

SWEPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Held at: Via Zoom Video Conference due to Coronavirus Lockdown

Date: Wednesday 20th May at 8.00pm

Present *Councillors:* B Sumner, N Makin, A Milner, P Cook
Chairman: C Robinson
Parish Clerk: Annie Callingham
No. of Parishioners Present: x 1

398/2020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

399/2020 LOCAL POLICING REPORT

Clerk shared the crime report for the last month:

15/05/20 – Swepstone –Main Street – Damage to Flowers

400/2020 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The council heard from a resident from Francis Lane regarding parking concerns.

Concerns were shared and discussed regarding the parking on the corner of Francis Lane, and the inability for large traffic such as horse boxes, trailers, farm traffic or safety vehicles to pass around Corner Farm.

Issue such as where the highway starts, and finishes was discussed as blocking emergency vehicles on a public highway would be classed as a criminal offence.

The council encouraged the parishioner to collect a diary log of dates and photos of when the vehicles are blocking the corner in the first instance. This would then be sufficient evidence to be able to provide to both the parish, district and county councils, or the police if an offence on the highway is deemed to be occurring.

RESOLVED: Parishioner to collect evidence of the offending vehicle with dates, time and photos. Clerk to support parishioner with contacts details for the County Councillor for the area and for a contact name in the LCC Highways department.

401/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors were reminded of their duty to declare any personal or prejudicial interests – Councillor Sumner and Makin declared an interest in Manor Farm (their residence) that will be raised in agenda item 17.

402/2020 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2020 were agreed as a true and correct record of the meeting and no further matters or new decisions have arisen since. Signature from Chair unable to be gained at this time.

403/2020

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

404/2020

CORRESPONDENCE

Councillors heard from the one formal correspondence during agenda 3 from a resident on Francis Lane.

405/2020

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

This was reviewed and update accordingly. Key points to note are that:

- The appellant for Aylesbury Gardens appealed for leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal in June 2019, and NWLDC Solicitors have still not heard anymore from the courts on this.
- Parish have submitted a licence to LCC for two hanging basket posts with carousel on the top – one for each village.
- Clerk is struggling to hear an update from County Councillor regarding traffic calming on Main Street Swepstone and Tree Officer regarding tree planting across the parish.
- 2 x New SID (Speed Indication Devices) have been ordered and waiting for delivery
- Empty house is still being investigated by NWLDC – 11, School Lane, Newton Burgoland and the rubbish outside 11, Newton Road, Swepstone is being investigated by NWLDC Street Cleaning Team.
- New bin ordered for outside the Church Hall in Swepstone.
- The alleged planning breach 19/02384/FUL is still being investigated by NWLDC.
- Highways have cleared the blocked gullies on Snarestone Rd and re-painted the road markings where Dames Lane meets The Pinfold.

RESOLVED:

- Update the progress report and circulate to Councillors
- Contact CEO of LCC regarding no contact from County Councillor Harrison and Tree Officer

406/2020

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The Clerk updated the council of the current bank balance. The Council agreed to pay the following invoices:

- Clerks Expenses
- G Cantwell – Handyman Hours

RESOLVED: Clerk to pay these invoices on-line, and update finances.

407/2020

PLANNING MATTERS

Councillors considered application numbers **20/00765/FUL & 20/00763/FUL** for Orchard House, Francis Lane, Newton Burgoland

The council will submit will be that there are no concerns regarding the extension part of the application, however the application for a large wall, gates and tarmac drive will be submitted with the following comments.

“Swepstone Parish Council have no concerns regarding the extension element of the application. However, we are raising concerns that the new aesthetic look of the property will look out of the rural character for the parish, and the fortress like appearance not in keeping with other properties. The council request that the wall is kept to the same height as other walls in the area, and that the tarmac will have sufficient and robust draining to withstand heavy flooding.”

Application number **20/00764/PNH** for 12, The Green, Newton Burgoland was also discussed.

“There is an objection to this development on the alternative grounds of intensification of use or use of the premises as a business.

