



NEWTOWN LINFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 27th October 2021 at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall.

0423/21 Members present:

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

Also in attendance: Clerk - Hannah Shaw, County Councillor - Deborah Taylor, Borough Councillor - David Snartt, Bradgate Park Director - James Dymond, Tree Warden - Brian Anderson and 4 residents.

0424/21. Apologies for absence:

Councillors Stuart Eyre and Vicki Lightfoot, PC Greg Moore and PCSO Mitch Jarvis.

0425/21. Confirm and sign minutes of the 14th September 2021 meeting:

These were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

0426/21. 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.

0427/21. Police Matters and NHW reports:

Apologies had been received from PC Greg Moore and PCSO Mitch Jarvis.

Speed checks had been conducted on Main Street and Bradgate Road week commencing 26/09/21 and results showed poor compliance with the speed limits in both areas. Police were now liaising with the Road Safety Team with regards to the speed camera van attending.

The Clerk reported there had been an increase in burglaries across the Charnwood area but none had been reported in Newtown Linford.

A Police Beat Surgery planned for Saturday 30/10/2021 Newtown Linford, outside the Police Box, Bradgate Road 13:30 - 14:30pm.

Four residents were in attendance to raise the issue of speeding vehicles on Main Street and the disruption caused to residents and properties by HGVs driving at speed over the speed hump by Tyburn footpath. A resident reported the noise disruption and vibrations can start at 3am.

The Chairman asked if there was any evidence available. A resident has CCTV footage and on some high definition cameras, it may be possible to obtain registration plate numbers. The Chairman was offered a copy of the evidence to view at a later date.

The Chairman commented a chicane in place of the speed hump by Tyburn footpath, would be no deterrent to HGVs at 3am and would be very concerned to request removal of the speed hump, due to safety implications this may have on the Primary School.

Recent repair works to the speed hump outside The Bradgate public house had lessened the jarring effect on vehicles passing over them. The Clerk had asked LCC Highways if it was possible to have the same works carried out on the speed hump at Tyburn footpath and was awaiting a response.

Residents reported the speed humps are not having the desired effect and were no deterrent to motorists. Councillor Taylor reported third party funding would be required to alter the current speeding measures in place on Main Street. Average Speed Cameras could be considered if Parish Council funding was available.

Councillor Taylor also suggested resurrecting the Community Speedwatch initiative by recruiting volunteers and additional 'Slow Down' signage on lampposts. Councillor Taylor also pointed out that before average speed cameras had been installed at Woodhouse Eaves, there had been over 100 serious incidents recorded and currently, there is no data to suggest a highway safety issue on Main Street to obtain Highways funding for similar measures.

The Chairman asked that the permitted locations approved for Community Speedwatch operations be reviewed, to ensure this particular region of Main Street could be monitored more closely.

It was suggested that since average speed cameras on the A50 had been installed, more vehicles were using Newtown Linford as a cut through and as all routes into the village are downhill, vehicles build up momentum and speed humps have no impact on slowing traffic down.

A Councillor commented that enforcement for both speeding and the 7.5 tonne weight restriction in force, is key to resolving the issues. The Chairman suggested improved paint markings such as dragon's teeth which would highlight and give the appearance of the road narrowing.

Resolve: Councillor Taylor will contact LCC Highways to see what options are available, how much average speed cameras would cost and whether these can be sourced by the Parish Council from an alternative supplier. A resident will provide the CCTV evidence on a memory stick for the Chairman to view.

0428/21. Bradgate Park

Bradgate Park Director, James Dymond, attended the meeting and gave the following report.

Plans had been agreed in principle and a forestry agent had been appointed for the Jubilee Woodland, to be sited next to Swithland Woods car park on Roecliffe Road. The National Forest are funding 60 platinum jubilee woodlands, including one per parish across Charnwood and BPT plan to submit a bid for planting to commence in Winter 2022. Traditional parkland planting on the hill will still allow for grazing on the surrounding land and would be less intrusive on the current view from the road. Surfaced paths may be considered to improve accessibility and BPT are hoping to get volunteers involved and work with the Primary School. Currently, there are no plans to extend the car park at Swithland Woods as the existing overflow is underused. If further car parking is required at a later date, this will be considered as an additional project.

