

**MINUTES OF THE OLD SOMERBY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Wednesday 18 July 2018 7.15pm at the Fox and Hounds with Public**  
**Forum at 7pm**

**DRAFT**

**Councillors present:** Vice-Chairman Tom Jonason and Clls Veronica Stephens and Tracy Heaney (also present some 27 residents including the local LCC and SKDC Councillors).

**WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:** Cllr Jonason welcomed all present to the meeting. He indicated that as the council currently had no chairman he would act as chairman of this meeting with the agreement of his fellow councillors. There were no apologies.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

The Chairman announced that Mr. Charles Welsh was recording tonight's meeting as he had the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

Betty North asked about the Speed Indicator Machine which was not currently in use. The Clerk advised the Nigel Ord had previously kindly agreed to operate the machine from its 4 locations. The clerk had been in contact recently with Nigel and whilst Data had regularly been produced and whilst there had been some successful enforcement action by the Police it seemed now there was little regard being paid to it and excessive speeding continued. The clerk was aware that other parishes had purchased the machines when this parish had and it would perhaps be a good time to enquire from them how successful they had found them. LCC Cllr Bob Adams informed the meeting that in September it was expected the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership would be launching Community Speed Watch which would enable villagers to be trained to use speed guns. Any motorists found speeding when they were used would receive a letter from the Police. The contact would be David Mitchell. Tony Wilson asked about traffic calming measures. Chris Skelton said that the LCC are the agency who erect speed signs and he considered it unlikely they would agree to any changes to the location of 30 mph signs or additions. The clerk was asked to make contact with David Mitchell.

**THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING COMMENCED AT 7.15PM**

**2.0 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR TO FILL AN OUTSTANDING VACANCY:** Proposed by Cllr Stephens that Carl Nicholas Wilson be co-opted : seconded by Tracy Heaney and carried unanimously. The Declaration of Appointment and Declaration of Interests forms were handed to Mr. Wilson for completion.

**3.0 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:** It was agreed to leave this matter until the next meeting by which time it was hoped the remaining vacancy would be filled.

**4.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS:** None were declared.

**5.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING 30 May 2018:** A clerical alteration was made to item 1 in those minutes to correctly indicate which councillors proposed and seconded the motions mentioned. The minutes were the signed by the Chairman.

## **6.0 MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA:**

**Item 12: Flooding on Grantham Road:** The Chairman noted Chris Skelton had offered to following up this issue with Anglian Water who maintain the underground pipe next to the pub car park to the outfall in the roadside ditch on the Pastures. The Chairman read out an email which indicated they had undertaken a survey and maintenance work which included a camera survey and power flush on 20 June 2018. They had found a blockage which was cleared. They indicated to Chris that the maintenance is Proactive Presentative Maintenance which should be an annual visit to survey the pipe by camera to check its condition and undertake any clearing etc. Anglian Water Supervisor Ben Nicholas said unfortunately the roadside gullies are the responsibility of LCC Highways and because they are blocked with silt that until they are cleared water would still run down the road until finding a clear functioning gully.

Chris was thanked for his report.

**AGREED:** To forward a copy email to Cllr Bob Adams for him to raise with LCC Highways.

**Item 12: Foot Path on School Lane and in particular the state of the hedge.** The Chairman reported he had contacted David Goodridge of Invicta the owners who accepted the situation and proposed to approach Chris Skelton and hopefully come to an agreement with him to have the hedge trimmed.

**Item 9 Insurance payment.** The invoice for £255.06 had now been paid.

**7.0 MINUTES OF MEETING 16 JULY 2018:** The Chairman announced it had just not been possible to produce the rather lengthy minutes in the short time that had elapsed. They would be presented for approval at the next meeting.

**8.0 MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA:** Next meeting

**9.0 FINANCE:** The Clerk had only been in post for only a few days and he had obtained the latest set of bank statements yesterday. It appeared to him from his initial inspection of the accounts that a bank reconciliation showed a balance of £6189.99- when allowing for unpresented cheques, invoices due for payment, expected income and setting aside Government funding obtained in connection with the Neighbourhood Plan process. There is also an outstanding claim from a previous parish clerk which remained to be explored before any settlement. The possibility of a further by-election had also to be taken into account. Sadly the legacy from Miss EM Bean of £5K seems to be been almost totally subsumed within the accounts and little now remained.

The clerk's report was noted. He was to contact the previous clerk to discuss his claim

## **10.0 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

The Chairman informed the meeting the Local Planning Authority had refused the planning application No. S18/0779 by Mr and Mrs Grocock. He read out the reasons for the refusal.

The Chairman also read out a letter dated 2 July 2018 from EGB (Escritt Barrell Golding) on behalf of Mr C Skelton and Mrs S Skelton t/a GA Jenkinson and Son Ltd offering to the PC the use of land for a playground of approximately ½ acre on land opposite the bungalows on School Lane at a suggested peppercorn rent of say £20 per annum for a proposed 20 year lease. The Chairman thanked Mr and Mrs Skelton for their generous offer.

