

SKILLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Grantham, Lincolnshire

Chairman: Graham Page **Vice-Chairman:** Richard Wrigley

Councillors: Neville Clark, Francis Disney, Dave Featherstone, David Raes, Anita Sheehan (Mrs)

Parish Clerk: Vicky Page (Mrs), The Old School, Colsterworth Road, Skillington, Lincs. NG33 5HF

Telephone: 01476 330281 e-mail: clerk.spc@gmail.com

Notes of the Parish Council meeting held at Skillington Village Hall on Monday, 7th March 2016 at 7.30pm. These are DRAFT minutes and are subject to ratification at the next meeting of the Council.

Present: Cllr G. Page (Chairman), Cllrs N. Clark, F. Disney, D. Featherstone, D. Raes, A. Sheehan and R Wrigley

In attendance: Steve Ingram, Strategic Director, Development & Growth, SKDC; Dawn Suchoruczka and Peter Underdown, Residents; and Mrs V. Page (Parish Clerk)

OPEN FORUM:

Ms Suchoruczka addressed the Council with regard to the Blue Horse PH which is currently closed for renovation. She stated that:

- She runs a number of successful pubs, some of which were closed or failing when she took them over.
- She repurchased the Blue Horse when it came on the market last year but the business has not been making a profit for some years.
- Her plan is to reduce the trading area and replace the door in the bar which can be opened when the pub is busy; this, together with shorter opening hours, will reduce the overheads. She will run the cellar herself and employ a bar manager.
- She has found that things have changed over the 10 years since she previously owned the pub with several factors, including occasional events at the Village Hall, impacting on trade. Many pubs in the area are struggling; Skillington does not benefit from through traffic; takings are very low on an average night and wages for bar and kitchen staff must be paid.
- She has lost a significant sum in the past year but hopes that the changes she is putting in place will alter things for the better; she intends to keep going for as long as possible. However, if the business does not become profitable she will close the pub.
- She does not think an application for an Asset of Community Value (ACV) would be granted as there is another pub in the village and also the Village Hall. She feels it would show a lack of faith from the community which would find make it much harder for her to try and make a go of it and she would probably close in those circumstances.
- As far as she is aware, the only support given to publicans by CAMRA after the granting of an ACV, is marketing advice which she does not believe would be of any help.

PARISH COUNCIL:

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Bob Adams (LCC & SKDC)
2. **Notes of the Parish Council Meeting on 1st February 2016:** were agreed and signed into Minutes by the Chairman.
3. **Councillors' Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Sheehan declared an interest as a member of the Village Hall Committee.

The Agenda items were taken out of order:

9.1 The Blue Horse PH: papers had previously been circulated explaining the benefits of an ACV and the process of the Parish Council or a community interest group applying for an ACV. It was reported that comments had been received that the pub had been allowed to run down, was dark and unwelcoming with no heating and concerns had been raised that this was intentional. It was noted that pubs have struggled in recent times since the downturn in the economy. Steve Ingram stated that this is not an isolated case and that many village pubs have struggled; an ACV can bring the village together. The Chairman thanked Ms Suchoruczka for her comments and, after discussion, it was unanimously decided that no application should be made for an ACV.

Mr Ingram left the meeting.

4. **Matters arising from the minutes:**

Signed: **Chairman**

Date

- 4.1. 13.5/12.1 Neighbourhood Development Plan: Cllr Wrigley reported that a useful Village Meeting had taken place on 3.3.16. It was agreed that the information in the PowerPoint presentation should be circulated to those on the e-mail circulation list, although explanation of some of the statistics would be required.
- 4.2. 15.10/8.3 Bank Accounts – switch from HSBC to Yorkshire Bank: the Clerk has been informed that she cannot receive information on the new account as Administrator unless she is a signatory of the account. Advice has been sought from the Auditor who noted that, if the Council switches to internet banking at a later stage, the Clerk will then be administering payments on the authority of the Council. It was therefore unanimously agreed that the Clerk should become an additional signatory, however no payments will be made without the written authority of two Councillors. The necessary changes to the Financial Regulations will be made at the AGM of the Council in May. Authorisation was signed by Cllr Wrigley, Vice-Chairman and Cllr Raes.
- 4.3. 15.11/9.2 Trees on The Green and Top Green: Cllr Raes has reported that the necessary tidying work had still not been undertaken.
- 4.4. 15.12/9.3 Dog Bins: following a survey of proposed locations at the Village Meeting, it was agreed that the new bins would be sited on suitable posts in Park Lane and Colsterworth Road.

