

Minutes of the Meeting of the Burton-by-Lincoln Parish Council
Held at the Burton Estate Club on Tuesday 5th December 2006

Present: Eric Bell (Chairman) Gary Lisseman, Steve Chadderton, Peter Russon, Joan Osterfield, Peter Cook

In Attendance. Gordon Hickmore (Clerk), Cllr Sarah Anyan, Cllr David Cotton, Ray Sellars

Also Present: - Anne Moore, Margaret Cook, John Moore, Mr & Mrs M Hukin, Norris Jackson, Phyllis Russon, Fred Applewhite, Phillip Rich and others.

Apologies: Cllr Gillian Jolly, PC Martin Clark (Lincolnshire police)

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th October were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Clerk's Report

3.1 White Paper on Local Government Reform. The white paper on Local Government Reform has been published and a summary of its contents is available from the Parish Clerk. First impressions are that it is a worthy document but the impression is that the steam has gone out of many of the proposals which would devolve more power to parishes and introduce unitary authorities in Lincolnshire. It may result in smaller councils federating to provide improved services but response from the LALC has been muted.

3.2 Area Forums. The Clerk attended the Area Forum at Fiskerton on 12th October with Cllr David Cotton. The meeting included a presentation by Lincolnshire Highways and the road safety partnership.

3.3 Litter Picking Equipment. The Clerk reminded the meeting that litter picking equipment is available for the use of Burton Waters residents to clear the Fosdyke towpath. The Clerk agreed to investigate the purchase of heavy duty, high visibility winter jackets for the litter squad.

3.4 Central Networks – new substation. No information has been received on a start date for the new village sub-station, but it was noted that Central Networks is installing a new substation at South Carlton

3.5 Highways and Road Safety. (para 7.2). The clerk confirmed that gritting had been extended along fen lane to the A57 roundabout and cattle signs had been erected on the approaches to new farm. The Chevrons had been replaced at the Dunster lodge and Abbots View bends.

3.6 Burton Journal. The autumn/winter edition of the Burton Journal had been published and it had been well received by parishioners. The cost of producing each edition is around £100 and this was covered by advertising receipts. The workload in producing a quality local magazine is considerable and to give some respite to the editorial team, it had been agreed to slip to a 4 monthly cycle.

4. Finance

4.1 Parish Balance. The parish balance on 1st October was £1377 with £2614 in the deposit account. The Clerk stated that expenditure was below the estimate as we had not been called upon to pay for dog bins or the proposed vehicle activated speed sign. Income from advertising in the Journal in November was £105 and we had received a VAT refund of £127 from Customs and Excise. The Clerk had taken the opportunity to purchase spares for the HP5 colour printer through eBay saving many hundreds of pounds in cost. The printer although antiquated, is ideal for printing colour graphics in the Journal and the church newsletter. He also asked the council to approve the purchase of Serif Webplus software to update the parish website.

4.2 Authorisation of Expenditure. The follow expenditure was authorised by the Parish Council:

Staples	£130.72	Paper and consumables
Royal British legion	£20	Remembrance Day wreath
Serif Software	£69.95	
HP 5 spares	£85.74	
Brother toner	£33.98	
Mince pies	£7.16	} Total £196.78
Christmas tree	£30	
Bank to cash	£50	litter picking expenses £23, Chairman's expenses £20

4.3 Precept 2007-2008. The Clerk presented the proposed parish precept 2007 – 2008. He pointed out that elections are due in 2007 and the £800 cost must be included in the parish budget. This amounts to an additional charge of almost £3 per household. However, the burden would be shared between a greater number of properties as number of households had increased to 314 and the electorate had risen to 488 from 414. Total expenditure is estimated at £4250 less income of £460, giving a precept of £3790 for the next financial year. We receive a contribution from WLDC of £2 per elector plus a contribution of £100 towards administration costs, giving a balance from the rates of £2714. This gives a figure of £10.05 for a Band D property, an increase of 43p or 4.46%. He pointed out that should we not hold an election, the £800 saved was not refundable could be used for approved works within the parish under section 137 of the Local Government Act. A copy of the Precept budget calculations is at Annex A.

4.4 It was proposed by Steve Chadderton and seconded by Gary Lisseman that the council set a precept of £3790 for 2007/08. The motion was carried unanimously.

Resolved: that Burton Council set a precept of £3790 for 2007/08.

5. Planning

5.1 Planning Applications. Planning applications were received as follows:

5.1.1 M06/P/0600 The Coach House, Burton. No further information had been received on the proposed conversion of the Coach House to a private dwelling.

5.1.2 M06/P/0235 Burton Estate Club. The application has been approved by WLDC.

5.1.3 M06/P/0834 Burton Waters. Application to erect 4 dwellings Park Lane. No information has been received on the progress of this application. It is believed that the developer may reduce the number of properties on this site.

5.1.4 M06/P/1033. Odder farm Saxilby road. The parish Council had no observations on the application for change of use of ground floor space from office to residential.

5.2 Erection of fencing BW3. The Clerk confirmed that the erection of the wire fencing surrounding the fishing lodge site had been contained within the planning application. The application also states that the fence will be under-planted with hedging.