BPT will share the draft design with the Parish Council once complete.

Events will be held in December to meet Santa at Old John tower. Visitors to these events will be encouraged to park at Hunts Hill car park and for families with younger visitors, to explore other areas of the park away from the main pathway.

A contractor had now been appointed for the refit of the Deer Barns Tearoom.

The Chairman asked if there had been any further development with regards ruggedising the overflow car parks. Mr Dymond reported BPT are still obtaining quotations for the works to the overflow car parks to make them suitable for all year round use. Supply chain issues had delayed the process but it is hoped work will commence sooner rather than later, to help with parking issues in Newtown Linford during the Winter.

Tree Warden, Brian Anderson, asked if the two fields at the top of Tyburn footpath belonged to BPT and if so, were there any plans for planting in this area. Director, James Dymond, will look into this and report back.

Resolve: Noted with thanks

0429/21. Report by County Councillor Deborah Taylor.

See Appendix One.

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

0430/21. Report by the Borough Councillor, David Snartt.

See Appendix Two

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

0431/21. Village Governance and Residents:

- Advent Windows – resident, Ruth Brutnall, had offered to coordinate the village advent windows again for 2021.
- The Chairman reported the village troughs had been cleared and winter planting would take place in November.

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

0432/21. Newtown Linford Biodiversity

Councillors considered appointing the Newtown Linford Biodiversity group as a working party under the umbrella of the Parish Council, to formalise the partnership and for insurance purposes when working on urban wildflower verges. All NLB members would be registered as Parish Council volunteers.

Resolve: Councillors agreed unanimously to this arrangement, providing the insurance schedule allows for volunteer cover when working on wildflower verges. Clerk to confirm with insurers.

0433/21. Planning: Buildings and Tree Issues:

• **Decisions**

- a) 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 – Grant Conditionally 04/10/21
- b) P/21/1354/2 - Roecliffe Hall, Swithland Road - Improvements and installation of timber gates to existing side site entrance - Grant Conditionally 15/10/21.
- c) P/21/1416/2 - Newtown Linford Cricket Club - Replacement of existing cricket practice net with double bay practice nets - Grant Conditionally 19/10/21.

Resolve: Noted.

- **Comments submitted through Planning Explorer**

d) P/21/1846/2 - 56 Groby Lane - Proposed addition of pitched roof and timber cladding to existing front extension and addition of porch to front of existing dwelling – No objection 07/10/21.

Resolve: Ratified

- **Discuss**

e) P/21/1994/2 - Hill View House, Benscliffe Road - Proposed detached single storey annex for ancillary staff accommodation. Councillor Snartt had called this application in for consideration by the Plans Committee at CBC.

Resolve: Objection. Councillors wish to object to this application as they are concerned the proposals may contravene Policies CT1 - General Principles for Areas of Countryside, Green Wedge and Local Separation and CT2 - Development in the Countryside and should permission for this proposal for a detached single storey annex for ancillary staff accommodation be granted, it may set a precedent in the area for further future development. Clerk to submit comments to Planning Explorer.

- **Trees**

f) P/21/1812/2 - 521 Bradgate Road - Reduce apical growth by no more than 2m; thin crown by 10%; prune limb overhanging cricket nets to north/north east by no more than 4m; and, remove deadwood (exempt works).

g) P/21/2013/2 - Dingle House, 94A Main Street – Beech – reduce canopy and spread by up to 30%. Variegated Field Maple – raise crown, thin canopy and remove lower reverted branches by up to 30%.

It was also reported Lingdale Golf Club have 7 trees affected with Ash Dieback disease which are to be felled.

Resolve: Noted.

