

Burton Agnes Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting

at Burton Agnes School

Monday 10 July 2017

Those present were:

Parish Councillors

Mrs Sue Burt (Chair)

Mr Garry Burt (Treasurer)

Mrs Jean Boynton

Mrs Margaret Scrowston

Miss Jennifer Hobson (Clerk)

Guests

Councillor Jane Evison

Mr John Turner

Mr Simon Cunliffe-Lister

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Clive Neale, Councillor Paul Lisseter and Councillor Jonathan Owen.

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 15 May 2017

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by Mrs Burt.

The Chair then sought approval from the council to re-arrange the order of the agenda to allow the guests present to leave early if they so wished. This was agreed by all.

The Chair introduced Mr Turner and Mr Cunliffe-Lister and summarised the reasons for their attendance. Mr Turner wished to discuss the issue of heavy tractor movements which he had witnessed recently. Mr Cunliffe-Lister had agreed to attend the meeting in order to discuss the tractor movements, complaints about the behaviour of the contractors engaged for the hybrid rye harvest, specifically instances of speeding and lack of consideration for local residents and other road users, the proposal for a digestate lagoon in connection with the Anaerobic Digester, again on behalf of Burton Agnes Estates and the planning application for an events sign on behalf of Burton Agnes Hall.

4. Behaviour of Contractors

The Chair reported that complaints had been received and noted regarding the behaviour of the tractor drivers connected with the hybrid rye harvest South of the railway line in Burton Agnes. These complaints had been passed to Mr Cunliffe-Lister who had consequently spoken with the contractor used for the harvesting. It had been agreed that printed copies of the comments would be passed directly to the tractor drivers to remind them of the need to be considerate to residents. Mr Cunliffe-Lister confirmed that this had been done and stated that a record of these comments would be held for distribution to the drivers at the outset of future harvests before any work began. The Chair thanked Mr Cunliffe-Lister for the action taken and stated that an improvement in the situation, particularly with respect to speed had been reported.

5. Volume of Harvest Traffic

Mr Turner stated that he had previously had e-mail dialogue with both the Chair of the Parish Council and Mr Cunliffe-Lister regarding the number of tractors that he had witnessed passing his house during the hybrid rye harvest period. His main concerns were that the volume of traffic, the days of operation and the hours of operation were all far in excess of what he had expected after reading the Traffic Assessment provided by Burton Agnes Renewables Ltd during the planning application process for the Anaerobic Digester. Mr Cunliffe-Lister had offered to meet with Mr Turner to discuss the matter further and a meeting had been arranged for Friday 14th July. The Parish Council would be kept informed of any outcome from this meeting.

Members of the Parish Council observed that Burton Agnes was in a predominantly agricultural area and that harvesting was wholly weather-dependent. Full advantage needed to be taken of favourable weather conditions to secure the harvest, which inevitably meant working at weekends. It was also observed that the A614 was one of the busiest roads in the area and heavily used by farm traffic.

Whilst it was accepted by all present that the harvesting was wholly weather dependent and so could not be predicted with any accuracy, the Chair asked whether, accepting that it would have to be heavily caveated, it might be possible to issue a notice on the Parish Council website to inform residents of when it was hoped to harvest crops grown South of the railway line for the AD plant. Mr Turner confirmed that any form of communication would be appreciated. Mr Cunliffe-Lister agreed to look into doing so.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Evison made her apologies for having to leave early, the Chair thanked Councillor Evison for her attendance who then left the meeting at 7.20pm.

Mr Turner added that he would like to discuss the present routes being used during the harvest when meeting with Mr Cunliffe-Lister on Friday. Mr Cunliffe-Lister agreed and stated that he would take along a map of the current routes to show Mr Turner. A brief discussion followed of possible alternative routes but it was apparent that the options were very limited.

At this point Mr Turner left the meeting at 7.25pm.

6. Lagoon Proposal

The Chair reported that she and Mr Cunliffe-Lister had exchanged views on the proposed lagoon on Estate land South of the railway line prior to the meeting. The Chair summarised the intention of Burton Agnes Estates (BAE) to install a lagoon to store liquid digestate from the AD plant south of the railway line in Burton Agnes. She acknowledged that the possibility of lagoons (location unspecified) had been stated in a letter circulated to residents during the planning process, however, specific rumours surrounding a proposed lagoon South of the railway had been dismissed at public meetings by Burton Agnes Estates.

At the invitation of Mr Cunliffe-Lister the Chair and Mr Neale had visited the proposed site for the lagoon. The Chair reported that there were two main concerns raised following this

1. The security of the site, which would need to be securely fenced to prevent people (particularly youngsters) entering the area and
2. The possibility of odour nuisance from the site.

Mr Cunliffe-Lister confirmed that he had presented some data from a lagoon in Cheshire regarding odours but conceded that this may not be wholly comparable due to differences in land topography, wind direction and composition of the digestate. The issue of whether the lagoon would be covered or not was also raised. Mr Cunliffe-Lister stated that no decision had yet been taken, but he had read some evidence to suggest that covering the

lagoon would not result in any significant reduction of odour. In discussion, it was agreed that it would not make sense for BAE to incur significant additional expenditure in installing a cover if an uncovered lagoon posed no odour nuisance to nearby residents. The Parish Council would, however, expect BAE to take appropriate mitigating action if such a nuisance was experienced by residents. Mr Cunliffe-Lister agreed to take on board the issues raised when moving forward with the project and agreed to keep the Parish Council informed along the way. He added that there were regulations surrounding the design which would of course have to be adhered to.

