MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE MANOR FIELD PAVILION, GRANGE LANE, THURNBY, ON MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2016, AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT

Members: Mrs P Chamberlain (Chair), Mrs A Burrell, Mr N Garner, Mr H Gopsill, Mr I Harris, Dr A Keller and Mr J King.
District and County Councillor: Mr S Galton.
Clerk: Mrs S Bloy

Members of the Public: There were seven members of the public present.

ACTIONS

16/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mrs E Derrick and Mrs S Johnstone. Apologies were also received from District Cllr Mr P Elliott.

16/22 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION FROM MEMBERS ON MATTERS IN WHICH THEY HAVE A DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no requests for dispensation.

16/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11 JANUARY 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 January 2016 were approved and were signed by the Chair.

16/24 MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

It was reported that planning application 15/012017/OUT, Land South of Manor Field, Grange Lane (Minutes 16/05 and 16/10e refer) has been withdrawn.

16/25 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Members of the public informed the meeting that they were in attendance with regard to agenda item 13a (Highways – Grange Lane Priority Working Trial). It was agreed to bring this item forward.

A resident circulated a poster showing photographs taken during the trial and their suggested solution of replacing the priority system with ‘Give Way’ signs at both ends of the narrow stretch of Grange Lane. Another resident observed that the likely outcome of this would be vehicles approaching downhill from the east forcing those approaching uphill from the west to stop or reverse. It was suggested instead that the priority working scheme include yellow hashed box markings at the top of Grange Lane to prevent vehicles entering from the east until the way was clear. A third resident questioned the evidence of ‘stand off’ shown in one of the photographs and commented that the coned area which in effect widened the footpath during the trial had certainly helped in protecting the safety and feeling of security of pedestrians of all ages.

Finally, several residents raised concerns over school buses which were:

- using Grange Lane when there are no bus stops, including one operator being observed dropping children off;
- using Grange Lane when not carrying school children;
- having difficulty in turning right from Grange Lane onto Court Road; and,
- mounting the pavement when travelling west.

In response to the issue of school buses, the Clerk read out an email from LCC
which, in summary, confirmed that:

- the route for LCC contracted school buses is via Uppingham Road and Main Street and there are no school bus stops on Grange Lane;
- LCC had reminded contractors of this two years ago and will re-issue the directive in the light of evidence that it is being ignored by some operators;
- the LCC contract with operators does not cover vehicles when coming from or returning to the depot; and,
- some operators using Grange Lane may be commercial or private services not under contract to LCC.

It was agreed that the Clerk should request that LCC Highways reissue the directive to contracted school bus operators regarding Grange Lane.

Having heard representations made by members of the public, the Parish Council considered its response to the report on the Grange Lane Priority Working Trial. This included observations on the video footage taken during two days of the trial, which had been circulated to Councillors. This included an analysis of pedestrian movement during the two days of video footage (107 adults and 21 children on 13 October and 107 adults and 32 children on 14 October). The video footage showed stacking of vehicles on Court Road at peak times, but this did resolve itself with a time delay of normally no more than one minute. Similarly, it had been observed that aspects of conflict between motorists resolved themselves.

The original purpose of the Parish Council’s commission to LCC Highways was noted – this was to address the issue of pedestrian safety on the narrow stretch of footpath at the junction of Grange Lane with Main Street/Court Road. In addition, it was noted that while the Parish Council had commissioned the scheme and would fund it as a third party, the ultimate decision still rests with LCC as the Highways Authority. LCC Highways produced a Feasibility Study which had assessed a number of options and concluded that the only viable option was a priority working scheme. This was consulted on in the summer 2015 and a trial was conducted in October 2015.

While the Parish Council had concerns regarding certain operational aspects of the trial, in particular poor temporary signage, it was agreed that an in principle decision should be taken regarding the proposed scheme. It was proposed by Mr J King and seconded by Mr N Garner that the Parish Council accept in principle the proposed widening of the pavement to protect pedestrian safety, subject to the provision of detailed plans showing all signage, road markings, changes to the footway and any other associated matters such as raised kerbs. This was RESOLVED with six voting for and one abstention. The suggestion by one resident that the priority working be replaced by give way signs from both directions was noted and it was agreed to forward this to LCC Highways for their observations as to whether it would work with the widened footway, as an alternative to priority working.

In conclusion, as acknowledged in previous meetings, it was noted that while the scheme may have a knock on effect elsewhere in the parish, the Parish Council’s priority was to address pedestrian safety on the narrow stretch of footpath on Grange Lane. It was also noted that the Parish Council had recognised that it may be necessary in the future to fund other measures in the parish.

16/26  MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

It was reported that Mrs D Childs had tendered her resignation as Councillor. On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chair formally expressed thanks to Mrs Childs for
her valuable contributions as a Councillor and Vice-Chair. It was noted that, as per the procedures of Harborough District Council, notices regarding a casual vacancy on the Parish Council will be posted.

