

Branston & Mere Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Pavilion, Moor Lane, Branston on
Monday 2nd September 2019 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs. Adams, Blair, Catton, Clarke, Cucksey, Lundgren, Marchant, Naulls, Newman, Penistan, Ross and Willcox.

In Attendance: Clerks - Mrs Stead and Mrs Naylor.

Members of the Public: Three.

Item 1 a) Apologies for absence and reasons given.

The Council noted and approved the reason for the apologies of Cllr Tebb and resolved to accept them until January. He would continue to remain active by e-mail during that time although would not be able to vote on issues.

b) Declarations of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interests.

Cllr Marchant expressed a non-pecuniary interest in Item 5b.

Item 2 Public Forum.

Two residents from the Spires asked the Council to reduce the height of the conifer hedge at the corner of the Moor Lane Recreation Ground, as it blocked the sunlight into their flats. See 5e.

Item 3 Reports from representatives on outside bodies:

a) Police.

During the period 01/07/19 – 02/09/19 nine crimes had been reported:

7 Thefts - including 4 from the Co-op.

1 Damage to a motor vehicle.

b) County Council.

- Cllr Oxby said that a new website was about to be launched that would enable online transactions, payments and 'self-serve' access to services and information.
- Adult learning had been rated 'good' by Ofsted; with some areas rated as outstanding.
- Lincolnshire A-level results had been strong, with 97.6% achieving the internationally recognised gold standard.
- GCSE results had shown an improvement.
- Greenwich Leisure had announced new investment in Library IT equipment in 2020.
- A 'career progression scheme' for Health visitors would be implemented in October.

Cllr Ross questioned the extent of LCC's provision of Adult Learning and the Chairman asked whether the IT upgrade would include Branston Community Library. Cllr Oxby would make enquiries and report back.

c) District Council.

- Cllr Lundgren advised that neighbouring residents were concerned about the planning application for reserved matters at 64 & 66 Sleaford Rd. Planning Officers had requested revised plans to address some of the issues raised.
- A solution had still not been found for water flooding across the road from an unknown source at Moor Lane, Branston Booths. Residents had asked Highways to resolve the problem.
- The Wellbeing Service had been asked to help an elderly resident deal with an overgrown hedge on Photinia Close.
- Cllr Lundgren had attended a meeting of the Branston Surgery Patient Participation Group to highlight issues and concerns raised during the election campaign.
- NKDC Scrutiny would look at the development of the SUE's (Sustainable Urban Extensions). The SUE and provision of infrastructure at Canwick Heath being of local concern. There would be an opportunity for Parish Councils to have input.

- Scrutiny was looking at health provision across the district following the announcement of major changes at the CCGs.
- Cllr Cucksey reported that the full Council had approved the Commercial Workshop Development at Discovery Park in North Hykeham; with a budget of £2.2m, funded from #borrowing and the New Homes Bonus.

He advised that NKDC managed 111 workshops across 11 sites with five sites owned and one part-owned by the Council and were considered to be a good investment opportunity.

Cllr Lundgren added that he was pleased that the need had been recognised and said that they provided a boost to employment and the economy throughout the district.

d) Community Library.

- Visitor numbers had been good during the summer with high numbers of children using the Library. The Reading Challenge – ‘Space Chase’ - had proved popular, with over 70 children signed up to read a minimum of 6 books.
- The programme of children’s activities and ‘Build Space’ in Lego had been popular.
- The new shelves and furniture had been installed in early August as part of the Library refurbishment and feedback had been positive. Some redecoration was planned by the School.
- The contribution to Saturday Kids Craft by Volunteer Grace was noted. Grace had volunteered shortly after the community library opened four years ago and had planned craft activities and helped children produce amazing creations from basic craft items.

The Council would write to thank her and wish her well at University.

- The Community Library’s 4th birthday and celebration of the revamp would be on Saturday 5th October with special guest Danica Butler; a local author of books set in the area.
- The request to purchase a Book Returns Cart with the Co-op’s 2018 Community Champion award was approved. Proposed by Cllr Lundgren; seconded by Cllr Ross.

e) Environment Warden Report.

