

**Minutes of the Public Open Forum Held at the Trowell Parish Hall on
Tuesday 13th March 2018, at 7.15pm.**

Present - Cllrs. Mrs. L. Harley – Chair of Finance & General Purposes in the Chair, G. Lockwood, Mrs. H. Cumberpatch, M. Westmoreland, Mrs. M. Birkitt, P. Singer, G. Cotton, Miss. N. Brooks, K. E. Rigby (BBC), Mrs. L. Ball B.E.M. (BBC), J. Longdon (NCC), Mrs. J. Murden (Trowell PC) & 4 members of the public.

Clerk - Mrs. A. K. Mitchell

LH opened the meeting, thanked everyone for their attendance.

DR complained about horse riders using footpaths that are not designated for their use & causing damage to the Pit Lane Open Space as a result.

She also complained about cyclists using footpaths, coming up behind dog walkers like her with no bell & at high speed. She finds this very alarming & it has distressed her dog too.

DR also raised the issue of speeding motorists in the village, having witnessed 45-50mph being registered on the interactive speed sign on Stapleford Road.

LH advised that the Council receive comments such as this on a regular basis & it always comes back to how matters like these are to be policed.

JL agreed that policing & enforcing are the issues.

PS added that drivers regularly race along Nottingham Road /Ilkeston Road in the early hours of the morning.

LH commented that there is not really anything the Parish Council can do to tackle these issues or police them.

DR advised that a horse rider had an accident on the road through the village recently which led to a loose horse ending up at the Festival Inn site.

LH advised that the issues raised are really Police matters & would recommend that DR contact the Police directly with her concerns.

KER commented that the Police are very much underfunded these days which is illustrated by the fact that officers are no longer able to attend Council meetings as they did previously.

DR suggested a speed gun like other villages have utilised. LH commented that there are health & safety implications to such undertakings.

MW commented that a Community Speed Watch Group in Broxtowe had been looking for volunteers.

KER advised that the use of the speed gun is not enforceable but in the past the Police have written to perpetrators warning them as a result of initiatives like this.

LB advised that something similar was carried out in Awwsworth a few years ago & the Police did get involved then.

LB will report the damage caused by horse riders to BBC & will feedback to Members at the next full Council meeting in April.

DR commented that she has witnessed 3 vehicles in particular speeding on Trowell Park.

GC asked if she has a note of the vehicles registration numbers. DR said no but she could easily get them.

Regarding the speed gun, JL said he tried this several years ago but there were significant public liability issues involved.

DR raised the issue of the missing interactive speed sign on Stapleford Road near Field Farm, which has been missing since Christmas. JL advised that he is already following up on this matter at NCC.

PW raised the issue of the proposed Parish Hall re-ordering & asked who is paying for the proposed works. LH advised that grants are being sought from outside bodies & that the Council has been saving funds for a number of years to put into this project.

PW asked if there was any demand for the proposed changes that are planned. LH responded that the number of bookings that are being turned away at present indicates that there is. PW asked if the proposed changes would affect the WI's use of the annexe. LH advised that no it wouldn't, the WI would still be able to use the annexe in the current format.

PW also asked whether hirers will be expected to pay for staging. LH advised that the plan PW is referring to, is an artist's impression & no decisions have yet been made in relation to equipment etc. LH commented that the hall is both a community facility & a business with the Parish Council needing to manage it for the benefit of the majority.

PW expressed that the introduction of security bonds & paying charges up front has increased costs to hirers & that the WI don't think the Council has allowed enough storage space in its plans for the re-ordering.

LH advised that storage allocated to hirers is at the Council's discretion & is not a given.

PW asked where the bowls mats would be stored after the re-organisation.

GL as Chair of the Parish Hall & Grounds Committee advised that the Parish Hall is the biggest drain on the Council's resources. He stated that the hall is a community asset but it costs a great deal of money to run & maintain. He added that the Council has decided to put up hire charges in line with other venues in the area. He commented that government grants to Parish Councils are drying up so money needs to be raised from elsewhere & there are the choices of either increasing the Council's precept request or cutting services. The planned re-ordering will also go some way to making the hall more efficient in terms of heating & lighting too.

GL advised that the current layout of the hall is too inflexible & this prevents multiple lettings at the same time because of access, sound proofing etc. He added that with the re-design there will be winners & losers as the Council cannot accommodate everybody's wishes so there will have to be an element of compromise. The Council is currently putting together, with professional support an application to WREN for funding towards this project. That will be submitted later this year but there are no certainties so everything could all fall flat. He commented that such projects are difficult to proceed with at times & he appreciates current users qualms & queries but the Committee & Council will be in discussion with hirers at all times.

PW stated that the Council is now asking for hire payments up front which will be difficult from some groups who do not have the money coming in, in advance of their events. LH advised that this was to eliminate an issue with provisional bookings which, in the past have not been confirmed until close to the event date & if cancelled leaving the Council with a lost booking & no time to fill the slot. PW feels this is tough on hirers, at the moment the WI can afford to pay up front

but she thinks some groups will not be able to do this & so the Council will lose bookings as a result. LH advised that there is no evidence of that happening at present.

LH advised that when looking at other venues in the area, the prices the Council are charging are comparable. She added that the hall is to benefit the whole community & that is why the Council is looking at the re-ordering project.

GL went on to say that he realises that the proposals are a radical change but such things are kept under constant review by the Parish Hall & Grounds Committee & they have asked JM to keep records of what is happening in respect of bookings enquiries etc. It is anticipated that there will be enough data available by the next Committee meeting to enable Members to see if the changes are actually working. LH mentioned the issue of the six month rule & advised therefore that no changes will be made until the proposals have been in operation for a six month period.

PW complained that the letter & changes had come out of the blue. LH responded by saying that there is no other way of implementing such things as hirers cannot be advised of changes until a decision on them has been made by Members.

NB advised Members that a resident had informed her today that The Forge has been sold without any permissions on it as far as can be established.

MW reported a sign board situated near The Forge – he was asked to submit a photograph electronically to the Clerk for onward transmission to the relevant enforcement officer.

LH advised representatives of the WI that they were welcome to stay for the main Council meeting but would not be entitled to contribute.

As there were no further questions forthcoming from the floor, the Open Forum was closed at approximately 7.40pm.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....