It was proposed by Mrs A Burrell and seconded by Mr. N Garner that Mr. H Gopsill be elected as Vice-Chair. All were in favour and Mr. H Gopsill was duly elected. Mr Gopsill signed a declaration of acceptance of office.

Mrs P Chamberlain, Mr N Garner, Mr I Harris and Mr J King informed the meeting that they were giving advance notice of apologies for absence from the next meeting to be held on Monday 7 March 2016. In view of this, it was agreed that any major decisions, including matters relating to the Grange Lane Priority Working Scheme (minute 16/25 above refers) be deferred to the April meeting.

16/27 GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
It was agreed that there was no need for a meeting of the GPC.

16/28 CLERK’S REPORT
The Clerk’s report was taken as read and accepted. It was noted that following contact made by a resident, the Clerk had ascertained that an area of grass in front of 52-60 Sedgefield Drive should have been included in LCC’s grass cutting schedule. LCC have added a proportionate sum (£9.94) to the annual allowance for the 2016/17 season and Turney Landscapes have agreed to include the additional area at no additional cost. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the residents concerned. The Clerk also reported that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Leicestershire Police are holding two events (22 and 29 February at Leicestershire Police Headquarters, Enderby) for prospective candidates in the forthcoming PCC election.

16/29 COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS
a) Memorial Hall – the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2016, which had been circulated to Councillors, were noted.

b) TABSASA – it was reported that a meeting is to be held in March.

c) Manor Field Association – there was nothing to report.

16/30 FINANCIAL MATTERS
It was proposed by Mr H Gopsill and seconded by Mrs A Burrell, that the following payments, direct debits and purchases be approved. This was RESOLVED.

Payments:
   i) P Richards Environmental Services (dog bins) - £87.40
   ii) Bains Travel (taxibus) – £180.00
   iii) DCK Beavers Ltd (payroll) - £30.00 (25.00 + 5.00 VAT)
   iv) S R Bloy (salary) £712.94
   v) S R Bloy (travelling expenses) £28.24
   vi) P Chamberlain (travelling expenses) - £16.30
   vii) J King (travelling expenses) - £15.30

Direct Debits:
   i) BT (Clerk’s phone and internet) - £33.76
   ii) BT (POIC) - £19.83

Purchases:
   i) Replacement of trees on Telford Way. Agreed to fund this from the New Homes Bonus grant of £200.
   ii) Legal costs associated with taking on the lease of Hill Court and associated matters - £1,000.
16/31 PLANNING APPLICATIONS
Mrs A Burrell did not take part in discussion of this item other than to provide advice.

a) 15/01912/FUL – erection of single storey side extensions and the insertion of roof lights in the existing building, (Thurnby Reform Church, 720 Uppingham Road, Thurnby). It was noted that further amendments (Amendment C) had been received by Harborough and agreed to ratify the response sent by the Clerk having consulted with Councillors.

b) 16/00029/TPO – works to trees ((fell) (LCC TPO 6), 46 Hollies Way, Thurnby). Having consulted with the tree wardens, it was agreed to support this application.

c) 16/00033/TPO – works trees (LCC TPO 19), (The Chestnuts, 8 Lakeside Court, Thurnby). Having consulted with the tree wardens, it was agreed to support this application.

d) 16/00063/TCA – works to trees (Purple rocket Nursery, 742 Uppingham Road, Thurnby). Having consulted with the tree wardens, it was agreed to support this application.

e) 16/00065/FUL – erection of two storey side extension including integral garage, following demolition of existing garage (24 Wadkins Way, Bushby). It was agreed to submit a NEUTRAL response with no comments.

f) 16/00116/NOT – erection of single storey rear extension (18 Scrivener Close, Bushby). This application was noted for information.

It was proposed by Mr J King and seconded by Mr I Harris that the above decisions be approved. This was RESOLVED.

16/32 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT CASES IN THURNBY AND BUSHBY
It was reported that new case with respect to a dangerous tree at a property on Station Road had been opened. It was further reported that a site visit had been made to the Jelson’s development on Pulford Drive and it appeared that the issue of mud on the road was being addressed.

16/33 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

a) Highways Improvements: Grange Lane Priority Working Trial – This item had been dealt with earlier in the meeting (Minute 16/25 refers).

b) Parking Outside the Primary Schools
Fernvale School – it was reported that following complaints raised by residents with respect to cars being parked on the edge of the green on Somerby Road, HDC have agreed to install wooden posts. In addition, officers from Planning Enforcement and the Police are monitoring the situation.

