

MINUTES OF THE TROWELL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE PARISH HALL ON TUESDAY 28TH APRIL 2015 AT 7.30PM.

Present: Cllr. Mrs. L. Harley, Chairman.
Cllrs. G. Lockwood, Mrs. P. Cardwell, Mrs. M. Birkitt, Mrs. S. Williams, Mrs. C. McGann, R. McGann, Mrs. C. Searle, P. Singer, Mrs. H. Cumberpatch and approx. 5 parishioners.

Clerk: Mrs. A.K. Mitchell.

Cllr. Mrs. Harley opened the meeting & thanked everyone for attending. She then advised those present of the necessary "housekeeping" issues, fire exits etc.

Cllr. Mrs. Cardwell moved apologies from Cllr. Mrs. Birkitt & Cllr. Rigby seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Cumberpatch. All in favour.

Copies of the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 29th April 2014, had been distributed prior to the start of the meeting, & were moved for acceptance by Cllr. Mrs. Cardwell, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. McGann. All in favour.

Cllr. Mrs. Harley then presented the following report.

The last year has been proactive and very busy.

The Hall goes from strength to strength with an excellent and consistent care taking team of Steve and Bernard, two great assets. Long may they stay in our employment. Not only do they keep the Hall in great shape but keep an eye on issues within the village. Many thanks to them both. The council continues to press on with plans to renovate the hall to try and maximise its potential but planning is still in early stages and of course the Council will need to raise funds toward the cost.

2014 was a year when we remembered the tremendous loss of life in World War 1. I attended a service at Eastwood as well as a special service here in Trowell. I am delighted to see that the wreath on our own obelisk still remains to commemorate so many young lives lost.

Alison our very hard working Clerk continues to keep on top of the work whilst attending a series of courses in her own personal development. The knock on effect to the Council is that we are more time efficient especially in meetings and paperwork. Alison and I also attended an audit course, which was riveting.

Several councillors attended the Rural Communities Action Nottingham birthday celebrations which were tinged with sadness as a good friend to Trowell; Carola Jones had recently passed away. Carola was of great assistance to the members of the council who participated in The Parish Plan and the Parish Design Statement. I know her loss was felt keenly at RCAN.

As a Parish Council we have always opposed any building within the green belt, so it was disappointing when the Field Farm development was finally given planning permission. However, we are now in negotiations with the Developer to accept a gift to the Parish, of a field attached to the potential development. This will enable the Parish to maintain a gap between the village and Stapleford. The Council has no plans as to what this land will be used for and how best it will benefit the village so it intends to hold a public consultation. However let's not get too excited, as the land may not be available to the Parish for many years to come. Although a wonderful gesture on behalf of the developer it has come at a cost of many man hours for our Clerk and many councillors as well, also a financial cost towards our solicitor fees.

Work also continues, in the background to try to re-route the HGV Lorries once they start the Open Casting, so many thanks to all those involved.

The state of the village is a constant concern to the Parish Council. The state of the roads and pavements are appalling. I myself walk a great deal more around the village in a sad attempt to get healthy. Whilst I appreciate we live in a rural environment, there is really no need for dog fouling which has become particularly bad, very inconsiderate parking and the general state of roads, with patched up pot holes that seem to reappear with a vengeance .

All we can do as a Council is to report these issues to the Borough and County Council but really some of these issues can really be controlled by us all with a little thought for others

The Festival village committee continues to support the village and has now become a victim of its own success. The Christmas event was well attended to a degree of being too busy. The committee has now welcomed some new members, and will be addressing this at future events. Please don't stop away, any profits made are always donated to a good cause and last year The Luncheon Club received a donation from the Parish Council as well as the profits from the Christmas event toward their transport costs. We recognise the importance of the ability to socialise as we get older and the Luncheon Club does a wonderful job.

On that note the Council is delighted to host an event in May. The Later Life event is opened to all Trowell residents. It will be an opportunity to look at various stands from organisations who promote care, advice and support to the older generation. So if you have not secured a place please talk to one of the Councillors here tonight who will be only too happy to help. I will stress though although we are hosting the event The Parish Council does not endorse any of the companies and their products.

Time to time we get requests from residents to take up an issue, recently we have been involved in parking issues, dog fouling, environmental issues and smells, highway issues, Church Corner congestion and even a residential issue for a parishioner. We were delighted to send a card and a small gift to a resident Mr Stanley Partridge who has reached the grand age of 100.

For those of you who may have watched "The Casual Vacancy" recently can I assure we do not experience the same drama or excitement at the Parish Council.

It was with regret that the Council had to raise the precept this year. In the past at elections the majority of the cost of Parish Council polls would have been covered by the Borough Council. This has now stopped and Parish Councils are recharged the full amount. £3000 therefore had to be raised to cover any potential cost. As we now know the election is to be uncontested in Trowell this money will be earmarked for any future elections.

Finally I must thank all my fellow councillors who turn out to meetings regularly and donate their time to issues as they arise. We all are volunteers and human beings believe it or not and can find turning out on a cold wet and miserable night a chore but they do so mostly with good humour.

