

BURTON BY LINCOLN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Held at the Burton Estate Club on Tuesday, 10th May 2005, Commencing at 7.30pm

Present: John Copeland (Chairman), Gordon Hickmore (Clerk to the Parish Council), Councillor Ray Sellars, Mr P Russon, Mrs J Osterfield, Mrs L Benson, Mr & Mrs F Applewhite, Mrs E Cousins, Mr R Dowson, Mr G Lisseman, Mrs A Copeland, Mrs M Sexton, Mr J Moore, Mr & Mrs D Rossington, PC J Sievwright, Mrs J Willows 15 persons in all.

Introduction

The Chairman welcomed parishioners to the meeting and introduced PC Jason Sievwright of the Lincolnshire Police Saxilby office and Mrs June Willows, who had been invited to address the meeting about the aims of the Springline Good Neighbour Scheme.

PC Sievwright explained that PC Willey and PC Clarke who normally covered Burton parish were taking their promotion exams and were unable to attend. He had been detailed to deal with any policing matters that may arise during the course of the meeting. He stated that criminal activity had been low in Burton over the past year with just 3 incidents of burglary or attempted burglary reported. There had been 2 incidents involving vandalism of the phone box. He confirmed that the police would not normally respond to a call reporting an activated burglar alarm unless there was other supporting evidence such as suspicious vehicle or signs of a break in. PC Sievwright also stated that the police invariably investigate complaint from the public regarding vehicle offences, but this claim was received skeptically by the meeting. The Chairman expressed his thanks to PC Sievwright for attending the meeting at short notice.

June Willows explained the aims of the Springline Good Neighbours scheme to the meeting. She stated that the scheme had recently been set up by a group of volunteers to provide help and assistance to those in need in the Springline group of parishes. The group offered a range of services including support for the bereaved, help with shopping for the disabled, a collection service for prescriptions or just a helping hand at a difficult time. The group had held several fund raising events but would welcome further financial support from parishes to cover set up costs. Parishioners present were in favour of the scheme and recommended that the parish Council provide £100 from parish funds in support of the group's activities.

1. Apologies for Absence: Mr D Whyles, Mr P Allen (Chairman BWRA), Mr & Mrs P Cook, Mr E Bell, Mrs G Jolly, Mr S Chadderton and others

2. Minutes of the last Meeting The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th May 2004 were accepted as a true record, and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising.

3.1 Burton Pits Nature Reserve. The larger of the two pits had been taken over by a member of the fishing syndicate who had spent a considerable sum of money clearing the debris, dredging the pit and landscaping the area. He intended to restock the lake with fish for private fishing. The Clerk was pleased to inform the meeting that the new tenant was committed to improving the environment and he had done much to clear the lakes area that had become derelict.

3.2 Village CCTV system. The Clerk stated that he had examined proposals for a CCTV system which would be very expensive to install if it was to cover the whole village. The legal aspects were complex and cameras would have to be installed on private property as it was unlikely that permission would be granted to erect cameras on the highway. Maintenance cost would have to be met by those subscribing to the scheme and that posed problems for collection. Even with cameras, there was a problem in identifying criminals who invariably used stolen vehicles or false number plates to avoid detect. In the Clerk's opinion it was not a cost effective

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3.3 Parish Plan. The parish plan had been completed and distributed to all households in October.

3.4 Burton Estate club. The Clerk confirmed that he had written at the request of the secretary of the club, requesting that the Club Committee consider establishing the premises as a Parish Hall. The Club would remain as tenants but the building would then qualify for grant aid to restore and improve the premises. However, at the Club AGM in February, members voted against the proposal, preferring to seek a grant without a change in status.

4. Annual Report of the Parish Council 2004/2005

4.1 The Chairman presented the Annual Parish Council report for 2004/05. A copy of the report is attached.

5. Financial Report.

The Parish Clerk presented the Parish Accounts for the year. He stated that the parish finances were in good shape and showed a modest expenditure over income for the year of £61. Income for the year totaled £3430 with £3590 from the parish precept and £407 from the Countryside Agency to cover the production of the Parish Plan. The Council made grants totaling £700 and Council administration costs were £1526. Total expenditure was £3491 and the current and deposit account balance at 31st March stood at £2831. The Journal cost approximately £300 per year to produce or just £1 per household for 4 issues which he considered excellent value for money. He was seeking sponsorship to cover the cost of printing the journal professionally to relieve some of the burden on the editorial team. The Parish Council agreed to provide a grant of £500 towards the cost of restoring the church bell - £250 from 2004/05 account and £250 in this financial year. A copy of the annual account is displayed on the notice board and at Annex B to the minutes. The accounts will be available for public inspection for 28 days prior to the audit date of 30th July.

6. Burton Waters & Odder - Progress Report

6.1 General. Construction of the new basin has been completed and work has commenced on the 13 flats and retail units. Although the agents report considerable interest, no information is available on the retailers who may buy or rent the units. Negotiations continue to find a restaurateur willing to take on the over-water restaurant. Construction of the residential units has slowed considerably and it is believed only 25 houses were sold in 2004/05. There are now 232 registered electors at Burton Waters occupying 146 houses or flats but there are at least 50 additional houses which are either second homes or let properties where the occupants have not registered.

6.2 Local Plan Inquiry. At the local plan inquiry held in March, objections were raised by the developers on a number of issues affecting Burton Waters. The first for an increase in the housing allocation from the existing 299 to 350 on the main residential site, the reinstatement of BW 2 on the planning document and a request by Midas to include "Special needs and residential Housing in the planning criteria for BW3. The changes were opposed by WLDC. The inspector's report which covers the whole West Lindsey area is expected to be published in the autumn.

6.3 Burton Waters Cycleway. The Clerk confirmed that the extension of the cycleway to Burton waters from the Pyewipe would follow the A57 for part of the route but it would remain separate from the residential site. Construction would commence when 50% of the residential housing on site A is complete. The sum of £80,000 had been allocated by the developers towards the cost of the project.

6.4 Odder. Keith Arnold cars had been requested to keep vehicles off the verges to the front of his garage as they obstructed the vision of drivers entering and exiting the area from the A57. New traffic calming signs had been recently erected on the A57 on the approach to the hamlet.

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7. The Burton Journal

7. The Burton Journal continued to be a valuable means of communication informing parishioners of Council business, events and issues and linking all communities within the parish. Production costs have been kept down by keeping the printing “in house” while maintaining the quality of the magazine as a whole. Costs work out at about £250 for the year or £60 an issue. Part of the cost is offset by a donation of £60 from a parishioner who wishes to remain anonymous but we will be seeking limited advertising to further reduce the cost of production. Costs cover paper, ink cartridges, laser toner and postage where copies cannot be delivered by hand. We are now producing 300 copies each quarter which takes 3-4 days to print and collate – a major task. June 2005 marks the 60th anniversary of the ending of WW II and the summer Journal will feature articles from parishioners of their war time recollections.

8. Suggestions for Items to be considered. There were no items to be considered but the following points were raised at the meeting:

8.1 Anglian Water Bench Seat. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had resolved at the May meeting of the Council to site the Bench seat by the Post Box. The Clerk would be seeking approval from Highways to locate the seat at that position.

In conclusion the Chairman thanked all parishioners for attending the meeting and for their support throughout the year. There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Chairman Burton-by Lincoln
Parish Council