St Luke’s School – it was reported that a resident had raised concerns regarding parking on both sides of St Luke’s Close at school drop off and collection times, causing access problems. This had been passed to LCC Highways who had responded that site visits had been made and on those occasions, cars were only parked on one side. LCC had confirmed that they would continue to monitor the situation but that there were currently no plans to extend the parking restrictions.

16/34 MANOR FIELD PAVILION AND HILL COURT COMMUNITY CENTRE
Further to the resolutions taken at the meeting held on 11 January 2016 with regard to the Manor Field Pavilion and the Hill Court Community Centre (Minute 16/11 refers) the following developments were reported.

- ongoing discussions with the EMH Group (owners of Hill Court);
- a meeting of the Manor Field Pavilion Working Group; and,
- a meeting attended by the HDC Corporate Assets Manager with representatives of the Parish Council, District Councillors and Humberstone Rangers.

In view of the outcomes of the above it was confirmed that the preferred options for the Parish Council are to:
take on the lease of the Hill Court Community Centre; and,
- pursue the option of the establishment of a Charitable Trust, with regard to the Manor Field Pavilion.

It was proposed by Dr A Keller and seconded by Mr I Harris that the Parish Council:
- a) proceed with taking on the lease of the Hill Court Community Centre and appoint a solicitor to progress issues regarding the lease and related matters; and,
- b) agree, in principle, to the establishment of a Charitable Trust comprising the Parish Council, St Luke's Church, Humberstone Rangers Football Team and Harborough District Council with respect to the Manor Field Pavilion to be held either in a long lease or as freehold, with a head lease granted to St Luke's Church to run the premises at full cost.

This was RESOLVED.

16/35 HDC ANNUAL PARISH LIAISON EVENT
Mr H Gopsill and the Clerk reported that they had attended the above event. Copies of the papers should be available electronically and will be forwarded to Councillors for information. Unfortunately attendance did not appear to be as high as in previous years. It was commented that the event finished early and that perhaps the time might have been made available for questions from the floor.

16/36 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE
The Clerk reported that usage statistics are available and as an indication there had been 93 “hits” during the period 1-8 February. It was reported that 2Commune, the current supplier, had been awarded the contract by LCC for a renewed parish council website service. The importance of maintaining a website was noted, particularly in relation to Neighbourhood Planning. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact 2Commune regarding the development of the Parish Council’s website, including other uses such as a booking system for the Hill Court Community Centre.

16/37 HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – PARISHES OF HOUGHTON-ON-THE-HILL AND HUNGARTON
It was noted that following initial consultation on the proposed changes which ended on 18 December 2015, there had been no objections and no alternative submissions. A recommendation will therefore be made to approve the proposed boundary change.

16/38 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS
- a) Trees – it was agreed to replace the damaged trees on Telford Way green and to take up the offer of a resident to fund one of these. Additional costs would be met using the allocation of £200 New Homes Bonus Locality Grant.
- b) Litter – concern was expressed at the litter on the layby between Bushby and Houghton-on-the-Hill. It was agreed that the Clerk contact HDC to request that the area be litter-picked.
- c) Dog bins – following a review of the existing dog bins by the Clerk, it was agreed that those located near to litter bins be removed. This will be included in the Parish Council’s article for the TABS newsletter.
- d) Manor Field Pond – it was agreed that the Parish Council would discontinue funding work to the pond, following the scheduled spring clearance by Greg Thurlow. The Clerk will notify HDC and ascertain what work they would include in their schedule of works.
- e) Other environmental matters – it was noted that the boundary fence to Manor Field South has again fallen into disrepair and agreed that the Clerk should contact the managing agent, Pavilion Estates.
PARISH COUNCIL ARTICLE FOR THE TABS NEWSLETTER
It was agreed that the article should include: developments regarding the Hill Court Community Centre and Manor Field Pavilion; the Grange Lane priority working scheme; precept for 2016-17; and, dog bins.

LEICESTERSHIRE WALKS PROJECT
Mr H Gopsill reported that it was proposed that two of the existing walks to the south of the A47 be retained, with an additional variation on one of these. In addition, it was proposed that the walk to the north of the settlement should not be included under Thurnby and Bushby, due to large sections of it becoming housing development over the next few years. The suggested amendments were proposed by Mrs A Burrell and seconded by Mr J King. This was RESOLVED. Final versions will be brought to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

SECTOR LED BODY AUDIT PROCUREMENT
As previously agreed by the Parish Council, it was RESOLVED to confirm that the Parish Council will remain opted-in to the Sector Led Body arrangements for the future procurement of external audit.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING
The following agenda items were agreed:
- Response to the HDC Supplementary Interim Sustainability Report.
- Changes to school provision in Leicestershire.
- Leicestershire Walks project.
- ID for Councillors and those representing the Parish Council, including tree wardens.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING
The next meeting will be held on Monday 14 March 2016, commencing at 7.00 pm, at the Manor Field Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 21.00

Chair, 14 March 2016