

BAUMBER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 17th October 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Baumber.

Those Present: Mr M Jones (Chairman), Mrs J Fable (Vice-Chairman), Councillors R Espley, M Harrison, M Grosvenor (Clerk).

Also in attendance: S Bellwood, G Bellwood, P Bulwinkle, Mr & Mrs C Pippard, G Roberts. S Shaw, P Williams, J Williams & L A Wright.

Apologies Cllr's S Elton, S Scholey & S Willerton.

36/17/10. Declarations of Interest. There were no D.o.I.

37/17/10. The Notes of the Minutes, of the last Meeting held on Wednesday 19th July 2017 were read out by the Chairman, agreed and signed as a true copy, with one minor amendment noted, that the date of the next meeting recorded in the minutes as Wednesday 18th October 2017, was convened on Tuesday 17th October 2017.

Clerk's Report.

a) Re Minute No 33/17/07 Deteriorating condition of Red Lion Pub Response from ELDC & any further resolutions.

38/17/10 Clerk reported that following the resolution, Minute ref 33/17/07, "*to communicate these serious concerns to ELDC Planning & Enforcement, to establish what measures & means are available, to alleviate or resolve these legitimate serious concerns*", the clerk spoke to and emailed ELDC on the 21-07-217 raising this issue and received the following response;

"Unfortunately, we do not deal with untidy or unsightly buildings. I have driven passed the site on many occasions and at present does not come under our remit of a Dangerous Structure. We do not control unauthorised forced entry of the site and therefore it is outside of the my job role to control this.

I am therefore not able to join you on site as it is not my role to carry out risk assessments on properties".

After consideration by BPC, it was resolved to write to the owner of the Red Lion to raise this issue and to establish what progress is being made to fulfil the outline planning permission and to safeguard this property from further deterioration and the potential for any forced entry.

b) Re Minute No 35/17/07, concerns raised re proliferation of boulders and obstacles on West Lane Baumber; "*It was resolved at BPC meeting 19th July that the Clerk would raise this matter with LCC Highways to establish what measures and means are available to deal with this issue*".

39/17/10. Update - LCC Highways response and communication from local resident & further resolutions.

Clerk contacted LCC to relay these concerns and requested a site visit for LCC Highways to assess the situation, which resulted in the issuing of notices to residents on West Lane to remove the obstructions. Clerk read response from a local resident, who was present. BPC discussed the issues resulting from this and highlighted The Highways Act 1980 section 130 subsections (1) (2) (4) & (6). Section 4 states; *Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of the section, it is the duty of a local highways authority to prevent any unlawful encroachment on any roadside verge comprised in a highways for which they are the authority.* It was also noted that householders placing obstructions on the verges even to prevent the verges from being churned up would be potentially liable to cover any damage caused to vehicles or persons coming into contact with these obstructions however well meaning the householder is being in attempting to, "protect the verges"..

There was a discussion regarding other measures to alleviate the resident's concerns, which included restricted access for HGV vehicles by applying a weight limit and or making West Lane in to access only for local residents and not a cut through to access the Caistor High Road via the A158. It was resolved that the Clerk would raise these options with LCC Highways.

c) Re Minute ref 28/17/07. Update on contact with LCC Highways -Footpath Officer re Baumber's definitive footpath map.

40/17/10. Contact has been made and BPC has been provided with this map. The over grown footpath from West Lane to Baumber Church (Minute ref 22/03/17 & Minute ref 28/17/07) is not identified on the definitive map and therefore if this is to be recorded, there needs to be an application to LCC Highways under the Lost Foot Paths initiative (Minute ref 27/17/07). Cllr Harrison also up dated BPC in that Mr D Shelton had contacted him and requested that he arranged for the grass be cut and the hedge trimmed back to remedy this situation. Cllr Harrison also reported that Mr Shelton has also arranged to repair-replace the dilapidated fence alongside the access entrance to Baumber Village Hall. This work is due to commence shortly.

d) LCC Highways - restricted visual highways access to & from Baumber Church-A158. Accident damage to Baumber Church foot path sign on A158 & Pot Holes along Hemingby Lane.

41/17/10. These have been reported to LCC Highways and chased, but remain outstanding with the exception of the pot holes on Hemingby Lane, which have been repaired.

42/17/07. Baumber Parish Plan Steering Group (SG) update. Further meetings were held on the 9th August and 10th October. The minutes of the meeting of the 9th August have been published and circulated, the 10th October will be circulated in due course. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 23rd January 2018. Those residents attending this BPC meeting were verbally invited to attend. The Clerk also gave a brief over view of progress to date.

Financial Matters & Financial Statement.

43/17/10. The reconciled Bank Account balance, with all issued cheques now cleared = £3,566.60. Invoices awaiting payment: Glendale's, Aug & October grass cutting, £162.44 & £327.43 respectively. Invoice to cover Retiring Clerk's additional hours accrued during 2016/17 accounts and audit preparation & assistance to incoming clerk of £250.00, in compliance with HMRC's minimum wage requirements. Invoice for annual subscription to Local Councils News and on line information facility of £100.00. It was resolved that these payments be authorised, account balance carried forward = £2,726.73.

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

44/17/10 Grant Thornton have signed off BPC accounts 2016/17 and have issued their External Audit Report and Certificate dated 21st August 2017 which has been published on BPC web site.