5. Planning applications:

- 5.1. S15/0289/22 – Application of Vary Conditions 9, 11 & 13 of Permission granted on 8.6.06 to allow direct access onto Crabtree Road rather than via Skillington Road: *permission granted 19.1.16 subject to conditions. Recent apparent use of the access has been reviewed by Enforcement Officer, access not in use when he visited; wheel-wash etc. still to be installed. It was agreed that any use of the access before the necessary conditions have been complied with should be reported to SKDC Planning.*
- 5.2. S16/0222 – Demolition of existing garages and erection of two 3-bed dwelling on land to rear of Fairmount and Bramblewick, Colsterworth Road (site in Lords Lane): *detailed comments and concerns reported to SKDC Planning; correspondence received from neighbours of the proposed site. There have been problems with the display of the yellow Planning Application Notice which keeps going missing.*

6. Cemetery:

- 6.1. Maintenance: the work has been delayed due to Nic Barker's health. However, although still not fully fit, he has pencilled in the weekend of 12/13th March to start this ground maintenance.
- 6.2. Interment of Ashes: an interment of Ashes will take place on Sunday 3rd April. An application for the installation of a memorial has been received and the design agreed.
- 6.3. Reservation of Plot: a request to reserve an Ashes plot on the Church side has been received.
- 6.4. 16.01/09 Litter Bins: no further progress made.

7. Payments and Accounts:

- 7.1. Bank Balances at 29th February 2016:
 - 7.1.1. HSBC Community a/c: £2,746.09
 - 7.1.2. Melton Mowbray Business 100 Day Notice a/c £14,531.92
- 7.2. Melton Mowbray Building Society change of interest rate on 100 Day Notice Account: *current rate 1.40%; rate effective from 1.6.16, 1.30%. Clerk making enquiries about high interest deposit accounts at Yorkshire Bank.*
- 7.3. Payments received in February:

Date of Invoice	Name	Details	Date & Minute No of Approval	Total Amount £
21.1.16	Richard Barnes Funeral Directors	Reservation of Plot and Interment of Ashes		220.00
8.2.16	I.M. Bowen	Paddock Rental Feb-May 2016	Rent set 1.12.14 Page 2095 Item 9.4	125.00

- 7.4. Invoices for payment in March: cheques were signed by the Chairman and Cllr Wrigley.

Date of Invoice	Name	Details	Date & Minute No. of Approval	Net Amount £	VAT £	Total Amount £
5.2.16	Glasdon UK Ltd	Supply of 2 dog bins	4.1.16 Page 2120 Item 4.6	266.77	53.35	320.12
6.2.16	Skillington Community Centre	Hire of Community Centre for Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan meetings April 15 – March 16		250.00		250.00

Signed: Chairman

Date

7.2.16	Additions Accountancy Grantham Ltd	Internal Audit services for financial year 2015/16		100.00		100.00
16.2.16	LALC	Annual Subscription	1.6.15 Page 2105 Item 13	130.29	22.66	152.95
27.2.16	Colsterworth & District Parish Council	Community Cleaner: February 2016 (including emptying of 2 dog bins @ £2.50/bin/2 x month	6.10.14 Page 2091 Item 8.6.	99.96		99.96
7.3.16	LALC	Annual Training Scheme 2016/17	Agreed at this meeting	60.00		60.00

It was noted that the minimum wage would rise to £7.20 on 1st April 2016.

7.5. Internal Audit to 31st December 2015: has been completed and a copy of the report circulated to Councillors.

8. Clerk's Report:

- 8.1. 16.1/10 Big Society Fund Grant: an application has been made for a Grant to cover the purchase of the new dog bins and notification of payment of a Grant of £200 was received on 7.3.16.
- 8.2. 14.10/10.1 Maintenance of the Bus Shelter: Roy Newnham has agreed to provide a quotation for this work.
- 8.3. 16.02/11.2 Potholes in Stonepit Lane and Colsterworth Road: have been reported
- 8.4. 16.02/11.3 Parking in Chapel Row: has been reported to PCSO who has added it to his 'points of interest'; Cllr Raes to arrange for a diary be kept of when the road is blocked.
- 8.5. Fly-Tipping in Colsterworth Road: mattress on verge reported to SKDC and removed promptly.
- 8.6. Temporary Road Closure: Crabtree/Colsterworth Road junction from 25th to 29th April for carriageway patching works. Notification to be posted on the Notice Board.

9. Matters to be discussed at this meeting:

- 9.1. The Blue Horse PH: see above
- 9.2. 2017/18 – 2019/20 Parish Grant Allocation from SKDC: the existing grant is to be phased out a year earlier than previously planned, 2018/19 will be the last year. It was noted that any necessary increase in the net Precept to achieve the same gross figure would fall under the 2% threshold.

10. District and County Councillor's Reports: Cllr Adams was not present due to illness however it was noted that it has been widely reported that the grants for rural bus services will continue during the next financial year.

11. Any matters arising at the discretion of the Chairman:

- 11.1. The Viking Way: it was reported that the Viking Way between the Sproxton Road and the water tower is in a particularly bad state and dangerous for walkers and horse-riders. Cllr Raes will inspect by quad-bike and the Chairman will attempt on foot. The Clerk will make a report to LCC Highways.
- 11.2. Colsterworth Road: comment was made on the deep rut on the road edge going up the hill out of the village on Colsterworth Road; also the large amount of soil and grit which has accumulated in the area around the bridge over The Cringle which is narrowing the road and causing a skid risk. The Clerk will suggest a meeting with LCC Highways to view this problem.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday, 4th April 2016 following the Annual Parish Meeting which will start at 7.00pm at Skillington Village Hall

Signed: Chairman

Date