He read out a letter he had received from John and Jill Davies from Branccliffe, School Lane. They raised the following concerns: that a playground could lead to housing proposal in the future; the playground would be directly opposite elderly occupants of the bungalows ; they questioned how many current children under 10 years there are in the village. The playground could be used by older youths as a noisy meeting point which would affect their calm and relaxing views and could reduce property values; concerns were expressed regarding the siting of the vehicular access on narrow School Lane; perhaps the playground would be best sited on the Well Field therefore which would be less obtrusive. The Clerk also referred to an email from a resident he had received who expressed concern too about where the vehicular access would be sited; the crossing of a busy road by children using the playground - there being documented evidence showing that 25% of all traffic exceeded 30 mph; there are blind bends at that location ; the Well Field is a safer option.

The meeting was thrown open for others to comment.

Vicky Lowndes: Concern about the cost of upkeep and insurance of playground equipment;

Linda Dodds: How many children are there in the village. Why do we need a play area:

*Chris Skelton: A recent survey by Sam Baskerville showed some 45 children in the village.*

Tony Pearson: Visitors will also bring in children.

Betty North: We need green spaces but not necessarily a playground.

Vicky Lowndes: Any proposed planning within this area?

*Chris Skelton: We are not bargaining it is just an offer.*

Cllr Stephens: Is there any reason why not the Wellfield. A lot more sense on a part of it.

*Chris Skelton: Vehicular access is needed to the sub-station which needs a right of way.*

Cllr Heaney: Why is vehicular access necessary for a playground.

*Chris Skelton: For maintenance and grass cutting.*

Len Watson: It is a good offer but inappropriate because of vehicle access. Another piece of land at the bottom of the School Lane Cul de sac would be better.

*Chris Skelton: This area is directly off the highway that is why we chose it. The emergency vehicles might be affected in School Lane cul-de-sac in view of how cars parked.*

Gordon Thompson: Where is the access. Safety of children running on to the road a concern.

*Chris Skelton: Not decided yet.*

Pat Lee: It is a lovely offer but there is not a footpath and road safety is an issue.

Charles Welsh: Recreational Use and many concerns are raised. The Skelton's have played a blinder regarding the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. It is a "No Brainer" and should be part of the NP process. Generous offer of £20 pa rent. What about buying the land for future generations. One way would be allowing some houses on the land and provide a quid pro quo for the village and the land owner. Negotiations should start.

David Gray: That would mean extra houses and we do not want them as people have previously stated.

Anita Thompson: It is a lovely offer. Need to note that equipment will need repairing and could cost the PC.

SKDC Cllr Nick Craft: It could be quite costly and could add 15% on to the precept. It would need increased public liability insurance. A net alongside the road would be needed to keep balls from the road. We have a playground in Londonthorpe –a bigger PC – it is never used.

Paul Sullivan: Not aware of the history. A risk assessment could cost. Not suitable. The NP should identify green spaces.

The Chairman then asked for a Straw Poll for those a) in favour of a playground on a different site - 24 Yes and 4 No b) those in favour of the offer – None.

**11.0 GRASS CUTTING:** The clerk explained how the contract for the Amenity Cut had been cancelled by the then Parish Clerk because of insufficient councillors to sign cheques and maybe because of the cost of the forthcoming by-election (some £1400) and other pending payments which would adversely impact parish council funds. The LCC Highways would resume therefore cutting the grass but only likely twice a year. Recently many more residents had taken to cutting the grass outside their own houses which was much appreciated. If more people were able to do so it would impact positively on the cost of grass cutting.

**AGREED:** The clerk would seek quotes and liaise with Cllr Stephens with a village walk. Len Watson enquired about the payment traditionally made by the PC to the PCC which went towards the grass cutting at the church graveyard. The clerk explained the history. Payments were currently up to date and it would be raised again at the appropriate time.

**12.0 LCC ISSUES.** Cllr Adams has already left the meeting to attend another meeting.

**13.0 SKDC ISSUES:** Cllr Stephens had indicated there was nothing to report before he left.

**14.0 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMPLAINT:** The Chairman informed the meeting advice had been taken from the SKDC legal team regarding the decision taken at the Extra-Ordinary PC meeting on 16 July 2018 concerning the Freedom of Information complaint from Charles Welsh. There had been an offer to have the tape-recording of the meetings of 8/11/17 and 10/1/18 which had been taken by Charles Welsh professionally transcribed at a likely cost of £500. The Chairman proposed a straw poll to ascertain the meetings wishes to the following: Do you support the suggestion of having the recordings referred to above professionally transcribed at a likely cost of £500 or are you in favour of the parish council drawing a line under the complaint as announced on 16<sup>th</sup> July. The outcome was a very clear majority in favour of drawing a line under the complaint and against having the recording transcribed.

**15.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 17 September 2018 with at 7pm a public forum - the meeting to commence at 7.15pm