There was no report.

Item 4 a) To resolve that the notes of the meeting held on 1st July are approved as the Minutes.

Acceptance of the notes was proposed by Cllr Newman and seconded by Cllr Ross.

b) Matters arising from the Minutes for clarification.

16134 Ref 16118 - The new picnic benches had been installed at Waterwheel Lane.

16135 Ref 16119 - The landowner had agreed to a Dog Waste bin being attached to the boundary post on Moor Lane, Branston Booths. LCC had provided a licence and a bin had been fitted.

16136 Ref 16123 – There was no update on the Tennis Club’s welfare facilities.

Item 5 Correspondence:

a) Newsletters and Periodic Publications.

There were no publications.

b) Letters for information.

16137 Letter from Branston & Heighington Patient Participation Group - Noted.

16138 LCC – The Library Revenue Grant would be aligned with the financial year end; running from 1 October to 31 March 2020. The Chairman signed the application.

16139 Lincs Rivers Trust – Details of a 1.5km restoration project costing £120k.

Some funding had been agreed but the project was £20k short.

Cllr Lundgren said that it was a good project for the community and suggested a public meeting or presentation and adding it to the Four Parish Cluster agenda as the work would cross 3 parishes.

16140 Lincs Rivers Trust – Additional planting of aquatic plants would be carried out at Waterwheel Lane.

c) Four Parish Cluster – Date of meeting & items for agenda.

16141 The Four Parish Cluster Meeting was scheduled for 28th October, hosted by Washingborough Parish Council.

Cllr Marchant requested an opportunity to give an update on the Emergency Plan and possible shared resources. The Lincs Rivers Trust project and the Scrutiny review of the SUE’s were also suggested.

d) Infant School – request for support for additional highway signage.

16142 Branston Infant Academy had asked for advice on additional speed signage; prompted by further complaints about parking and speed issues on Beech Road. LCC Highways had referred them back to the Parish Council to seek the support of the ward member.

Cllr Oxby had been made aware of the request and had agreed to support the request. He said that Heighington had a flashing sign that was controlled by the crossing patrol worker.

e) Resident – Request to reduce height of conifers at Moor Lane Recreation Ground.

16143 The Clerk was asked to check the conditions on the planning decision notice in relation to the hedge prior to a site survey and seeking tenders from tree surgeons.

f) Resident – Request for benches at Moor Lane & Abel Smith Gardens.

16144 A resident had requested that the bench from the corner of Moor Lane be returned or replaced and a seat provided on Abel Smith Gardens.

The bench from Moor Lane had been removed and stored by Lovell. It needed attention but could be reinstalled. A wooden bench, facing into the development had recently been installed near the corner. Cllr Penistan would look at an alternative position for the old bench; possibly near the bus stop.

The concrete plinth on Abel Smith Gardens had been vacant since residents had requested that the bench be removed over 20 years ago because of nuisance caused by youths congregating there at night.

Cllr Mrs Penistan said that she had spoken to current residents and they did not want a bench to be installed. It would be reconsidered if the resident could demonstrate a need.

Item 6**16145 Planning Applications & Tree Applications:****a) Planning decisions received.**

Planning permission had been granted on the following applications:

19/0534 Storage building	Rushfield Lakes, Potterhanworth.
19/0667 Single & 2 storey extensions	87 Heathfield Avenue.
19/0710 Raising roof to form rooms in roof space	20 Moor Lane, Branston Booths.
19/0793 To vary condition 10 of 17/1702	Bardney Lock Farm.
19/0798 Single storey rear extension	24 Chartridge.
19/0976 Front & side extensions	1A Buddleia Drive.

b) Planning Applications received.

19/0165 Conversion of barn to holiday let Poultry Farm, Branston Moor.

If this conversion is approved; Branston & Mere Parish Council would like a condition imposed to limit its use to a holiday let only.

19/0700 Increase height of pillars, fence & gate 40 Station Road.

