

## ***SEIGHFORD PARISH COUNCIL***

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at Seighford Village Hall.**

**Those present;**

**Parish Councillors-**

**Mr W Brown [Chairman]- Mr R Eld- Mrs J Wetton [Deputy-chair]- -Mrs G Cox-**

**Mr P Eveson – Mr M Eld- Mrs H Sammons**

**Mr R Sutherland [Borough Councillor]**

**Mr D Jones, clerk to the council and approx 30 members of the public.**

**1/Councillor Brown welcomed those present;** the meeting started at 19.30 hours.

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor; Mr D Price

**2/Councillors advised the meeting of agenda items in which they have an interest:**

Councillor W Brown-advised an interest in item 5 relating to the Millennium Green grant.

Councillors M Eld and R Eld–advised an interest on items 4 & 8

**3/Matters raised by the general public;**

Mr Fisher, the chairman of Seighford Football Club, addressed the meeting regarding the imminent rent increase for the football field [item 8]. He explained the main current expenditure incurred by the club, including £310 per annum pitch upkeep, £250 per annum insurance and rental to the parish council. The club have been on site for 20 years and recently installed new changing rooms and showers at a cost of £5300. Their income is from loans, donations, grants and events and they are obviously concerned that the rent increase is affordable.

**4/Appraisal Report on Rural Exception Housing;**

The meeting was attended by John Lancaster of WJL Consultancy, and representatives from Housing Plus and Stafford and Rural Homes. Mr Lancaster, who had prepared the report on behalf of the parish council, addressed the meeting and gave the background to the housing needs survey. He explained how he had identified potential sites within the parish boundary and outlined the methodology involved. There were 11 potential sites; 9 were not considered suitable, 2 two offered the best opportunity, land at the end of Smithy Lane[the current kick about field] and land opposite the pub, both in Seighford. The report was an independent survey; no input was received from landowners, councils or housing association staff. The final decision will be the parish councils in consultation with local residents. There followed a question and answers session in which various concerns were highlighted.

Any properties built would be subject to a Section 106 agreement on completion, which would ensure that only residents with ties to the parish such as work or residence were offered these properties. In the case of insufficient local parish residents being available, the vacancies would be cascaded to selected adjoining parishes.

At this stage Councillor M Eld left the room. The councillors agreed to proceed to the next stage and Mr Lancaster was asked to produce plans of the proposed housing so that public evaluation can be made.

**5/ Derrington Millennium Green; [Councillor Brown withdrew for this item, Councillor Wetton took the chair]**

A brief presentation was given by two members of the trustees regarding the grant application for the borehole project, the cost recently incurred in purchasing a generator and their income streams. At this stage Councillor Brown left the room and Councillor Wetton took the chair. A grant of £750 was proposed by Councillor Evason, seconded by Councillor Sammons and agreed by the meeting.

**6/Accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

Having been previously circulated the minutes were accepted and signed as a true record with the following amendment.

Item 8, line 3; should have read "The Cumbers"

**7/Matters arising from these minutes;**

A] Great Bridgeford-Newport road; The S bend on the road to Woodseaves has been the scene of a number of accidents. The clerk met with Chris Mitchell of County Council Highways to look at the road in question, following the meeting he emailed as follows-*" I have had our maintenance engineers check the condition survey and the road surface is satisfactory but this year's data will be available soon and so I have asked that the site be noted. Another thought may be that debris is being tracked off the lay-by and so the loss of control may start there with the momentum of the vehicles resulting in the 'accident' occurring on the next section. Alternatively it may just be an individual choosing not to heed the warnings given and driving beyond their ability"*.

B] Little Bridgeford Railway Bridge; Network rail advised that they are responsible for the bridge only and not the approach roads. The concern is the steep bank from the road down to a cottage which is a potential accident hazard. Due to the restricted visibility it is not possible to see a large vehicle such as a bus coming over the bridge which means that other vehicles often have to take evasive action. Clerk also discussed this problem with Chris Mitchell during a site visit, his subsequent reply is as follows-*" With regards to the Little Bridgeford bridge, it would seem that this is an ongoing issue between the residents and Network Rail who historically repaired damage to the fence but have now stopped (there is an indication that there may be a land dispute but this is beyond our remit) . When containment measures are put in place, the assessment is focused on vehicles ending up on the railway. This particular corner scored low under the vehicle incursion assessment and so no measures were put in place. Our structural engineers have informed me that approach barriers to the bridge parapet are not possible due to the Network Rail access and that a Road Restraint Risk Assessment Process assessment (for safety barriers) would undoubtedly indicate a low risk due to the very low vehicle speeds and no objects to hit. They cannot therefore see any reason to install a barrier"*.

The question of traffic lights was raised but the cost is prohibitive.

C] Aston-footpath No 7, which runs to Derrington; a resident has approached the Parish Council regarding the installation of wheelchair friendly access on footpath, which he is prepared to pay for. Clerk is in ongoing negotiations with the Footpath Officer.

D] Great Bridgeford-hedge on Newport Road; the hedge between the Village Hall and the Railway Cottages is overgrowing the footpath and needs cutting back .Clerk is in discussion with the owner .

E] Great Bridgeford-footpath onto playing field from Cherry Tree Crescent. It was decided to plant Cotoneasters instead of Pyracantha as the latter could be a potential hazard to young children due to the sharp thorns. Mark Hodgkins is to be approached to provide and plant the shrubs.

F] Seighford-Clanford road; a tree stump on the verge near to the Newport Road is a potential hazard. Clerk apologised as he was unable to find this stump and promised to take a guide next time.

#### **8/Rent increase on playing fields;**

A letter from H & H Bowe outlining proposed rent increases for the football pitch and kick about field had been circulated prior to the meeting. Councillor M Eld explained that the agents had been asked to revise rents for agricultural land in the light of current market conditions. , he then left the room. The council agreed to accept the price increase and raise the rent to the football club to £ 300 per annum. Although the kick about field is under used at present ,it was decided to retain it for now so as not to cloud any issues raised at item 4.

#### **9/. Financial matters;**

##### **A/ Authority was given to pay following invoices**

Clerk's salary & expenses-	£433.41
SPCA	£115.00[training]
District auditor	£162.00[audit fees]
PAYE	£231.40
Derrington Millennium Green[	£750.00[grant]
[	£34.87[material used in bridge repairs]

#### **10/ Correspondence received;**

A list of all correspondence received was given to the councillors. If anyone wishes to peruse any item in more detail please contact the clerk.

#### **11/Planning matter;**

The Plan for Stafford Borough –Draft publication was discussed. The document is held by the clerk and is available to any councillor who wishes to read it in full. The dates of the forthcoming exhibitions by the Borough Council were advised to the meeting and are attached to these minutes. Details are also available on the Borough Council website. **N B -Comments are requested by noon on 21<sup>st</sup> October.**

#### **12/Roads, Highways & Playing Field matters;**

Crossing lane, Derrington-concern was expressed by Councillors Cox & Sammons about the speed of agricultural vehicles using this road, presumably from the strawberry farm. Clerk was asked to write to the Busby's and point this out and also ask Highways if they had any ideas regarding signage.

Blackhole Lane-it was reported that the fence is broken.

**13/The next meeting is on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011 at Derrington Village hall.**

The following guests will be invited to the meeting;

John Perry from the Community Council regarding best kept village competition

Jessica Wilkes-Mellor regarding the US 2 project for young people.

Meeting ended at 21.50hrs.