A big thank you also goes to Alison our Clerk who works away tirelessly in the background without whom the Council could not function.

Lastly thank you to our families for their support.

This concluded the Chairman's Report.

Cllr. Mrs. Harley then opened the meeting up to the floor to allow parishioners to ask any questions.

Mr. Lee raised the issue of the Stanton Recycling planning application. Mr. Lee was advised that the Parish Council has advised the applicant that they don't endorse his operation & also it has reaffirmed its previous objections in respect of

the latest application. CL was concerned that at the time of the Parish Council's visit the site was not in full operation & had not received a load in for some time.

SW advised that the EA had contacted her directly because she had reported a smell & they had advised her that they will be carrying out spot checks this year.

CL advised that the EA have told him that they will not attend unless there have been multiple complaints.

It was noted that the Parish Council is inviting the EA to attend the June Parish Council meeting.

Mr. Ward - if parishioners cannot ask questions at Council meetings how can they get answers from the EA.

The Clerk suggested that they submit questions to her prior to the meeting & she will ensure that they are considered accordingly.

BW is concerned that only 2 Councillors live on the main road through the village & so are not aware of the movements & the frequency of movements to & from the composting operations. He suggested that operators are having vehicles arriving & leaving outside the hours they are licenced for.

PC commented that Members represent the whole village & if parishioners report a concern then Councillors will act upon it.

SW advised that the issue may be with the recycling sites not the composting site & it was suggested that this issue be raised with KER & DCC. It was agreed that a proposal of this nature could be made at a forthcoming Parish Council meeting.

DP advised that he lives on Nottingham Road but has not witnessed these lorries but suggested the highway camera in the area could be used to verify BW's concerns.

BW advised that 5 lorries pass his house between 5.20am-6.45am on a daily basis. It was suggested that BW pass this information to KER for further information.

DP advised that he has reported the smell a number of times & the EA have visited, he added that people can report via the 0800 number & more complaints may lead to more action. He would encourage everybody to report the problem.

GL commented that the Parish Council has no statutory powers in this regard, advising that it is up to individuals to keep reporting the problem adding that the more complaints the EA receive the more action they may take.

GL said how grateful the Parish Council are that BW takes such an active interest in the village & asked him to stress to those who complain directly to him to report the matter to the EA themselves too.

HC added that the Parish Councillors are all volunteers who do their best & give up a lot of their time for the benefit of the village as a whole & it doesn't matter where they live. She went onto say that in respect of the site visit by Parish Councillors to the composting site - Members only visited one site & it is acknowledged that there are a number of operations in the nearby area.

BW asked why the Parish Council has resurrected the Church Corner issue again.

LH advised that other parishioners have asked them to look at it again.

BW asked how many Parish Council representatives spoke to the contractors who worked on the recent installation of the crash barrier. The answer was 3.

BW said that they had told him that 3 way traffic lights would not work at that location.

LH commented that the Council cannot legislate for drivers who disobey the rules of the road.

BW stressed how bad the traffic problems are on Ilkeston Road/Nottingham Road. HC commented that traffic is terrible wherever you go.

CL said that when temporary traffic lights were in operation on The Moor the traffic queued back almost into Trowell & when the crash barrier was being installed he couldn't get off his drive. He added that the queues & waiting times for Stapleford Road are significantly less.

LH advised that she walks past Bramcote Crematorium & many of the issues are caused by inconsiderate drivers, people not moving up but she added that you can never stop people jumping traffic lights if they choose to.

BW stated again that traffic lights at Church Corner will not alleviate traffic problems.

The Clerk pointed out that the Council has not asked for traffic lights to be installed at the junction - it has simply asked NCC to review the traffic management measures at Church Corner to see if any improvements can be made.

BW advised that suggestions he made to NCC regarding Church Corner were implemented at the time. HC commented that this is the right thing to do to get anything changed, adding that traffic is only going to get worse.

BW commented that he is not interested in issues outside of Trowell & asked if Members had trouble accessing Stapleford Road from their homes - the answer was yes. BW said it took him ten minutes to get off his drive at 6.10am.

GL commented that he struggles on Hill Rise just the same due to parking issues.

DP says that he can sit on his drive for 10 minutes trying to get onto Nottingham Road. He added that there are more accidents coming from Ilkeston Road down Stapleford Road & not out of Stapleford Road.

GL commented that housing on the Stanton site with no new roads for tranche one will increase the traffic problems significantly, Stanton by Dale have passed their problem onto Trowell.

It was noted that BBC have cut the grass & it's better but this time they have cut the bulbs too - why? The Clerk will make enquiries with the contractor.

BW - Church Corner/Ilkeston Road, white lining material - can't see the arrows & lines, also the damage to the crash barrier - report to NCC & cc KER.

Cllr. Mrs. Harley closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their time & attendance & parishioners were then invited to partake of light refreshments in the lounge.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.25pm.