

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY OCTOBER 2021 AT LEGBOURNE COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT P Maw (Chairman), C Stephenson(Vice Chairman), M Chapman, D Harrison, S Cole - members of the Parish Council; District Councillor A Grist; County Councillor S Parkin. Guest speakers – M Booth & Robin Peck (Legbourne Community Centre), Father James (All Saints Church) and Louth Neighbourhood Policing Team. There were 17 residents present.
M Hoad (Clerk - Minutes)

1. CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr A Halifax and Ms B Dhani (East Wold CE Primary School).

2. MINUTES

The notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 20th May 2019 had been circulated prior to the meeting and placed on the web site. The chairman signed the record as correct and complete. (p DH & SMC)

3. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Cllr P Maw

The period from May 2019 to April 2020 had seen the usual mixture of issues, some recurring, which effect the parish and our residents.

- Complaints had been made to LCC Highways regarding the quality of the road surface throughout the village.
- Concerns had been raised about speeding traffic through the village
- Standing water at the junction of Househams Lane and Station Road together with the surface water management system.
- There were also several significant planning applications reviewed and commented on by the Parish Council.

Additional activity saw the village entrance gates at the west side of the village partially demolished by a van. Eventually the repairs were made but the van or driver were never identified. An insurance claim covered the cost of repairs.

Other initiatives undertaken during the year were the Litter pick (which was also repeated this year). The Parish Council purchased litter picking equipment which can be made available throughout the year if there is interest outside of the PC organised events for residents to carry out a local litter pick.

In response to the village’s concerns about speeding traffic the Parish Council discussed the development of a ‘Community Speedwatch’ programme. Unfortunately, both activities suffered from a lack of ‘volunteer’ support. The PC members carried out the Litter Pick with the help of 2 residents, but the Speedwatch initiative failed to raise much interest with no volunteers from the Parish coming forward, although 12 were needed.

And then March 2020 happened

As it became more apparent that the world was about to change the PC acknowledged that not everyone was going to be able to cope on their own. In conjunction with the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum and District and County Councils the Parish Council requested volunteers who would be prepared to give help if required to those in our community who needed it. In total we received contacts from 23 residents who were keen to offer their help and support to anyone in the village who found themselves unable to manage on their own. In addition, I’m sure there were many individuals who didn’t register themselves to help but acted in support of

relatives, friends, and neighbours to ensure everyone was looked after and we give thanks to all those who volunteered their help.

Parish Council duties continued throughout the lockdown period with virtual meetings held on zoom through until September 2021.

- All planning applications were reviewed and commented on by the Parish Council
- Ongoing liaison continued with LCC Highways regarding roads, speeding, road surfaces, signage etc.
- Introduction of the new 40mph section at the west side of the village was completed and the PC continues to push for a replication of this at the eastern side.
- Funding was undertaken to repair the Church Clock
- Liaison with ELDC for more/bigger dog waste bins as foot traffic around the village increased significantly.
- Responses were made to the Local Plan consultation supporting different policies for inland and coastal areas both allowing mixed development in towns and large villages, but with the majority of development in towns. The Parish Council also requested the definition of Large Villages to be better defined and considered in relation to housing numbers.
- A relocation of the Speed Sign brackets was made to new sites in the village.

So what of the future issues effecting the village and the Parish Council's planned activities?

The Parish Council continues to review:

- The Local Plan and Call for Land – a consultation held earlier this year. How will ELDC decide to develop the Local Plan in support for the demand for new housing?
- Increasing visitor numbers to the village, which have created good economic input but what additional impact needs to be considered for the village. There has been 94 overall new 'holiday locations' in the village excluding Kenwick Hotel and Holiday Park.
- Theddlethorpe proposed Nuclear Waste Facility site. What knock on effects could this have to the wider community of Eastern Lincolnshire?

Future planned activities and initiatives:

- A new village map to help delivery drivers etc to locate houses.
- How can we develop our own ideas about 'Planning Strategy' to help guide our policies in order to preserve the character of the village whilst building the community spirit and absorbing inevitable development.
- Maintain contact with LCC Highways re road conditions to alleviate standing water, manage traffic speed and improve road conditions.
- Campaign to try and manage the issue of dog mess around the village.
- New notice boards and social media contact to improve information flow to parishioners and encourage better interaction with all organisations within the village and gain more support from residents for community initiatives and events.
- The marking of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in early June 2022.