No objections.

19/0961 Reserved matters for 2 dwellings. Rear of 64 & 66 Sleaford Road.

The Parish Council objected to this application at Outline and councillors continue to object to what they consider to be overdevelopment of the plot and excessive density in the immediate vicinity; adversely impacting on the visual and residential amenity of 64 & 66 Sleaford Road, the proposed new dwellings and the properties on Kirk Road; for current and future occupants.

The Planning Officer's report at outline stated that the layout and size of the indicative dwellings would not be acceptable as the layout indicated a cramped plot with small gardens and poor outlooks. To achieve a two-dwelling scheme, it would need to be reduced in size and the layout altered.

The plan has instead been enlarged from 3 bedroom to four bed roomed properties with dormer windows and double garages.

The Design & Access Statement, submitted at outline, said that the new dwellings would be designed to ensure no issue with overlooking.

The increase in height, with dormer windows looking directly towards the Kirk Road properties, would create an unacceptable level of overlooking that would be detrimental to residents of all the properties.

Policy LP26 of the Local Plan states that developments must make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the environment within which it is located; having regard to its local context and should not impact negatively upon the amenity experienced by neighbours. The additional dwellings would overlook

the properties on either side and create an intrusive loss of privacy for the neighbours that will unduly harm their right to enjoy their own amenity space.

The gardens of the new dwellings would be extremely small, providing deficient amenity space. The subdivision of gardens would also leave the host dwellings with a poor standard of amenity space.

LP20 recognises the importance of green infrastructure; including the benefit of domestic gardens and states that proposals that cause loss or harm should not be permitted unless outweighed by need. Recent development and existing outline permission will provide 362 new properties in Branston; exceeding local demand.

The width of the shared driveway is insufficient and would need to be a minimum of 4.1m for emergency vehicle access to the rear properties and be 2m from the blank wall of the front property.

Shared access would cause noise disturbance and a lack of privacy to the current and any future occupants of No. 66; affecting the quality of an existing living environment.

The Parish Council suggests that this proposal should be scaled back.

19/0976 Front & side extension

1a Buddleia Drive.

No objections.

19/1000 Outline application for a dwelling

18 Moor Lane, Branston Booths.

No objections.

19/1002 Temporary portacabin

Branston Ltd, Mere Road.

No objections.

19/1044 Single storey sunroom

The Rise Plough Hill Potter Booths

No objections.

19/1051 Single storey side extension

16 Park View Avenue.

No objections.

17/1287 Varcon - Minor amendments

Bomber Command Centre.

No objections.

19/1083 Relocation of Air Ambulance HQ

East of RAF Waddington & A15.

No objections.

19/1103 Replacement livestock unit

Brambles Farm, Mere Road.

The Parish Council has the following comments:

- The buildings should be screened by careful planting to ensure they are not over-dominant in open countryside and on the edge of the residential area.*

- There have been previous issues with industrial lighting affecting users of Mere Road. The Parish Council asks for careful consideration and effective screening to avoid glare and unnecessary light pollution in open countryside.*

- There is a weight restriction on Silver Street. The company has responsibility to ensure that HGV traffic to and from the site is from the A15 and does not affect the village.*

c) Tree Application Decision approved.

19/0960 Fell row of conifers

The Old School, High Street.

d) Tree applications received.

19/1087 Removal of 2 hedges

Potterhanworth Road.

No objections.

19/1183 Fell 2 Sycamores

31 Silver Street.

No objections.

19/1189 Fell Cotoneaster & Conifer

1 Melville Close.

No objections.

19/1202 Fell 1 conifer & remove overhanging branch

3 Springfield Close.

No objections.

Item 7

Other Reports:

a) Report on the Beer Festival.

16146 Cllr Clarke reported that the aim had been to hold a 'good event' while raising funds for the village. Feedback received on the night and afterwards suggested that had been achieved.

He said that 500 tickets had been sold and over 2000 pints of ale and cider, 83 bottles of Prosecco and 20 bottles of Gin had been served. Both caterers had been busy and had sold out of some lines.

