

Minutes of the Burton-by-Lincoln Annual Parish Meeting
Held at the Burton Estate Club on Monday 17 May 2010, Commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Fred Myers (Chairman), Maureen Wheeldon (Clerk to the Parish Council), Steve Chadderton (Vice-Chairman); Parish Cllrs Eric Bell, Peter Cook, Ian Marriott County Cllr Ray Sellars; District Cllrs Jackie Brockway & David Cotton
E.ON Personnel – Operations Manager, Phil Woodcock, Customer Liaison Manager, Lorraine Reddington, Customer Liaison Process Administrator, Julie Heffer.
5 Members of the Public.

The Chairman welcomed all parishioners to the meeting and introduced the representatives from E.ON Central Networks.

1. E.ON (Central Networks) Presentation

Lorraine Reddington outlined the role of Central Networks (formerly EMEB) as part of the E.ON Group with responsibility for distribution. Bills are paid to E.ON as the supplier. The network employs 3,500 people covers 132,000 km and has 94,000 substations. The Contact Centre is at Castle Donnington – Freephone numbers for enquiries. Customer liaison and care is a high priority. In emergencies, 2 customer support vehicles supply hot drinks, warm blankets etc. whilst engineers fix problems. For vulnerable people, a Priority Service Register (already 180,000 members) gives access to information and progress on fault repair and enables deployment of support vehicle. It is free to join.

E.ON is in liaison with charitable organisations such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, Age Concern and the W.I. A small number of ‘Winter packs’ containing fleecy blanket, gloves, hand warmer, basic ‘phone that will work in a power cut, were left with Parish Clerk for use by elderly and vulnerable people in an emergency.

Phil Woodcock showed a plan of the circuit and outlined the problems (trees, bird strikes, kites, the theft of copper and vandalism) of the rural network. He answered questions as his talk went along. Saxilby, Burton, Burton Waters have the longest rural circuit with overhead wires that Central Networks owns; this is constantly patrolled by linesmen, although 24 hour service cannot be guaranteed. Burton Fen is part of the worst performing circuit in the area, with elderly wiring. 5 yearly tree trimming had helped but this is a massive project. Any trip automatically re-closes 3 times before circuit locks-out; any auto re-close triggers a line-patrol walk inspection. It is important for customers to report all faults, however brief, as this helps identify location. The aim is to restore power for 65% of faults within an hour. The vision for the future is for underground cabling for new building developments.

In response to questions from the meeting, he said that Burton Waters’ new cable had been laid towards the canal and railway but overhead supply, with 2 feeds helping reliability, is still in use pending legal negotiations with British Rail and British Waterways. There are no EU regulations in place to support claims for damage to personal equipment caused by power cuts. Customers should check with their own insurers. Use of surge protectors is recommended.

A good liaison exists between Julie Heffer of E.ON and the Burton Parish Clerk.

The Chairman thanked Lorraine and Phil for the presentation which had been well pitched and relevant to local people and issues.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Cllrs John Moore and Joan Osterfield. Parishioners Mrs M Cook, Mrs P Hukin and Mrs A Moore.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 May 2009 were accepted as a true record; proposed by Cllr Bell, seconded by Cllr Chadderton and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

4.1. Illegal Advertising signs - Burton Waters - The problem continues, with local business' placing illegal advertising signs near the roundabout at Burton Waters. The signs are dangerous in that they obscure motorists' view. This type of advertising needs planning permission. Approaches have been made to WLDC throughout the year to little effect. The Clerk will raise the problem again with WLDC.

4.2. Unpleasant smells - Burton Waters – Cllr Marriott has advised that the air quality at BW is much better and monitoring will continue.

4.3. Burton Waters Cycleway - Cycle Path – The Clerk had emailed Les Outram, Technical Svcs, Lincs CC on 24/01/10 raising Burton Cllrs' concerns about the proposals for the Burton Waters section of the route and the safeguarding of the Beal Homes' contribution, £90,000 under Section 106 to Lincs CC. These queries remain outstanding; the Clerk will pursue. The cyclepath is due to be completed by the end of March 2011.

4.4. Clearance of Footpath - The Old Coach Road – There are still problems with the mud on the pavement on B1398 at end of Old Coach Road. The Clerk had reported it to WLDC: 16/02/10 Report No 88384; 05/03/10 - new Report No – 89601.

4.5. Provision of Parish Facility - WLDC 122793 Site B - Park Lane, Burton Waters – WLDC Interim Development Officer, Aida McManus, WLDC, had undertaken (by email 01/03/10) to contact the Clerk as soon as WLDC and the developer had concluded, or almost finalised, their position in relation to the contribution towards affordable housing within the WL district. At this point a meeting between WLDC, the developer and Burton PC sub-committee will be arranged to discuss the community hall/meeting room facility. Clerk had emailed Ms McManus on 01/05/10 – no response. Ongoing; the Clerk will pursue.

4.6. Burton Journal – Clerk lets the editor of the Church Magazine, Mrs Julia Hepburn, know of the dates of forthcoming Parish Council meetings; these dates now appear in the magazine.

4.7. Quarterly Newsletter – In autumn 2009, it had been hoped to create a quarterly newsletter to enable community organisations to reach all households within the Burton-by-Lincoln, Burton Waters and Odder settlements. Initial funding had been pledged from the Community Lottery Fund (£250.00), Burton Waters Management Committee Ltd (£250.00) and Springline Good Neighbours Scheme (£25.00). The PC had agreed to contribute £250.00 and a cheque was issued, as a S137 grant, towards the setting up of the publication. Unfortunately there had been little community response and the Steering Group had returned the cheque, thanking the PC for its support and offer of funding. The scheme is in abeyance.

4.8. The 'Simple Sid' Vehicle Activity Sign – Burton PC had made a contribution of £200.00, under S137, towards this equipment which would be administered by the police and time-shared equally between contributing parishes. Police expect to place the order for 'Simple Sid' within the next fortnight.

5. Annual Report of the Parish Council 2009/2010

The Chairman presented the Annual Parish Council report for 2009/10. A copy of the report is attached - Paper A.

6. Parish Council Accounts for the Financial Year 2009/2010

6.1. The Parish Clerk presented the Income & Expenditure Accounts for the Year ended 31/03/10 - see attached - Paper B. Mr Chris Hewis had internally audited the accounts.

Parish finances showed an annual expenditure of £3856; income over expenditure of £53. Income for the year was £3909 and included the parish precept (£3885); a VAT refund (£22) and £2 bank interest. The VAT figure in income shows the difference between tax paid in the year and tax reclaimed for the previous year.

6.2. The Council had made grants, under Section 137, of £900 – made up of £200 to the Churchyard; £250 to the Burton Waters' Residents Association; £250 (which had included £50 for new plates) to the Burton Estate Club and £200 to Lincs Police Authority for 'Smiley Sid'.

6.3. Cost cutting is proving effective. Despite the purchase of a new printer and a filing cabinet, the PC entered the new tax year with a healthy but not too excessive reserve. The current and deposit account balance at 31 March 2010 stood at £3523 (current £712 + deposit £2811).

6.4. A copy of the annual accounts will be displayed on the notice boards and attached to the minutes. The accounts will be available for public inspection for 21 days prior to the external audit date of 14 June 2010.

6.5. The Internal Auditor had pointed out that the Council is required to register with HMRC as an employer. This action has now been completed and an end of year PAYE return submitted. HMRC software is being used to maintain Payroll records.

7. Parish Website

The Chairman thanked Gordon Hickmore, the former Parish Clerk, for continuing his work as Webmaster. The website includes Parish Council information, current and archived minutes, a history of Burton Parish and other items of interest to parishioners.

8. Parish Update

8.1. Renewal of white lines on the bends on Main St, Burton Village – Cllr Sellars had received an undertaking from Noel Robinson, Lincs Highways, to refresh the white lining between the B1398 and A57 in due course.

8.2. Double white lines at the traffic lights on Middle St, Burton Village – This had been suggested because of safety concerns, but Lincs Highways, Noel Robinson advised that it is not feasible. Clerk contacted Lincs Road Safety Partnership's Principal Engineer, Steve Empson, whose response of 08/04/10 supported that of Highways. Mr Empson reviewed the collision data at the site over the last 5 years but found none caused by overtaking. In order for the Partnership to consider any alterations, there must be a pattern of collisions that can be addressed, but the collisions are random in causation. Mr Empson has offered to meet with Cllrs to discuss the problem. Clerk will arrange.

8.3. Discharge of Sewage within Burton Village – A public foul sewer is to be provided to Burton village within defined area. WL finalising the Business Plan with Ofwat, for period April 2011 to March 2015 – ongoing.

8.4. Bus Stops at Odder – There has been no further progress with Lincs CC – ongoing.

9. Suggestions for matters to be considered by the Parish Council during the forthcoming year.

9.1. Dog Fouling – At the PC meeting on 04/05/10, a parishioner had complained dog fouling on Woodcote Lane, Burton Village. Cllr Bell advised of two further complaints. Clerk to contact WLDC about provision of dog waste bin.

9.2. Fen Lane – Concerns were raised about:

9.2.1. Large potholes

9.2.2. Danger to persons from overhanging trees/breaking branches.

Clerk to contact Alan Brown, Area Highways Manager, to arrange a site meeting about these concerns; also will invite Mr Brown to attend the proposed meeting with Mr Empson about the double white lines at the traffic lights, see item 8.2.

9.3. Councillors' Initiative Fund – Cllr Brockway reminded Burton Parish Cllrs that appropriate applications from this fund would be welcomed.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

Fred Myers

Chairman, Burton-by-Lincoln Parish Council