

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE PARISH OF MANCETTER**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the Parish of Mancetter, held on
Tuesday 25th November 2014 commencing at 7.00pm in the School Room, St. Peter's Church, Mancetter.

Present:

Chairman Mr T Hopkins

Parish Councillors Mrs J Marshall, Mr H Blackburn, Mrs J Mawson, Mr C Tooby, Mr T Benham
Parish Clerk Mrs K Meads

Borough Councillor Mr M Davis

Item 1-Apologies

Apologies had been received from Mr B Hamson due to ill health. These apologies were accepted. Apologies were also received from Mrs L Freer Borough Councillor

Item 2 – Notice of Interest

Mr T Hopkins and Mrs J Mawson declared an interest in Item 12-Allotments.

Item 3 – Recording of the meeting

The Chairman, Mr T Hopkins welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if anyone recording the meeting could make themselves known. There was no recording of the meeting.

Item 4-Approval of minutes of the Parish Meeting of 23rd September 14

It was proposed by Mr H Blackburn and seconded by Mr T Benham that the minutes be accepted.

Item 5 – Report from Borough Councillor

Mr M Davis reported that although the Chicken Broiler application had been withdrawn, he would remain on watch and advise the Clerk immediately should there be any changes.

Mr Davis also advised that he was aware of the recent complaints concerning smells from the quarry. There had been a meeting between Environmental Officers of NWBC and Lafarge Tarmac. The odours arise when a process to recycle rejected tarmac is carried out. Engineers have checked filters and equipment and cannot rectify the issue at this stage. This problem will continue to be monitored.

Mr Davis offered his help with the Neighbourhood Plan, if required.

Item 6 – Report from Police

There was no report from the Police.

Mr T Hopkins reported that he had attended a Police and Crime Commissioner meeting recently. Councillor T Wykes from Hartshill Parish was also in attendance. Mr Hopkins asked a question "What are the Commissioner's comments on the fact that Mancetter is becoming a Police "no go" area now that the Beat Officer has gone and it doesn't seem possible to retain a PCSO"

The Commissioner was not happy with these comments and preferred to stress that crime figures in the County had dropped.

Mr Hopkins advised that the Commissioner would be at a meeting on 13th January at QE School from 6.30pm.

Item 7 – Footpaths

- Mr J Arrowsmith had forwarded a copy of a letter he had sent to WCC stressing his concerns about footpath issues relating to the Lafarge Tarmac Planning application.

Signed By Chairman

Date:

Mr Trevor Hopkins

- Mr G Wale had given a verbal report to the Clerk stating that there had been no issues during the last year.
- The quote for the Footpath Contract for the next two years had been received. The price has increased by £75 per year. This is the first increase for four years. This was discussed in detail, with particular emphasis on the fact that it is best value and that the contractor is recommended by WCC. It was proposed by Mrs S Healy and seconded by Mr H Blackburn that the Footpath Contract is awarded to Mr G Wale.

Item 8-Any other Parish Business

- **Planning Application for 39,000 chicken Broiler Factory at Crown Stables, Nuneaton Road, Mancetter.**
As reported in item 5 above. This application has been withdrawn. The Senior Planning Officer has advised that the applicant intends to re submit the application in 2015.
- **Issues concerning adjoining Parishes**
The first meeting of this group, which includes Atherstone Town Council, Mancetter and Witherley Parish Councils was held on 29th October at Atherstone Town Council offices. The group is to be named A5 Contact Group. Higham Parish Council has asked to join the Group. A list of issues will be made and a further meeting will be arranged to decide on an action plan.
- **WALC AGM**
Mr T Hopkins and Mrs J Marshall attended the AGM. Amongst the items discussed was the increase in fees to Parish Councils. Mr T Hopkins asked the Councillors to consider continued membership of WALC due to this increase which is expected to be 2.2% and the fact that after the completion of the Extra Care Scheme and the re development of the shops our electoral roll increase may take us into the next band of fees. After much discussion it was decided to remain as members and re consider once the developments were complete. This was proposed by Mrs S Healy, seconded by Mrs J Mawson and agreed unanimously.
- **New Roof on Arden Forest Estate, Ridge Lane**
The Clerk showed Councillors drawings of the proposed re- roofing of Arden Forest Estate. The estate is made up of houses and flats. The flats currently have a flat roof. It is proposed that the new roof will be pitched, with improvements to the fascia. All Councillors agreed that this will be a great improvement to the look of the buildings.

Item 9 – Correspondence

A full list of correspondence received had been passed to councillors. (Appendix I)

The following items were discussed in detail:

- **Annual meeting between Borough and Town/Parish Councils**
This meeting is to be held on Thursday 29th January 2015. Mr T Hopkins advised that he will not be available to attend this meeting. After discussion it was agreed that the following questions should be asked, and that the Clerk would request that the Core Group Neighbourhood Watch should be present at the meeting.
What is the view of the Safer Neighbourhood Team on the current policy with regard to the reporting of potential crimes?
(A number of potential crimes have been reported recently, which, due to no action being taken have become actual crimes).

Will the Borough Council support Parish Councils when issues arise concerning the mooring of canal boats are raised?

E.g. Boats moored for weeks on 48 hour moorings.

Signed By Chairman

Date:

Mr Trevor Hopkins

- **Mancetter Scouts help to find volunteers and grant application**

A letter from Mancetter Scouts had been circulated before the meeting. They are in need of adult help. They have also completed a Grant application form for help with the cost of purchasing buoyancy aids and oars for use in their boats. This application meets all criteria and it was proposed by Mr H Blackburn and seconded by Mrs J Mawson that a grant of £200 be awarded.