He thanked the working group; particularly Cllr Marchant and Graham Marchant, Clive Catton and the 50 volunteers on the day.

Early calculations indicated a profit of nearly £5,000 that would be used towards village amenities and invested in equipment to make future events sustainable. Attendees had indicated that they would support it as an annual event. Thought would be given to holding it earlier in the year as it had turned cool and been dark by 8.30pm.

The Chairman congratulated the team and said that 'a bit of an idea' had been developed and had produced a fantastic community event for all age groups.

b) Update on the Pavilion project.

16147 Cllr Ross expressed disappointment that, five years on, the project had still not been achieved. A sketch for a standalone community building had been provided by LK2 but would need further work and thought.

c) Update on speed reduction measures.

16148 The Chairman confirmed that two speed signs had been ordered from SWARCO on a 4-6-week lead time. He would finalise the locations and licences with LCC.

16149 Two other companies had been found to quote for the installation of the gateways. There was a possibility that a grant of up to £2,500 might be available and the Clerk was working on the application.

d) Update to Skate Park repairs.

16150 Confirmation had been received from Lovell that they would carry out work to the skate park at no cost to the Parish Council. They would make good the mounds and join the two runs as discussed at the site visit. The work would take place in October/November.

Cllr Adams agreed to investigate the cost of tracking to protect the field.

The handyman would be asked to refill the cracks to prevent water ingress to the ramps.

e) Plans to improve Memorial Garden boundary & replacement fence.

16151 The conifer hedge had been removed ahead of schedule. The fence would be replaced as soon as available. There would be considerable work to prepare the ground for new planting.

It was resolved to ask the Seasonal worker to work over the winter, to look after the garden, on an 'as and when' basis.

f) Update on requests for bus shelters at B Booths & Station Road. Mrs Naylor.

16152 Consent had been given for a bus shelter at Branston Booths and an application for funding had been submitted.

16153 The suggestion made by a resident to reduce the amount of groundwork needed for another bus shelter on Station Road had been passed to LCC for consideration.

g) Update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

16154 Cllr Lundgren said that the plan was undergoing the final screening at NKDC ahead of public consultation and the referendum. It was unclear how long the screening would take.

h) Social Media update.

16155 Progress towards a prize draw when the page had 350 'likes' was slow.

16156 The Assistant Clerk had researched the benefits of having a Twitter feed and suggested that it would require daily maintenance while achieving little and being open to complaints being circulated.

It was resolved to continue with Facebook and to remove the Twitter link from the website.

i) Additional play equipment at Moor Lane.

16157 Cllr Ross and the Assistant Clerk had started to investigate play equipment and available funding. Cllr Ross would report back at the next meeting.

Cllr Clarke suggested that the Outdoor Gym equipment could be better positioned.

j) Report on NKDC Parish Briefing event.

16158 The Chairman and Assistant Clerk had attended the briefing. The Parish Council would continue to be consulted prior to any changes to the electoral boundaries.

Item 8 Governance Review –

a) Risk Assessment.

16159 There were no changes.

Cllr Clarke said that although plans were in place to resolve the issues with the mounds at the skatepark; the cracks on the ramps needed filling before the winter. Previous efforts had been pulled out by users. It was suggested that notices be put up to explain the need for the filler.

b) New model Financial Regulations.

16160 New model Financial Regulations had been issued by NALC. The Clerk had highlighted areas for discussion and circulated them. Cllrs Naulls and Ross would put forward suggestions for the Council to review prior to adoption. The item was deferred.

c) To consider reducing use of plastic.

16161 Cllr Tebb had requested the item to consider whether reliance on single use plastic could be reduced. The Clerk listed usage as milk & water bottles at the Council meeting; cable ties and bin bags and glasses at the BBF.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Council needed to be responsible and have awareness of the problem. Tap water at meetings was not popular alternative and use of bottled water was mitigated by using 2ltr bottles and reusable plastic glasses rather than each member having an individual bottle.