We hope this gives you an oversight of how your Parish Council has been working for you over the last couple of years and some of our future plans. Residents are always welcome to join parish meetings which are held on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30pm in Legbourne Community Centre and can raise any comments or suggestion to either Parish Councillors or the Clerk.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT – Mrs M Hoad, Clerk

The new Clerk had only recently joined the Council and was able to provide a brief overview of the last financial year's expenditure. During the last financial year, the Parish Council was limited in its activities due to the Covid restrictions. However, day to day work activities were ongoing and the Council continued to cover its fixed bills and staff costs. In 2020/21 the Council spent £4767 against cash received of £5435 (precept plus recovered VAT and a very small amount of interest). Year end balances totalled £10570, including earmarked reserves for possible election costs (£2100) asset replacement (£4080) and future projects (£2500). One major project finding in the last financial year was to the Legbourne Church Wardens for the repair of the church clock (£1934.40). Other monies that could not be spent due to Covid restrictions will be earmarked for future projects. The 2020/21 financial accounting statements will be available on the web site.

5. COMMUNITY UPDATES

All Saints Church – Father James

Despite the unprecedented challenge of the pandemic, we have managed to keep going as a church, and much has been achieved. Worship, when allowed, actually increased, as we took the decision to move all our Sunday services to Legbourne from across our group, as it is the biggest and safest. And whilst many things that we run had to pause, other, such as our work with the local school, has flourished via the power of the internet and virtual assemblies. At the same time, considerable and long planned repairs have been carried out on the building (rebuilding the tower) and its drainage, with the help of specialist builders, and aided by hard sought-after grants and legacies and fund-raising, for which we are enormously grateful.

As we, hopefully begin to leave the worst of the pandemic behind us, however, the Diocese of Lincoln is facing up to another challenge. The financial situation is not good, and costs are being cut, including the number of clergy. Clergy numbers for our deanery – 40 churches – will go down from 8 to 3. In fact, this has already happened, as people have left and not been replaced. As a result, I have had to move into Louth, to take on a wider responsibility and going forward it is clear that my time will have to be shared more widely. To that end I wrote recently to parishioners to ask for support. Financial gifts are essential – we rely on these: there is no other funding source. But just as important is the gift of people's time. We haven't had church wardens for years, and our PCC is not getting any younger. If the church is to continue to serve future generations, we desperately need more people to get involved. In the short term, we will return to our old service pattern of Sunday morning services on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Looking further ahead, what we are able to offer will depend increasing on what local people are willing to support. I would like to thank those who do currently lend a hand, especially those who clean, arrange flowers and our band of grass cutters, who not only work tirelessly to keep the churchyard tidy, but have developed it into a haven for wildlife and visitors alike.

East Wold CE Primary School

Ms Dhimi had been unable to attend the meeting but sent in a short report for residents which was read out by the Clerk. As an update, life in school is now organised in what would be classed as 'normal' times with children playing together, eating in the hall, assemblies in the hall and experiencing after school clubs. There is a lovely atmosphere in school and children are enjoying being out of the 'bubble' system. We are, however, still very much in the pandemic with increased cleaning, hygiene measure etc. Our capacity is exceptionally stretched, along with most other schools, as the challenges of the pandemic continue to impact staffing and well-being. We are continuing to arrange harvest, Christmas events etc. but they may be in a different format to pre pandemic times. We are working with the PTA on a range of additional activities including cinema clubs, Christmas fair and disco. Our Art Subject Lead is looking forward to working with the PC on the Notice Board project too.

Legbourne Community Centre – Robin Peck

As the booking Clerk Legbourne Community Centre Robin advised that the pandemic restrictions all events planned for the centre obviously had to be cancelled. Therefore, grants were obtained to help cover the running costs of the building and grounds and after a lengthy battle with British Gas a refund of £2,300 on energy costs for the period. From the summer the Community Centre has slowly started to open back up for activities. Concentrating on the field first with outdoor events and subsequently children's parties indoors. Bookings are

slowly coming back and most of the clubs appeared to have survived the pandemic and beginning to return to activities. A quiz night is planned for the forthcoming Friday evening. On the 24th November there will be an open evening for the display of information regarding the proposed nuclear waste site at Theddlethorpe should residents wish to register to attend. All bookings for the Community Centre can be made online via the facilities web site.