- **Other**

h) P/21/1716/2 - Variation or removal of condition 1 of application P/14/2296/2 (Amendment to add amended plans condition to application P/14/1072/2) - retention of dwelling as built - Sandhills Lodge Farm, Markfield Lane, Newtown Linford LE67 9PS

Resolve: Noted

0434/21. Bob Bown Memorial Field:

- An annual inspection of the playground was due to be carried out week commencing 25/10/21 by Independent Playground Inspections Ltd, arranged through CBC. Cost is £54 plus VAT.
- A Councillor reported mole hills on the park and a Parish Council sign had been found damaged in the surrounding undergrowth. The Clerk reported this had occurred during works carried out to

the rear of a property on Main Street, at the same time the dog waste bin had been repositioned, however, the sign had not yet been rectified by the contractors.

Resolve: Noted. Clerk to chase works to sign with owner of property. A new sign may be required.

0435/21. Village Magazine:

There was nothing to report.

0436/21. Parish Council Website/Facebook Page:

The Clerk reported Facebook group membership had increased to 366 members.

Resolve: Noted.

0437/21. Village Hall:

Everards Lease Supply Obligations - The Village Hall Committee Chairman had received communication from the Head of Business Development at Everards (via the Bar Stewardess, Charlotte Turner), advising they are happy to release the VHC from supply obligations as detailed in the lease, to allow catering for event drinks from alternative suppliers. Everards will also no longer be supplying drinks on a sale or return basis. Councillors considered if this new arrangement needed any further formal correspondence.

Resolve: Councillors were happy with the correspondence received to date and no further action is required at this time. Clerk to ensure new arrangements are reflected in the lease terms and conditions at the next rent review.

0438/21. Highways, Footpaths, Street Furniture, Traffic and Transport:

A consultation on the proposed Traffic Regulation Order for Main Street, went live on Friday 24th September 2021 and ended on Friday 15th October 2021. Properties directly affected received communication through the post. A Proposal Notice, plan and Statement of Reason, were displayed on the Village Hall Noticeboard and on the Parish Council website.

Resolve: Noted.

0439/21. Churchyard and Cemetery:

The Chairman and Clerk had met with Sculptor, Peter Leadbeater, to discuss the possibility of works following the multi-stemmed poplar tree fell at the Cemetery. Councillors considered an abstract art sculpture representing a flame. The total cost would be £1025 and Peter has availability for March 2022.

Resolve: Councillors resolved to go ahead with the project, providing 50% of the total cost is received through donations. Clerk to action.

0440/21. Correspondence:

There was no further correspondence to discuss.

0441/21. 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.

0442/21. Reports on Meetings and Training by Councillors and Clerk:

The Clerk had attended a Parish Clerks Liaison meeting with CBC 05/10/21.

The Clerk had attended a Parish Nature Network meeting with LCC 06/10/21 and felt it would be appropriate for a member of the Newtown Linford Biodiversity group to attend future sessions.

The Clerk had attended the CBC Section 106 Briefing for Parish and Town Councils 07/10/21 and advised Councillors that any request for Section 106 monies for developments of 10 or more dwellings affecting Newtown Linford Parish, should be submitted in writing during the usual 3 week planning consultation timeframe.

Resolve: Noted.

0443/21. Items of Interest or for future meetings:

There was nothing to report.

0444/21. Finance:

- The AGAR Section 3 External Auditor Report for the year ending 31st March 2021, had been received 21/09/21. AGAR Sections 1 to 3 and Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been published on the Parish Council website 22/09/21.
- A VAT Claim of £4351.18 had been received 23/09/21.
- The Clerk reported the deadline for the Parish Precept request had been set to 14th January 2022. The Council Tax Base Rate will be published week commencing 13th December 2021. The budget for the 2022/2023 Financial Year will be discussed at the November meeting.

Resolve: Noted.