Item 9 Finance:

16162 Payments approved during August:

T Mobile	Mobile Tariff	11.29
Staff payments	Wages & expenses	5,114.37
HMRC	Tax & NI	819.34
NEST	Pension	366.47
Michael Cummins	Environment Warden	262.50
Hill Holt Wood	Jungle maintenance	168.00
CB Ground Maintenance	Grass cutting	687.75
NKDC	Black bags	21.95
LALC	LCR Magazine subscription	17.50
Octagon	Annual Wordpress maintenance	144.00
Octagon	SSL Certificate - BBF	48.00
Octagon	Hosted email	99.00
Branston Academy	Sports Hall Hire - Escape	80.00
Tysons	Mower blade & belt	64.36
ESPO	Superwhite marker	99.00
Buildbase	Sadolin	65.29
NBB Recycled Furniture	Benches	1,471.20
Portland Tools	Paint	60.81
Andy Marchant	General - new padlock	13.19
Andy Marchant	Emergency Team	234.65
Andy Marchant	BBF	1,454.18
Blues Boy Kings	BBF Entertainer - Final payment	400.00
Rachael Makena	BBF Entertainer - Deposit & fee	150.00
Total Workwear	BBF - Crew shirts	265.14
	Total Payments.	12,117.99

a) To approve payments to be made.

16163 Approval of the payments was proposed by Cllr Newman and seconded by Cllr Clarke.

T Mobile	Mobile Tariff	11.29
Staff payments	Wages & expenses	4,773.45
HMRC	Tax & NI	468.51
NEST	Pension	332.52
Michael Cummins	Environment Warden	210.00

Hill Holt Wood	Jungle maintenance	168.00
CB Ground Maintenance	Grass cutting	691.40
LALC	Annual -LALC News	6.00
Came & Co	Annual Premium	4,286.21
ESPO	Cleaning & Stationery	82.34
Lincolnshire Eco Arborists	Emergency Tree Work	190.00
TV Licensing	Library	154.50
LCC Highways	Speed device installation	480.00
SWARCO	Speed devices (2)	6,068.65
Andy Marchant	Glasses/Wine/programmes -BBF	970.40
Paul Etccl	Stark / Sound system - BBF	900.00
Nick Clarke	Booker - BBF	1046.00
Total Payments.		20,839.27

Item 10 Pending - Unresolved Issues not covered:

- a) **Cycle path provision – Lincoln Road & Mere Road**
- b) **Co-op car park issues.**
- c) **GP provision in the parish.**
- d) **Progress report on an Outreach Post Office service.**
- e) **Branston Booths dyke & fence.**
- f) **Future of the Youth Club.**

16164 The Branston Booths site meeting had not taken place due to holidays and would be rescheduled as soon as possible

There was no movement of the other issues.

Item 11 Items for information.

16165 The Clerk had suggested dropping the use of 'Mrs' and 'Mesdames' from the minutes; incorporating the female councillor's surnames into the list of attendees, in alphabetical order. All members were in favour and the immediate change was proposed by Cllr Ross; seconded by Cllr Lundgren..

16166 Nominations for the NKDC Community Champion awards had been submitted for the Food Voucher Scheme and Andy Marchant for his work on the Emergency Plan. Neither had been shortlisted.

16167 Cllr Marchant advised that he would be attending an Emergency Plan meeting that would consider the effects of Brexit. He and 5 volunteers would also have an active role at the annual Resilience Conference in October.

16168 Cllr Marchant suggested a visit to the Bomber Command Centre.

16169 Cllr Catton pointed out that LIVES had been employed to provide first aid cover at the BBF but the personnel sent were volunteers. She suggested that food should be provided for them at future events.

16170 Cllr Marchant reported that 2 walkie-talkie radios had been lost at the Beer Fest. He was hoping that they had been taken by mistake and would be returned as they were part of the Emergency Team kit.

16171 Cllr Penistan suggested putting the Library TV licence on direct debit to avoid late payment if the renewal notice was lost in the school post.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.