

MINUTES of a SPECIAL MEETING of WHITWICK PARISH COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 8 JANUARY 2015 at the St John the Baptist C of E School, Parsonwood Hill, Whitwick.

Present: Councillor R Woodward (Chairman) (In the Chair)

Cllrs A Barker, S Colledge, E Easom, D Everitt, D Howe, L Spence and J Straw

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors T Gillard, N Pearson and L Weaver

In Attendance:

Mrs L Ellis, Clerk and Mr P Ellis, Assistant Clerk

1 member of the public

Declarations of Interest:

Councillor L Spence declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Leicestershire County Council as a county councillor

472. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

No questions were put

473. WHITWICK PARK COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the minutes of the inaugural meeting of this Committee held on 16 December 2014 (copy previously circulated and attached to the official copy of the Minutes).

Resolved:

(a) That the minutes be received and the recommendations contained be adopted

(b) That the Clerk obtain prices for stickers to be placed on the side of waste bins on Parish Council property making it clear that they can be used to deposit dog waste

474. IMPACT PROJECT

The Chairman welcomed Kam Chauhan and Nyasha Nyambuya of the County Council's Youth Offending Team who were in attendance to explain their proposals to set up a Youth Cafe at Whitwick Youth Club.

.....Chairman's initials/signature

It was reiterated that the project stemmed from a Police referral and a video was shown about what had been achieved by a previous project in Thurmaston.

Work was already underway and would include consultation with secondary school pupils. Alternative ways of taking the project forward were to either recruit volunteers with LCC training support or paid youth workers supported by external funding. Some parish councils did not wish to line manage youth workers and LCC could commission an external organisation to manage the provision though to access external funding would involve the parish council putting its name to funding applications. Multi-agency meetings would feed in to the process and the Police would continue in a support role to break down barriers.

Members felt that more evidence of need was required to assess an appropriate response. Concern was also expressed that problems could be caused from youngsters from outside the village and a Youth Cafe could encourage these elements to return.

The LCC representatives pointed out that the Sentinel database would be accessed to monitor anti-social behaviour and identify where those who committed it came from. Consultations would be targeted at local people as the success of the project depended on local community support. The intention was to prevent issues from escalating and experience showed that Youth Cafes resulted in a reduction in ASB issues. There need be no direct financial implications for the Parish Council other than fronting grant applications.

Resolved: That the IMPACT team be requested to keep the Parish Council advised of progress with the project

475. BUDGET 2015/16

(a) Cademan Wood Car Park

The Clerk reported that NWLDC had clarified the position regarding the Special Expense as follows:

“Generally, any car park that has an order on it or that serves a town or shops that people throughout the district may want to access will be funded through general fund, such as Silver Street and Vicarage Road car parks.

“Any car park that serves a local facility that is likely to only be accessed by local residents will be funded as a special expense or by the Parish Council. Examples of this include, amongst others-:

- Cademan Wood car park
- Whitwick Park car park
- Coalville Park car park
- Millfield Recreation Ground car park
- Normandy Wood car park

.....Chairman’s initials/signature

- Moira Crescent car park”

Resolved: That the report be received

(b) Clerk's Report

Consideration was given to the Clerk's report on the Council's existing and projected future finances (copy previously circulated and attached to the official copy of the Minutes).

The Clerk emphasised that the figures were necessarily best guesses as there were always a number of unknowns - for example, the costs of elections in May would depend on the number of candidates standing.

Debate ensued as to the level of precept that could be justified and the level of reserves that could be committed to reduce the burden on council tax payers given the Council's wish to achieve the level recommended by the Internal Auditor by 2018/19. Members also took into account the combined impact of the Parish precept when added to NWLDC's Special Expense.

The Clerk reported on a meeting held the previous day which she attended with the Chairman, when NWLDC explained their policy regarding additional litter bins. NWLDC did not support the Parish Council's proposal for additional bins at new locations (with the exception of Church Lane), regardless of which authority funded them.

It was born in mind that the budget could be revisited and adjusted in the light of developments during the course of the year.

The Clerk and Assistant Clerk were thanked for all their hard work in putting together the report.

Resolved:

(a) That the strategy to achieve a level of reserves of 50% of the precept by 2018/19 be continued

(b) That the Clerk be given delegated powers to apply for any grants which will assist in delivering the Council's objectives

(c) That the Whitwick Park Committee be given delegated powers to select preferred supplier(s) for Workout in Whitwick and to negotiate a reduced scheme to match the available funding as closely as possible

(d) That as some funding streams only allow one application within a set timeframe, the priority order of the Council's major schemes be: 1. Office conversion 2. Youth Club refurbishment (subject to surrender of lease) and 3. Workout in Whitwick in respect of rounding up to the actual cost of a reduced scheme

.....Chairman's initials/signature

- (e) That the budget provision of £1,500 in respect of new litter bin supply and emptying be deleted**
- (f) That the community grants scheme be suspended in 2015/16 and the budget provision of £1,500 be deleted**
- (g) That budget provision for community initiatives/future projects be reduced from £5,000 to £2,500**
- (h) That budget provision of £500 for local service delivery be deleted**
- (i) That the 4 year scheme to replace edges to the bowling green at a budget provision of £500 per annum be deleted and that sources of grants to fund the work be investigated as an alternative**
- (j) That an appropriate sum be taken from the Special Expense and Asset Protection balances when they transfer from NWLDC to reduce the impact on council tax payers**
- (k) That the Clerk submit revised budget figures incorporating the above decisions to the next meeting on 29 January to enable a final precept figure to be approved**

Councillors E Easom left the meeting at 8.30pm during debate on Min No 475 (Budget 2015/16)

The meeting terminated at 9.00 pm

.....Chairman's initials/signature