5.3 Land at Ellis Farm B1398. The Clerk confirmed that the Council had been informed by Lincoln Rugby football Club of their intention to purchase 25 acres of land of the B1398 between the Old Coach Road and the bypass, for the building of a clubhouse and 8 rugby pitches. The club has been considering a move from the Lindum for many years but recently they had been successful in an application for a grant from a local Trust fund to fund the move. It is understood that the Minster school is also negotiating for land in the same area for the creation of a sports field and they were likely to share the parking and changing facilities. An agreement on the sale of the land had been reached, subject to planning permission. John Roberts has been retained by the club to draw up plans for submission to WLDC. The Club is anxious to include the Parish in the planning process and provide facilities that would be of benefit to the community. Although the Land is designated as Green Wedge, the planning regulations do allow for the creation of recreational facilities

6. Correspondence

6.1 correspondence received included:

Central Networks - Grants for community projects
WLDC Community involvement
WLDC request for information on community facilities
WLDC Corporate plan and Performance plan
WLDC Gambling Act
WLDC Information booklets
Community Council Magazine
East Midlands regional plan
NHS Primary Care Trust
LALC information bulletin

6.2 Electoral register 2007-2008. The latest electoral register shows that there are 488 electors in the parish with 138 electors in Burton village, 18 at Odder and 332 at Burton waters. The register is available for inspection by application to the Parish Clerk.

7. Burton Waters and Odder

7.1 The Landings convenience store is now open selling food, drinks, newspapers and providing facilities such as dry cleaning. It is not thought that the store will be providing a newspaper delivery service. The opening of Harbour City oriental restaurant is on 12th December. It is understood that the water taxi to and from Lincoln will be operating by July 2007. The Clerk agreed to investigate the provision of a bus shelter which in his opinion should be provided by the developer or the management company. Consideration needs to be given to the provision of public toilets when the plans for the final phase of the development on site B are submitted.

8. Repairs to the Wellhead

8.1 The Clerk was pleased to announce that the directors of Midas Ltd had agreed to cover the cost of the repairs to the wellhead which are estimated at £1700. Estimates had been obtained from local stonemasons and it was agreed to appoint Richard Osterfield to complete the work. The Clerk agreed to write to Mr Osterfield confirming his appointment. The Council were unanimous in approving a vote of thanks to the directors of Midas for their generosity in providing a grant.

9. Closed Churchyards – Policy

9.1 The Clerk confirmed he had obtained a copy of legal advice submitted to the C of E authorities on the subject of closed churchyards, in response to the point raised by John Moore at item 10.2 of the meeting held on 10th October. It would appear that should the churchyard become full and is closed, responsibility for maintenance may then passed to the parish council. It would also fall upon the parish as the burial authority, to provide addition land for a cemetery – a controversial and expensive procedure that could involve the compulsory purchase of land within the parish, not necessarily adjacent to the church. Although it will be some years before we reach this situation, he believed that the village church committee should consider a number of options, including an extension to the existing churchyard. He understood the item would be discussed at the next church committee meeting. A copy of the legal brief is at Annex B.

10. Footpaths – overhanging hedges

10.1 The Chairman stated that he had received complaints from parishioners regarding overhanging hedges in the village that restricted the use of the footpath, namely the yew hedge on the corner by the wellhead and the hawthorn hedge by Kennel cottage. He had been in contact with parishioners and reported progress as follows:

10.2 Kennel Cottage. The owner of kennel cottage had agreed for the hedge to be cut back by Tim Russon using farm machinery. This is now complete.

10.3 Yew hedging - Wellhead Corner. The Chairman stated that the yew hedging was an emotive subject and any attempt to cut back the hedging would be opposed by many villagers. However, he had consulted with frequent users of the walkway to determine whether there were any health and safety issues involved or whether they considered there were any hazards. He reported that as he had received no complaints from those using the footpath, including the young and elderly, he therefore concluded there were no health and safety reasons for the hedge to be cut back. This view was endorsed by all members of the Council. The Chairman agreed to inform Mr Roy Dowson of the decision.

11. Parish Meetings 2007

11.1 The Clerk stated that parish elections would be held on Thursday 3rd May 2007 and the new council should meet within 10 days of the election. He suggested that the dates of meetings for 2007 be as follows:

Tuesday 13th March, Tuesday 8th May (Election Day Thurs 3rd May) Tuesday 15th May (Annual Parish Meeting) Tuesday 10th July, Tuesday 9th October, Tuesday 4th December

12. Any Other Business

12.1 Waste Collection. David Cotton informed the meeting that cardboard boxes would now be included in the list of items that could be recycled in the blue bin.

12.2 Parish website. The parish website is being revamped and it is hoped the new site will be operational for the new year.

12.4 War Memorial. Councillors expressed their thanks to Mr Reg Mansbridge for his support in keeping the war memorial in good order.

12.5. A57 Roundabout. Cllr Ray Sellars informed the meeting that he had been approached by the Woodcocks management regarding the sponsorship of a planting scheme for the A57 roundabout at Burton Waters. Woodcocks will be closed in February for a major refurbishment of the premises. He agreed to contact highways on the procedure for sponsorship.

12.6 Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th March at 7.30pm in the Estate club. This will be the final meeting of the Council before the May elections.

12.3 The Chairman thanked all for attending and wished all parishioners a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned for mince pies and a seasonal drink at 8.30pm

Eric Bell

Chairman