7. Planning Application Ref: 17/01938/PAD - Display of non-illuminated double sided event sign at Land South East of 1 Rosedene Cottage, Main Street, Burton Agnes for Burton Agnes Hall Preservation Trust

The Chair stated that, as previously discussed with Mr Cunliffe-Lister, the sign in question impeded the view of the main A614 from the Rudston Road junction which was potentially hazardous. This was supported by similar comments from Mrs Scrowston, Mrs Boynton and Mr Burt. The Chair asked Mr Cunliffe-Lister whether consideration could be given to moving the sign to alleviate the problem.

Mr Cunliffe-Lister noted the comments made and agreed to look at the possibility of moving the current sign. He would report back to the Parish Council in due course.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would respond to the planning consultation stating that while they had no objection in principle to a sign being located in the general area proposed by the Applicant, they objected to the application in its current form on safety grounds. Their response would make clear that there had been positive discussions with the Applicant about the possibility of relocating the sign and that they were confident an agreement could be reached whereby the Parish Council could support a revised proposal.

8. Defibrillator Funding

The Chair confirmed that although funds were in place to purchase a community defibrillator, the siting of such was still an issue. The site would have to be accessible 24/7, secure and have a suitable electricity supply.

The Chair then asked Mr Cunliffe-Lister whether a community defibrillator could be sited on the outside wall of the estate office. Mr Burt added that given the number of visitors to the hall this location would seem to make sense. Mr Cunliffe-Lister confirmed that the current estate office may well be moving in the not too distant future so he would need to give this some thought and report back.

The Chair then thanked Mr Cunliffe-Lister for attending and addressing all the matters raised. Mr Cunliffe-Lister left the meeting at 7.50pm.

The Chair confirmed that she had had a very positive meeting with the Head of Burton Agnes School to explore the possibility of using the school as a location for a defibrillator. Whilst supporting the proposal in principle, permission for the proposal would need to come from ERYC. The Chair was awaiting details from her as to the appropriate person to approach.

A few other suggestions were made for locating a defibrillator and it was agreed that these would be investigated further.

9. Play Park Inspection

The Chair confirmed that two items of equipment had now been removed from the park and an order placed with HAGS for the refurbishment of the swings. She had attempted to obtain further quotes for the work, but neither of the two Companies approached (one being the original installers of the Play Park) had responded.

10. Councillor Vacancy

The Chair confirmed that Mrs Lynne Bell had handed in her resignation from the Parish Council which meant that there was now a casual vacancy. Notice of this had been sent to the Elections Officer from whom confirmation of whether there would be a by-election was being awaited. If insufficient residents requested a by-election, the vacancy could be filled by co-option.

11. Cluster Meetings

The Chair reported that the first Cluster meeting had taken place as arranged and summarised a few of the main topics discussed stating that she felt a few positive outcomes had been agreed especially with regards to planning.

The Chair reported that the next Cluster meeting was to take place on 17th July at Ulrome. The topics for discussion at this one would be Speeding Traffic, Grass Cutting and Pot Holes.

12. Hire of Speed Indicator Devices

The Chair reported that it was now possible for a Parish Council to hire a pair of Speed Indicator Devices from ERYC for a one month period at a cost of £500. All agreed that this cost was too prohibitive to consider at this time.

13. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that as at the 1st July the Parish Council's Current account stood at £3364.00 in credit and the Reserve account balance was £6249.00 in credit. The recent VAT re-claim of £640.31 had been confirmed by HMRC and payment was expected to be received shortly. This year's Lissett Community Wind Farm grant of £1250 was still to be received. A cheque for £200 had been handed to Mr Cunliffe-Lister that evening for the Churchyard Donation previously agreed.

The Treasurer reported that the Auditors had returned a few questions regarding the Annual Return, to which he had responded. An explanation of why the total reserves of the Parish Council were nearly double the precept was requested. The Treasurer had explained that this money had been earmarked for various projects, including the Play Park repairs, and a defibrillator to be installed within the village, subject to a suitable site being identified. The Treasurer suggested that the Parish Council may wish to consider the purchase of 2 defibrillators over the next year or so, the second for Gransmoor - again subject to a suitable site being identified.

The Treasurer reported that Mr Neale had looked at a lawnmower for sale at Harpham for the Burton Agnes Sports Club and Youth Club and had been impressed with it. The cost of this was in excess of £800 and so Mr Neale had asked the Parish Council if they would consider a donation towards this. The Treasurer proposed that a donation of £500 be given to the Sports Club towards the lawnmower. This was agreed by all.

The Treasurer then asked the Clerk for confirmation of any limit to the amount of donations given by a Parish Council. The Clerk confirmed that there was a limit but as this was in excess of £7.00 per registered elector this was highly unlikely to be exceeded.

14. Any Other Business

There was no other business reported.

15. Date of next meeting

25 Sept 2017 to be held at Burton Agnes School at 7.00pm

The meeting finished at 8.30pm.