6. LOCAL POLICING REPORT – Louth Neighbourhood Policing Team

The Louth Neighbourhood Policing Team advised they covered a large rural area from Holten Le Clay, North Sommercotes to Binbrook, Bennigworth and Manby, manned by 2 PCSO's and a beat manager. However, they tried to keep contact with the local parish groups wherever possible. Looking at the police statics for Legbourne area for the past year there had been no great concerns. In October 2020 there had been reports of suspicious vans in the area and loitering of pedestrians, plus a vehicle theft. In June 2021 there had been a local burglary where thieves had entered a property through patio doors and stolen items of jewellery and watches, but the incidencies of burglary were very low only being the one in the 12 month period. There had been the report of a stolen campervan taken from Cornwall which had been parked at Nutty Cottage campsite. The vehicle was recovered and 2 people arrested in nearby village. The policing team current focus was on Drive Safe Lincs and the 'fatal four'. They would be out checking vehicles in areas where accident statistics had indicated specific problems. Residents and the Parish Council were reminded of the local online Neighbourhood Network where policing advice / warnings could be shared with the community.

7. HISTORY IN LEGBOURNE – Cllr Chapman

Cllr Chapman advised the meeting he was working on putting together a list of local points / buildings of historical interest to be listed by ELDC. He identified some places of historical interest in the Legbourne Community which might not be so well known and also posed the question whether simple things like the development of internet services, the 2010 Parish Plan, cultural changes and changes in people's views etc could also be seen as items of historical interest for his report. Mick Booth then presented a history of Legbourne Church for resident's interest.

8. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – Cllr A Grist COUNTY COUNCILLOR - Cllr S Parkin

District Council (ELDC)

Cllr Grist reiterated the value of ELDC's historic listings project, as it would capture local history information which might otherwise be lost and there may be interesting history to buildings, we walk past every day but are just not aware of. He thanked the voluntary groups within the village for their efforts to support residents during the pandemic. Over the last 18 months plus there had been a flurry of planning applications in the district mostly around developing tourism in support of the push to promote the Wolds as a destination for visitors. Where there had been any contentious applications separate meetings had been held to discuss fully with residents. Locally it had been noted that the Beck Path was again hidden by silt, and it was recognised that the 4 x4 vehicle traffic through the Beck was detrimental to walker and cyclists trying to use this route. The Path at the rear of Legbourne Woods had been levelled by LCC for the use of cyclists, walkers and horse riders but again had received damage by 4x4 vehicles. Another local path clearing activity was planned to take place in the next few weeks. The ELDC Community Grant pot was again open for local groups, projects to apply for funding opportunities until February 2022.

In the wider District community council employees were predominately working from home and it was envisaged services would be delivered with a hybrid working pattern in the future of office and home-based employees. Many District Councils were understandably facing financial challenges following the pandemic however ELDC finances were in a relatively healthy state. This had been partially due to the new Strategic Alliance with Boston Town Council and South Holland which had protected front line services and provided the CEO with greater lobbying power. Highways issues in the district were still ongoing and they were working with LCC to slowly address these. One key issue ELDC were now focussing on was the proposed nuclear waste dump at Theddlethorpe. This project presented great opportunities for the region but also some huge issues. The consulting procedure would be a lengthy process over the next 10 year plus and Theddlethorpe was not the only site around the UK being considered. There would be a 'roadshow' running around the region for residents to hear more about this proposed project. The Local Planning Review was also underway and ELDC were looking

for feedback and further consultation would take place before a new local plan would be devised over the next 12-18 months.

County Council (LCC)

Cllr Parking expressed how nice it was to be back to face to face meetings and thanked Legbourne Parish Council for the work they had done on behalf of residents over the last 18 months plus. As mentioned by Cllr Grist, Highways did remain a source of frustration. There had been some positives such as the investment in the footpath along the Beck, but Cllr Parkin recognised that some joined up thinking was needed as problems with recreational vehicles using the Beck was undermining the work done.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

As there was no other business the Chairman advised that refreshments were available, and residents were welcome to stay and informally chat with any Cllrs.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending & the discussions held and closed the meeting at 8.31 pm.

Signed Chairman

Signed Clerk

Date: