

CARLTON-ON-TRENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th January 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present: T Cooper (Chair), N Fletcher (Vice-Chair), R Whate, F Jerome, M Eley, M Martin, J Clark, B Laughton, C Rose and T Grimes (Clerk) plus 4 members of Matifer/Bellenden

1. Consultation with Bellenden on behalf of MTS Ltd re Solar Farm on Ossington Road
This is to be a development of a 25MW solar farm on approximately 90 acres of grade 3B arable land. There has been an Environmental Impact Assessment, the results of which are just being analysed. The visual impact is to be reduced by a 3m hedge along the roadside and flooding concerns are to be addressed with the planting of grass beneath the panels to prevent erosion. There will be high fencing and CCTV to deter thieves and vandals but no security lighting creating light pollution. There are still decisions to be made regarding the footpath adjacent to the site.

There will be another public consultation meeting on 21st January, for which the PC offered to distribute invitations at a cost of £20 to ensure all local properties were informed.

There is to be community funding in the region of £2000 per MW ie approximately £50000. Cllr Laughton asked whether an annual payment for the next 25 years would be an option and this received a positive response.

2. To consider any apologies for absence

None

3. To receive any declarations of interest in items on the agenda

MM declared an interest in the clerk's wages and pay issues and also the refunding of expenses for spray paint.

4. To accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Tuesday 4th November 2014

ME proposed that the minutes be accepted. JC seconded the matter and the chair signed them as a true record of the meeting.

5. 10 minute open forum to receive questions and comments from members of the public

There were no members of the public present to raise issues but some had contacted councillors prior to the meeting.

(a) Pot Holes Bell Lane (FJ)

FJ had been informed of pot holes in Old Bell Lane and had already reported these to NCC. The holes now have spray paint around them suggesting they have been assessed as severe enough to need filling. JC had also been contacted regarding pot holes in Carlton Lane which she reported and these have been filled.

(b) Sign Painting Old Bell Lane (FJ)

A member of the public contacted FJ to say the sign painting on the Old Bell Lane Street name had all run and looked a mess. FJ offered to report this to Norman Corr at NSDC.

(c) Over Hanging Branches (FJ)

FJ contacted the owner of the bushes which still had not been trimmed sufficiently and having offered to cut them herself, has been told the Parish Council is welcome to trim them back whenever they become an issue.

(d) Hedge Cutting (ME)

ME reported that the hedge at the Lodge beyond the Grey House hung a long way over the path so when a car parked alongside this stretch of pavement, pedestrians were unable to pass without getting brushed by the hedge. FJ offered to speak to the home owner.

6. To note any matters arising from the minutes of 4th November 2014 which are not elsewhere on the agenda

(a) Fly Tipping Sign in the Lay-bye (TG)

A sign had been provided by NSDC and was in place at the South end of the lay bye but it was felt a second sign was needed for the North end. The clerk was asked to source one.

(b) Parking on Pavements (TG)

The clerk reported that PCSO Crowhurst had been approached about parking on pavements. Whilst it is an offence, very few prosecutions take place, the police will advise offenders that they should leave room for a person with a pushchair or an invalid carriage to pass on the pavement unimpeded. The PCSO will watch

for offenders whenever he passed through the village and speak to them if the council so wishes. It was decided that in the first instance it would be better for a councillor to have a friendly word. If this does not have any impact the cards issued by NCC would be used and finally the PCSO asked to have a word.

(c) Dog/Horse Droppings (TG)

The clerk reported that signs had been sprayed on the road in Carlton Lane and that MM had paid for the paint at a cost of £5.75.

(d) Defibrillator (TG)

The defibrillator is now fully connected to the mains and has a sign stating it was purchased courtesy of community donations.

(e) Bus Stop Litter Bin (ME)

ME raised concern that the litter bin had been put at the wrong bus stop and wanted it minuted that she had not voted for a bin on Ossington Rd but on Great North Road. It was unclear whether or not South bound had been mentioned to clarify which bus stop as it was not minuted but it seemed that mention of the 'new bus stop' may have been mis-interpreted; and that this was understood to mean the new site for the North bound stop which had moved from Great North Road to Ossington Road rather than it meaning the old South bound stop which had simply had a new post. It was agreed that NSDC had placed the bin where the PC indicated and therefore nothing could be done to change this, the only option was to add another bin adjacent to the south bound stop, however this would incur costs. Cllr Laughton kindly offered to pay for another bin.

7. To receive updates on any District & County Councillor matters

Cllr Laughton reported that the Pears outcome had been disappointing and Cllr Rose said there were ongoing issues which could not be discussed further at present.

Cllr Laughton apologised for the problems during the icy weather, explaining that they were the result of the weather forecast being incorrect on a bank holiday when there was no-one to update it so gritting lorries were not deployed Boxing Day and then could not access many areas the following day affecting emergency services and refuse collections as well as disrupting the public and leaving roads dangerously icy.