Authorisation for payment of invoices:

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|----------|----------------|---|----------|
| 16.09.21 | APB | Village Hall Rent | £437.50 |
| 23.09.21 | PKF Littlejohn | External Audit | £360.00 |
| 27.09.21 | HMRC | Tax and NI | £387.64 |
| | | Contributions | |
| 28.09.21 | HS | September Broadband and out of plan calls | £53.59 |
| 28.09.21 | HS | September Salary | £1024.98 |
| 04.10.21 | NEST | Pension Contributions | £42.35 |

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| 04.10.21 | HS | Travel Expenses – April to Sept '21 inclusive | £89.55 |
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Bank Balances:

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Business Current Account @ 21/10/21 | £ 5,288.84 |
| Business Reserve Account @ 21/10/21 | £ 79,038.03 |
| Total | £ 84,326.87 |

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

0445/21. Dates of the next three Parish Council Meetings:

Wednesday 24th November 2021 7.15pm
 Wednesday 5th January 2021 7.15pm
 Wednesday 9th February 2021 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed by Chair:-.....

Dated:-.....

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Appendix One – Report by County Councillor Deborah Taylor

County Councillor Report – October 2021

Speeding

I meet with residents' yesterday to discuss the speed hump, outside 19 Main Street. I was there for an hour and watched the traffic. The majority of traffic failed to slow down for the speed hump. I have now asked Highways to look at removing the speed hump as it is not serving the purpose it was intended for. The hump is causing increased noise for residents in the nearby area, day and night.

We also discussed speeding in the village. The local police beat team have conducted speed checks in the area, including a covert operation. They have confirmed, what we already know, there is a speeding issue in the village.

To try and begin to combat this issue, I discussed several remedies with residents. As a starting point we discussed putting up signage on parish owned lamp posts, I would need to check with Highways as to what would be suitable. There is also support from the council for

'Community Speed Watch' scheme and if the community can come together, I think this would be a useful starting point.

Without third party funding, there are no major physical alterations we can do at the moment.

Upper Main Street

The public consultation has now ended. There have been objections submitted and I am now waiting for the Ward Referral Report to come through, before taking any further decisions.

Flooding

As we head into winter and the wetter season, I will again pick up the flooding issue in Newtown Linford. This will start with the ditch behind Grey Crescent (Jelson's Land) that runs down onto Main Street. We plan to put dye in the ditch to see where it runs into. This will be done with support from Jelson's and Bradgate Park Trust.

Honorary Aldermen

At an extraordinary meeting of the County Council on Wednesday 29th September, I was delighted to congratulate three retired councillors who have been made Honorary Aldermen by Leicestershire County Council, in honour of their exceptional service to the authority.

After serving a total of 69 years on the county council between them, before retiring in this year's election, Byron Rhodes, Ivan Ould, and Janice Richards, were given the title of Honorary Aldermen at the meeting.

Work & Skills Leicestershire

'Work & Skills Leicestershire' has helped over 100 people since it was first launched in June, initially as an online service. Now the project is being rolled out to employment hubs at libraries across the county.

'Work & Skills Leicestershire' is open to everyone, from those who have never been employed to those who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic, been furloughed, or who are at risk of redundancy. It will also help college leavers, graduates, and agency staff on zero hour or temporary contracts.

'Work & Skills Leicestershire' currently runs at:

- Loughborough Library on Tuesdays 10am until 12 noon

Appointments are available both via telephone and face-to-face at the Employment Hubs. To find out more visit www.leicestershire.gov.uk/work-and-skills or call 0800 988 0308.

Kickstart Placements

Businesses across Leicestershire are being urged to take advantage of a new cash pot enabling them to extend paid work experience for young people. Leicestershire County Council is encouraging companies to increase placements offered under the Government's Kickstart scheme from six to 12 months, after the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) pledged £500,000 to bolster the scheme.

The Government's Kickstart scheme offers six-month paid work placements for 16-24-year olds who receive Universal Credit. The county council has offered placements to 15 young people so far, with further opportunities available in areas including highways services, waste operations, surveying, business support and administration.

Safer Driving with Age (SAGE)

The Leicestershire County Council SAGE (Safer Driving with Age) scheme is a scheme available for over 60s, who would like a safer driving assessment. The assessment is carried out by an experienced instructor and takes about an hour to complete. There are no trick questions or unusual manoeuvres, it is not a driving test. The assessment takes place in the person's own car and will start from a home address or a mutually convenient place.