The Clerk has already advised Mr C O'Neill (the applicant) that the Parish Council will be pleased to place a notice in The Manor Road Notice Board to promote the Scout Group. Mr T Benham will also display notices in his shop window.

- **Notes from WALC Annual Financial Briefing**

The Clerk read out the notes and it was confirmed that all financial requirements are up to date.

- **Decriminalisation of parking in North Warwickshire**

Atherstone Town Council had asked for comments on this matter. After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would support this in principle. The Clerk was asked to respond and request confirmation that if this were to be implemented there would be controls in place to ensure that unpaid fines were pursued.

- **Winter Gritting Routes**

The County Council have issued a plan detailing the gritting routes which will remain unchanged.

Item 10 – Cheques and Accounts

Mrs K Meads issued a full statement of all accounts up to 24th November 2014. (Appendix II). All cheques and bank payments were signed in accordance with the bank mandate.

- **Budgets for 2015/16**

Proposed draft budgets had been distributed before the meeting, along with two precept options.

The budgets were discussed and the following changes were agreed:

- a. The footpath contract be increased by £75 to £1,150
- b. The cost of a waste bin in the cemetery be reduced from £7 per fortnight to £6 per fortnight
- c. The election cost is increased after the Clerk had contacted the Borough Council to confirm charges.

The two precept options were discussed:

- a. To keep increase to 2%
- b. To maintain the same amount of income which, due to the reduction of approximately 15% on Transition Grant would result in an increase of 3.3%

At this time it was agreed to keep the increase to 2%. The final decision cannot be taken until the January meeting when the Council tax bands are known.

Item 11 – Cemetery and Maintenance

- **Planting to commemorate WW1** It was confirmed that crocus and tulip bulbs have been planted.
- **Planting of bulbs around the Parish.** It was confirmed that daffodils and crocus bulbs have been planted in Ridge Lane and Mancetter. Approximately 500 bulbs have been passed to the Tenant's Group for them to plant.
- **Tree** It was confirmed that the Scot's Pine had been removed, however the wall at cremation bay two and three had been damaged. The Contractor is to claim from his insurance and payment for the removal of the tree will be withheld until the walls are re-instated.
- **Manor Road Notice Board** It was confirmed that repairs would take place in the next few months.
- **Review the Cemetery Handyman Contract for a further two years.** Mr R Drakeford submitted a quotation for the same amount for the next two years. This was discussed and it was proposed by Mr H Blackburn and agreed unanimously that this be accepted. It is the policy of the Parish Council to issue contracts locally wherever possible.

Signed By Chairman

Date:

Mr Trevor Hopkins

- **Review the Parish Handyman Contract for a further two years.** Mr B Stevenson submitted a quotation for the same amount for the next two years. This was discussed and it was proposed by Mr H Blackburn and agreed unanimously that this be accepted. It is the policy of the Parish Council to issue contracts locally wherever possible.
- **Review Burial and Cremation Charges from April 2015** After discussion it was proposed by Mr H Blackburn and seconded by Mrs S Healy that the charges be increased as detailed on the attached (appendix III)
- **Waste Bin the Cemetery.** Since the waste bin had been squashed in the bin lorry some months ago it was becoming more difficult to dispose of waste in the cemetery. The Clerk had obtained quotes and the most favourable was from Tom White Waste Ltd. This is for a 240 litre bin to be emptied once a fortnight at a cost of £6 a time. It was agreed unanimously to proceed.

Item 12 – Allotments

- **Review allotment charges from March 15**
After discussion it was proposed by Mrs S Healy and seconded by Mr H Blackburn that the allotment charges should remain the same.

Item 13 – Core Strategy and Neighbourhood Plans

It was reported that WALC were hosting a workshop on Neighbourhood Planning and Responding to Planning Applications at Mancetter Memorial Hall on Saturday 6th December 2014.

Councillors Mrs J Marshall and Mr T Benham were booked in. Mr T Hopkins suggested that the Parish Council could fund places for two members of the new Action Group. The cost would be £40. This was proposed by Mrs J Mawson and seconded by Mr H Blackburn.

Mr T Hopkins requested that as Mr C Tooby was also a member of the Action Group he could report back to the Parish Council on progress of the group. Mr C Tooby agreed to do this.

Item 14 – Publicity

- Summary Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2014 were agreed as correct and signed by Mr T Hopkins.
- Mrs K Meads advised that a report for the December/January edition of Mancetter Matters had been sent in.

Mr T Hopkins signed a paper copy of the report for the files.

Item 15 – Planning Applications

- Oak Tree Farm – Agricultural Building. The date for comments on this application had passed.

Post meeting note: This application has been withdrawn.

Item 16 - Date of next meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 27th January 2015. Mr T Hopkins advised that he will not be available on this date. It was unanimously agreed that the meeting be changed to **20th January 2015**. The Clerk has checked that the venue is available.

Additional items

Mrs J Mawson advised that;

Carol Cotterill from Core Neighbourhood Watch Team can arrange property marking. A venue would be required. It was agreed that this would be discussed again at a later date.

Safer Neighbourhood Team – Dean Reid / Mitch Oakley would be replacing Roger Fildes, who is to retire.

There being no further business Mr T Hopkins closed the meeting at 9.30pm

Signed By Chairman

Date:

Mr Trevor Hopkins