Cllr Rose reported that there had been a meeting regarding the A1 noise issues at which Robert Jenrick had been present and the Highways Agency had finally acknowledged that this was their responsibility. They said that the Government had provided new funding of £75m and that Carlton was one of 1000 sites identified in the top 1% across the country. There will have to be some prioritising decisions made and Highways will inform Robert Jenrick whether or not CoT will benefit from £3m worth of acoustic fencing as soon as possible.

8. To review Council Policy and amend as appropriate

(a) Equal Opportunities Policy (NF)

NF circulated a copy of a proposed updated Equal Opportunities Policy prior to the meeting. TC proposed this be adopted and JC seconded the motion. The policy was adopted following a unanimous vote.

9. To receive feedback from councillors on any meetings/training attended

(a) NALC AGM (NF & RW)

It was noted that RW received a certificate for 25 yrs service to Parish Council work between CoT and Laneham PCs. The Notts ALC Annual Report was put in the folder for Councillors to read.

10. To consider any planning matters

(a) Decisions made (awaiting 13/01742/FUL re-submission of Turbine Normanton Road, Weston, 14/00601/FUL turbine at Wadnal Lane, Weston, 12/00656/FUL Turbine in Collingham and 14/01143/LBC & 14/01817/FUL The Dovecote)

The clerk reported that the two turbine applications for Weston had been refused by NSDC and the Collingham one had been withdrawn. The two applications relating to the Dovecote had however been permitted.

(b) Planning applications to discuss (None)

(c) Any other planning business (None)

11. To discuss and note any further actions required from correspondence received since the last meeting

(a) NALC Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities

The clerk outlined the implications of this, in that it would create more work generating the paperwork and publishing the necessary information but fortunately FJ did all the website aspect thus reducing potential

cost implications. The information was put in the pack for councillors to read.

(b) East Coast Mainline Parish Council Briefing Session

The clerk asked for confirmation of attendance and noted that there would be a full compliment attending. The information was put in the pack for reference.

(c) NALC Website update

The clerk announced that NALC had upgraded their website and as a result had issued new login details. The information was put in the pack for reference.

(d) NALC Section 137 figure

The clerk informed the council of the new s137 figure for 2015/16 set at £7.36 per elector which would result in a limit of £1300 for CoT.

(e) NALC Clerk's Pay Deal

The clerk informed council that The National Joint Council had issued a salary award and requested that this be considered. The clerk noted that in calculating the lump sum she had also calculated her holiday entitlement for 2014 at 19 hrs 45 mins (no holiday pay has been claimed since starting in 2013) and requested this be paid. Having heard the details of a new hourly rate of £10.527 per hour payable from January and a one off lump sum of £9.55, TC proposed that the clerk be paid £10.53 per hour in future and be awarded the lump sum as well as receiving holiday pay for 2014. JC seconded the motion and the vote was carried unanimously (MM did not participate having declared an interest).

12. To discuss and respond to the following consultations

(a) Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2015/16

The clerk outlined the implications of the settlement on precepting which could mean a referendum if more than 2% increase were requested. For CoT this would mean a maximum increase of £54. Councillors elected to respond to the consultation raising the points the clerk had outlined and urging Government not to impose the referendum principle at Parish Level.

(b) Boundary Commission Electoral Review of Nottinghamshire

Cllr Laughton explained that this consultation was merely to apportion the number of electors per county councillor. He suggested that about 10,000 was usual and that he had no objections to the proposals and saw no impact on CoT by keeping the status quo. Councillors therefore elected not to respond to this consultation.

(c) Bellenden Consultation

The clerk was asked to obtain a copy of the presentation so that council could possibly find out what community projects had been funded in other areas. TC offered to contact Highways about the A1 noise abatement costs and it was suggested that councillors try to be present at the next public consultation in order to canvas opinion from residents both about their objection to/support for the solar farm and also their suggestions for community pay back schemes. Flood mitigation was also suggested but would likely be a great expense but this could be investigated, as could the option of annual payments for many smaller projects.

13. To consider and approve any financial matters

(a) To approve payments for:

- Village Hall fees £9
- Clerk's Wages £407.82
- Spray Paint £5.75

JC proposed that all three payments be made and NF seconded this.

(b) Any other outstanding financial matters

- Bank reconciliation

The clerk circulated a bank reconciliation covering the past 3 bank statements as the Oct one had not been received when the Nov meeting took place. NF signed the bank statements.

- Budget Setting

The clerk circulated an updated budget statement showing that the spend to date was as expected in most areas with a slight under-spend on wages and hall hire and no spend on training to date however it was felt that the pending wind turbine and solar farm planning applications could result in an over-spend if submitted before the year end. A predicted budget was suggested for 2015/16 which resulted in a 4.4% increase but after much discussion it was felt 5% should be requested due to the unknown quantity of the planning applications. TC proposed a precept of £2866 which was seconded by JC and the vote was carried unanimously.

14. To raise any other business which may need to be included on the agenda of the next meeting

None

15. To note the date of the next meeting

The next meeting will take place on March 3rd although it was agreed that there may need to be an extra meeting to discuss the Martifer issues and potential community projects.

The meeting closed at 10.20pm.

Tanya Grimes – Clerk to the Parish Council