have enjoyed the fun of the fair over the years. It was disappointing that the annual fair was cancelled last year due to the pandemic. This year's fair is planned for November 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>.

Electoral Register.

Make sure you are on the electoral register. Thousands of forms are being delivered across Charnwood Borough to ensure the electoral register is up to date. Every year the Council must check its electoral register is up to date , and letters are sent to all households asking people to confirm the details or inform the Council of any changes. The aim is to make sure that everyone who is eligible to vote is registered and can have their say in future elections and referendums. The Electoral Registration Officer needs the information to be able to publish a complete and accurate electoral register on 1<sup>st</sup> December each year.

Full details of how residents can complete the form on line, by telephone, via text or by post are all contained in the document sent to them. Any residents who have questions can visit [www.charnwood.gov.uk/electoralservices](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/electoralservices) or contact the helpline on 01509 634546.