The course costs £45 and includes the assessment, written feedback, and any necessary guidance and advice. If you wish to take advantage of the scheme and fit in this age bracket, you can book your assessment online at: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-safety/safer-driving-with-age-sessions>

You can also book by calling 0116 305 7233 or by [emailing roadsafety@leics.gov.uk](mailto:emailing_roadsafety@leics.gov.uk).

Cllr Deborah Taylor

Appendix Two – Report by Borough Councillor David Snartt

On Behalf of My Family.

May I have this opportunity to thank you all who have sent messages of sympathy and support on the death of my wife Joan. It has been so uplifting to read all the kind words that have been said about Joan's life, we will miss her so much.

Joan was so supportive to me when I was elected to be your local Councillor. This was especially true when she was my Consort when Chairman at the County Council and Mayoress at Charnwood Borough during the time I was Mayor of Charnwood. Joan had a great time meeting so many people and making new friends. One letter I received said: 'She will be missed by so many people but remembered by so many with such affection, I will remember all the happy times that I spent with Joan'.

Maplewell Road Development Appeal Decision, Woodhouse Eaves.

After all the representations against this development by local people and Councils, I am devastated with the outcome to allow this development to proceed. In my representations to the Inspector, I pointed out the amount of time spent by volunteers passionately producing a Neighbourhood Plan. In my view, we should be satisfying local need for development within the village as outlined in the Neighbourhood Plan. This without turning a green field site, outside the limits to development into a suburban type of development, which does not fit with the existing properties along Maplewell Road. In my opinion, I also believe this decision goes against local democracy with the Woodhouse Neighbourhood Plan in its final stages going to referendum at the end of October. I will now be interested in the outcome of the referendum. I note the Inspector stated in the Appeal Decision 'I see no reason why allowing this appeal should necessarily 'derail' or 'undermine' the Neighbourhood Plan process'. I wonder if local residents feel the same way about this decision.

In my view, it is hard to understand the outcome when I read within the Appeal Decision: 'Accordingly, I conclude it has not been shown that the development would meet an identified need for Woodhouse Eaves or otherwise accord with the spatial strategy in the Core Strategy Policy CS1. Moreover, it would also conflict with Local Plan Policy CT/1 and the Woodhouse Neighbourhood Plan insofar as it is a material consideration'.

Also within the Appeal Decision: 'Accordingly, I conclude that the development would fail to respect the character and appearance of the locality as it extended the perception of the built-up area into the wider

countryside in a manner that would be at odds with that of the immediately adjacent settlement. As such, it would conflict with Core Strategy Policy CS11. Insofar as they are material considerations. With all these negative comments about this development it seems Woodhouse Eaves have seen this development allowed because Charnwood Borough Council cannot demonstrate a five year housing land supply.

Reporting Dog Related Issues.

You can report a number of dog related problems to Charnwood Borough Council.

These include, reporting dog fouling, inform the Council when litter bins/dog waste bins are full, report dogs on the loose, attacking animals or making people feel threatened also let the Council know when there is a dead animal on public land that needs removing. Information on how to report, go to Charnwood Borough website or telephone 01509 634564.

Art Exhibition.

An exhibition showcasing original artwork and sketches by fairground artists has opened at Loughborough Town Hall to mark Loughborough Fair's 800th anniversary year. The historic fair, organised by Charnwood Borough Council, is celebrating 800 years since it was first granted a royal charter. The exhibition opened in the Sock Gallery part of the Town Hall will be on display until Thursday November 18th 2021. The exhibition contains showman's histories, original artwork and sketches by renowned fairground artists and miniature fair rides, showcasing a range of original fairground artworks and explores the history of the fair showmen.

Children will also be able to take part in a colouring competition when visiting the exhibition, colouring sheets will be available in the gallery and entrants will have the chance to win a family ticket to this year's pantomime at Loughborough Town Hall.

For more information about the fair 800th exhibition please visit the Loughborough Town Hall website.