The current house on the site has facilities for parking vehicles. Yet despite these facilities a substantial number of vehicles ranging from 3 to 5 are parked outside on the road.

Either the house is being used as a storage facility for vehicles or alternatively as a business/intensive hobby, none of which have planning permission and given the residential nature of the area are inappropriate for the area and indeed the site.

It is feared that the creation of a further extension will lead to an intensification of the use or does the amount of vehicles belonging to the occupants of the house being stored on public roads at a site near to the a church and the school where there is always a traffic problem. Furthermore, the permission of further development on this site will deprive the site of its own parking spaces which either are now or could be used in future for removing vehicles from the road.

Whilst for the above reasons it is considered that the application should be turned down, but if the application is granted, then it is suggested that a condition be imposed that not more than 2 number of vehicles shall be parked on the roadside by the occupants of the house. The reason for the condition is to prevent a further expansion of vehicles being stored on the road in an area where it is inappropriate for the vehicles to be stored on the road and/or to prevent the intensification of vehicular activity in an area where such activity is inappropriate”

408/2020

BLOCKED FOOTPATH CONCERNS

A blocked footpath has been raised as a concern and is located between Measham Road opposite the entrance to Dishley Farm. Since the agenda being issued, Andrew Poole from LCC has the matter in hand and is working with the Minorca site.

409/2020

NETHERCOTE WOOD CONCERNS

Councillors believe that there are two issues here: 1) a health and safety risk and 2) potential planning breach in this area. These considerations are based on the observation of games combat, and pellet shooting as a potential risk to the public and structures that may or may not have needed planning permission.

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact NWLDC to ascertain whether planning permission has been sought and to request a health and safety visit to the site.

Secondly, Clerk to contact the National Forest to make them aware that signs say, "private land" and to ask if this is in accordance with their understanding of the sale of the land. We will also make them aware of the lack of maintenance around gates, paths, and trees in the wood, and that this need attention.

410/2020

VANDALISED TREES

Council consider the vandalised trees in the verge on the road from Swepstone to the Odd House, and approved replacement trees to be planted.

RESOLVED: Clerk to organise re-planting via G Cantwell

411/2020

INSURANCE RENEWAL

Councillors considered and approved the renewal costs for both the Wraggs Yard and Parish Insurance.

RESOLVED: Clerk to inform insurers and pay invoice for cover to commence in June.

412/2020

AUDIT PREPARATION

Council checked and approved the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for sign off for financial year 2019/2020.

Final folder and AGAR can now be sent to the internal auditor by the Clerk, before sending all documents for a final external audit.

RESOLVED: Clerk to collect signatures and coordinate with internal auditor.

413/2020

SEATS IN CATTOWS LAKE AREA

Councillor Cook suggested siting seats around Cattows lake area as a sponsorship gesture from the parish, and a thank you for the support they provide the parish.

RESOLVED: Councillor Cook to visit Cattows initially to understand if they would be interested in this gesture, and if so, Clerk to put the proposal into writing.

414/2020

REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Clerk provided an update on the school not opening to additional children (other than key worker children) on the 1st June due to a lack of cleaning facilities in line with the COVID-19 risk assessment. Requests for equipment

from LCC had been declined and does the council feel they could/should support in any way.

Councillor Makin and Councillor Sumner raised the issue of footpath users not keeping to the designated way marker paths. Instead, walkers are walking on the protected set aside areas of fields which are specifically designated and cultivated to help support environmental eco-systems and birds around the intensity of farming. The misjudgement appears to be that as there are no crops on the area, its being trampled on and damaged – this is not public land, and all walkers should stick to the clear yellow way marker posts. Signs have been put up, but a request has been made for parish council support.

RESOLVED: Clerk to collect more facts for the council on other local schools opening plans, and a copy of the risk assessment that has been conducted, and therefore the recommendations from it.

Clerk to communicate the request for walkers to remain on the designated paths via the parish website, Facebook and on-line newsletter for May

415/2020

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Councillors did not raise any items for next agenda.