45/17/10 Clerk has complied with the Pensions Regulator Declaration and Enrolment on behalf of BPC. Currently there is no requirement for BPC to make or deduct any Pension Contributions.

Re Minute ref 30/17/07. Appointment of BPC Internal Auditor for the Accounting Year 2017/18.

46/17/10 Frances Espley has kindly agreed to act as BPC's Internal Auditor, this will provide welcome continuity in the preparation and auditing of BPC accounts. It was resolved that Mrs Espley offer to assist BPC in this capacity would be accepted.

Planning.

47/17/10. Update Minute ref 32/17/07. 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.
Decision to grant planning permission subject to conditions.

48/17/10. Withdrawn Planning Application No S/011/015583/17. Application submitted to vary condition No 5iii relating to trees, as imposed on planning permission, ref No S/011/02356/14 at Oaks House West Lane Baumber LN9 5ND. This application was submitted in response to concerns raised by a local resident by email dated 24-07-2017 to BPC, that there was a potential for condition no 5iii to be breached, with the proposed lopping of the trees in question without prior notice being given to ELDC. (It was clear that the householders were unaware that there was an planning condition in place at the outset). Both the owner-occupiers and ELDC were advised of this concern. After consultation with ELDC and to avoid potential enforcement action, a planning application to vary this condition was submitted.

As a matter of record, this matter has been noted and discussed at this meeting; it then was resolved that any recommendations to ELDC should a future application be resubmitted, would be deferred to the next BPC meeting, as further advice was being sought from ELDC's tree officer, as a potential resolution available to; a) the householder in managing the size of the trees and prevent further encroachment onto the structure of their property, and b) in consideration of local residential amenity, to maintain as far as practically possible, the general visual appearance and outlook of West Lane.

Correspondence.

49/17/10. Email communication received on 5-10-2017 from Lincolnshire Highway Services (LHS) inviting Parish and Town Council's Clerks and a representative member to attend a Cluster meeting, to explain recent service changes and providing an opportunity for attendees to meet members of LHS, to raise questions and local highway concerns. After discussion it was resolved Cllr Mrs Fable & BPC's clerk attend the meeting scheduled for Tuesday 7th November at Stanhope Hall Horncastle, as this would be an ideal opportunity for BPC to discuss and raise current concerns and outstanding matters and to provide feedback at the next BPC meeting.

50/17/10. Email received on 5-10-2017 from BSE & East Highways regarding any existing plans or maps held by BPC detailing the areas and the extent of highway verge grass cutting being undertaken by LHS and local residents, as this information is being combined into one mapping layer. After discussion it was resolved that BPC clerk will respond as it appears that a map had been previously been prepared and sent to Highways.

51/17/10. Letter dated 2-10-2017 received from Cllr Martin Hill OBE Leader of LCC, sent on behalf of all of Lincolnshire's councils circulated to all Town and Parish Councils, requesting formal support for a fairer funding deal from central government, highlighting the fact that Lincolnshire under the present average funding formula is considered to be underfunded by £116m pa. It was resolved that BPC will support this campaign, by posting information of BPC's web site and notice board plus social media, to encourage residents to write to our local MP etc.

52/17/10. Circular letter dated October 2017 from Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils, LALC proposing revised subscription rates for 2018/19, given that grant funding will not be available from LCC beyond that financial year. It was resolved at as LALC provides valuable support to BPC (recent Transparency Funding of £714 for IT equipment was funded via LALC) BPC will continue to fund this subscription as advised in this communication.

AOB.

53/17/10. Additional highway matters of concern were raised by a resident at the meeting.

a) It appears that the Baumber village name plate sign is missing from the A158 road side, approaching Baumber from the west Lincoln - Wragby. This sign may have been damaged and removed during one of the recent spate of accidents which have occurred on the bends on this westerly approach, which has also damaged the Baumber Church footpath sign, as previously noted in these minutes. It was considered after discussion that the 30 MPH speed limit signs are in effect sited too close to these bends and do not provide sufficient warning that the bends are fairly tight and that immediately beyond these, road users enter Baumber village and on to 30 MPH limit. These highway signs and the Baumber name plate sign ideally need to be relocated further along the A158, towards the entrance to Stourton Estates to give traffic time to slow down on this western approach to Baumber. It was suggested that there should also be SLOW markers painted on the road surface as a traffic calming measure.

b) The public foot paths around Baumber are generally overgrown, particularly along the narrow stretch on the eastern side of the Caistor High Road, in front of the properties in the vicinity of the entrance to West Lane and Hunters Lane, which is a dangerous road. The footpath stretch along the A158 from Baumber west towards Stourton Estates in parts is impassable due to the over grown nature of the path and overhanging bushes and trees.

c) Damaged West Lane sign on the Caistor Highway entrance onto West Lane.

Following discussion it was resolved that these matters would be raised at the Highways Cluster meeting scheduled on 7th November, previously minuted.

54/17/10. Several of the residents present at the meeting raised their concerns regarding incidences of challenging behaviour they have experienced from a few of the attendees at Baumber School over the past few weeks. After a lengthy discussion covering all points of views, expressed by residents and BPC, it was considered that these concerns be highlighted in an appropriate manner by BPC, to help alleviate and resolve these on behalf of affected local residents before the next meeting.

The date of the next Meeting was set at Wednesday 17th January 2018 7.30pm Baumber Village Hall.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed by the Chairman, Mr M Jones [REDACTED]

Dated 17th January 2018