

BAUMBER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 19th July 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Baumber.

Those Present: Mr M Jones (Chairman), Mrs J Fable (Vice-Chairman), Councillors R Espley, Mrs S Elton, M Harrison, S Scholey, Mrs S Willerton, M Grosvenor (Clerk). Also in attendance P Bulwinkle & G Roberts.

22/17/07. Declarations of Interest. There were no DoI.

23/17/07. The Notes of the Minutes, of the last Meeting held on Wednesday 17th May 2017 were read out by the Chairman, agreed and signed as a true copy of the Minutes.

24/17/07. Clerk's Report.

a) Letter to Mr D Shelton. Re: minute item at PBC meeting 22/03/17- AOB - dilapidated state of fence alongside access track to Baumber Village Hall & minute item ref 9.17.05 noted at Baumber Annual Parish meeting held on 24/05/17; - overgrown state of foot path from West Lane to Baumber Church. Clerk has sent a letter on behalf of BPC to landowner Mr D Shelton dated 26/05/17, requesting that both of these matters be attended to. To date no response received.

b) Baumber's Annual Parish Meeting was held on 24/05/17, Chaired by BPC Chairman, Cllr's Mrs Fable, Mrs Elton & M Harrison attended as BPC's representatives, with BPC Clerk taking minutes & advising meeting. The meeting was also attended by 20 Baumber residents. It was resolved at this meeting (minute ref 8.17.05) by a unanimous show of hands, that a Steering Group would be established to take the formation of a potential '*Baumber Village Plan*'-'*Community Vision*' forward. The notes-draft minutes of this meeting have been published on the notice board and are accessible on BPC website & Baumber News & Events facebook page.

25/17/07 Baumber Parish Plan Steering Group (SG) update. The inaugural meeting of the Steering Group was held on 7th June 2017 and was attended by BPC Cllr's, Mrs Fable, M Harrison & BPC Clerk (minutes & advice), in addition to B Duckworth & G Roberts. The minutes of this meeting have been published & circulated to BPC. The SG updated BPC on the overall discussions re the proposed way forward and overall parameters of a potential Village Plan, with specific reference to local Public Rights of Way - current and historical footpath access.

26/17/07 The next meeting of the SG is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 9th August at 7.30pm in Baumber Village Hall. This meeting is an open meeting and any local residents wishing to participate are welcome. If any local resident wishes to join the SG, please contact BPC clerk.

27/17/07 G Roberts drew attention to the forthcoming legislation-regulations to be enacted on 1st January 2026, whereby all claims or rights to access public footpaths and bridleways which existed before 1949, but have not been recorded, will be closed and formally extinguished, if they are not recorded on the official definitive map before this date.

28/17/07 Following discussion, it was resolved that BPC clerk to liaise with LCC Highways and Footpath Officer to gain access to and review this definitive map. There was also a discussion as to whether the footpath from West Lane to Baumber Church, which is the subject of the letter to Mr Shelton was marked on this map, or whether this was an historical footpath used by locals rather than officially designated, despite there being in place a stile to access this path from West Lane which has been in existence for decades.

28/17/07. Financial Matters & Financial Statement.

The reconciled Bank Account balance, with all previously issued cheques now cleared = £3,817.32.

LCC have credited their contribution towards grass cutting of £239.15. Glendale invoices for May & July's grass-cutting of £162.44 & £327.43 respectively await payment. It was resolved that these payments be authorised, the balance carried forward = £3,566.60.

29/17/07 BPC Audit & Accounts documents 2016/17 have been submitted to External Auditors Grant Thornton and acknowledged, with one minor query re the outstanding village hall cheque of £13.00, now rectified & reconciled. Frances Espley has responded on behalf of BPC in regards to this matter.

30/17/07 Internal Audit 2017/18. Patricia Scholey has confirmed that she is retiring so BPC will need appoint a new internal auditor for this current financial year. In appreciation of Mrs Scholey's kind assistance over many years on behalf of BPC, it was proposed by BPC Chairman and seconded by Cllr Elton, & unanimously resolved, that a gift would be presented to Mrs Scholey. Cllr J Fable agreed to organise this & liaise with Cllr S Scholey. There was a discussion around seeking a new internal auditor; the Clerk had approached Mrs Espley on behalf of BPC, who may possibly be happy to continue to assist BPC in this new capacity. It was resolved that this item be carried forward to a future BPC meeting.

31/17/07. As reported (minute ref 16/17/05) funding of £714 for IT equipment for BPC use has been received. This IT equipment has now been purchased at a cost of £561.89 & accounted for in the above account bank reconciliation figure. The remaining IT funding will contribute towards further supplies of paper and ink cartridges, plus IT time for Clerk as specified. Clerk bought the laptop to the meeting, this and printer etc., have been installed and are in use.

32/17/07. Planning.

BPC considered Planning Application No S/011/01099/17 submitted by Mr N Harris 2 Stockborough Farm, Mere Balk Lane, Baumber. Permission for change of use, conversion-alterations to existing storage building to provide ancillary accommodation. Cllr Espley queried if any comments had been received from the occupiers of the adjacent property - it was reported that there had been none. After discussion it was considered that this type of development is deemed to be acceptable, unless there appears to be material planning issues for not doing so. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Elton & unanimously resolved that BPC would support the application.

33/17/07 Condition of Red Lion Pub. BPC Chairman raised this matter as there are serious concerns as to the deteriorating state of the building and poor condition of the grounds and boundary fencing etc., now that it is reported that the owner-occupier has emptied & vacated the building. P Bulwinkle passed comment on the sequence of events leading up to this point; BPC responded that this has been dealt with in a manner that sought to gain co-operation from the owner, which culminated in the Inspector's appeal decision to grant consent for demolition and outline planning permission. The property is on the market advertised as a development opportunity, it was also clear from the appellant's appeal statement that this was the sole reason for the acquisition of the Red Lion Pub site.

BPC considered that now the building is vacated, it poses a high risk of unauthorised forced entry and vandalism, and also a potential hazard for arson to be committed & the additional risk of conflagration, given its position in close proximity to, and sited between, the Grade 2 listed Thatched Cottage and Bulwinkles filling station-garage.

It was resolved that the Clerk communicate these serious concerns to ELDC Planning & Enforcement, to establish what measures & means are available, to alleviate or resolve these legitimate serious concerns.

34/17/07. Correspondence.

No correspondence has been received or brought to the attention of the meeting.


35/17/07 AOB.

Cllr S Scholey raised concerns at the proliferation of boulders and obstacles sited on the verges along various lengths of West Lane by local residents, which is impeding the rights of passage between passing vehicles especially tractors & trailers, as this lane is narrow and to pass safely without having to reverse in

either direction, often necessitates partially pulling over on to the verges. It was resolved that the Clerk would raise this matter with LCC Highways to establish what measures and means are available to deal with this issue.

The date of the next Meeting was amended to Tuesday 17th October 2017 @ 7.30pm Baumber Village Hall. Cllr's S Scholey & S Elton gave advance notice of their absence & apologies, as they will be unavailable to attend this meeting due to personal commitments.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed by the Chairman, Mr M Jones 

Dated 17th October 2017.