

MINUTES OF THE TROWELL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE PARISH HALL ON TUESDAY 23RD APRIL 2019 AT 7.30PM.

Present: Cllr. D. Pringle, Chairman.
Cllrs. G. Lockwood, Mrs. M. Birkitt, Mrs. L. Harley, G. Cotton, M. Westmoreland, Mrs. H. Cumberpatch, K. E. Rigby, Mrs. L. Ball (BBC)(part meeting), Mrs. J. Murden (BBC) and 3 parishioners.

Clerk: Mrs. A.K. Mitchell.

Cllr. Pringle opened the meeting & thanked everyone for attending.

Apologies had been received & were accepted from Cllr. Mrs. McGann. All in favour.

It was noted that Cllr. Mrs. Ball (BBC) would join the meeting later as she also had to attend the Awwsworth Parish Council APM on the same evening.

Copies of the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th April 2018, had been distributed prior to the start of the meeting, & were moved for acceptance by Cllr. Mrs. Harley, seconded by Cllr. Westmoreland. All in favour.

Cllr. Pringle then presented the following report.

As you will see we are in the middle of our refurbishment of the Parish Hall, meaning that the methods of escape in an emergency are slightly different to any that were available in previous years. There are 3 available this evening, one in the lounge and 1 in the kitchen - they are on your left as you look at me. The final one is the main entrance you used to enter the hall. The assembly point is by the main notice board in the car park. If we do have to evacuate the building please remain at the assembly point until everyone present has been located. There are no fire practices planned, so hopefully we will not have to evacuate the building. As a Council we are currently in a state of Purdah, which is the period between the announcement of an election and the actual date of the election. This means that we cannot make any statements about items that we are planning to carry out in the future. However, we are able to talk about items that are either currently in hand or have been applied for and passed before the notification of the election.

One such issue was a problem with the drainage system, which meant that the Gents toilet had to be modified. Following the receipt of quotes, it became

obvious that it would be cheaper to have all the facilities renovated at the same time and this work has now been completed.

The current refurbishment of the building commenced in January and is due to be completed week commencing the 14th of May. The Council commenced discussion of this project approximately 6 years ago. Many options were reviewed, ranging from demolishing and rebuilding, to adding a second story to the existing building, or as we have done, retaining the current building and modifying it to make it more accessible to potential hirers. You may have noticed the plans in the foyer this evening as you came in but I will give you a brief resume. The main hall will see little change apart from a freshen up and redecoration, which will happen on completion of the current work. The stage was rarely used formally, maybe 6 or even less times a year, meaning that a huge floor space stood idle for most of the year. So, it was decided to remove it and, as you will see behind me, there will be a new meeting room and a new store room in its place. The old store room will become a smaller meeting room. To my left the bar room was going to be turned into 2 more meeting rooms, but after a lot of thought it was decided it would become a single meeting room. Originally the 3 roller shutters were to be removed and the space replaced with solid walls. This again has been modified and each opening will have 2 large doors, meaning that it can be added to the main hall for larger bookings. Each of the new rooms can be accessed by the old fire exit into a corridor allowing them to be used without entering the main hall, giving us the ability to make much better use of the floor space in this village asset.

Outside of the building the playpark is about to have its own minor refurbishment. Thanks to a grant from Broxtowe Borough Council we are having an outdoor table tennis table, a petanque (Boules) pitch and a new treehouse/climbing frame installed. This work will commence in early June. We are also investing in a new gate for the play park, which will allow the park to be opened and closed remotely. This is because for the past 9 months we have had many issues with the security company we hire from Broxtowe Borough Council, which has resulted in our staff and Councillors having to secure the play park at weekends and during bank holidays. Installing the new gate system will allow us to manage our own security and not have the expense of hiring the services of a mediocre security company.

We do plan to resurface the car park this year. We have had 2 donations which have been very welcome and we await the results of bids to Nottingham County Council and Broxtowe Borough Council to complete the funding process.

This year as a Council we have worked hard on the residents' behalf to secure funding for our projects. WREN is an organisation that allocates money collected from landfill operations and our bid to them was successful. This was topped up

from money we had ring fenced for hall refurbishment. As I mentioned, the play equipment will be funded from a Broxtowe grant and the car park from another grant.

Each year as a Council we have to apply to Broxtowe Borough Council for our precept. The results of our application then appear on the notice all residents receive from Broxtowe about the annual Council Taxes. Over the past few years the supplementary amounts passed to us from Broxtowe have diminished, meaning that if funds are required for particular projects, this has to come from the precept. After a lot of deliberation, we had to raise the precept to allow for some maintenance to the roof of the Parish Hall. It wasn't an easy decision. As Councillors we are also residents of the village, so like every resident we also incur that added expense. A 16% rise in our precept seems a lot but in reality, it is 19 pence a day increase in our collected taxes.

As a Council we meet as a full Council on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, except for July and December. Each meeting commences at 19.15, and begins with a public forum, which is intended to let residents ask questions. Each meeting is also attended by Councillors from Broxtowe Borough Council and Nottingham County Council, giving an opportunity for attendees to ask questions about matters not just in the village but in the wider community. We would love to see and hear residents at the meetings.

The Full Council should be 11 members but as only 8 current Councillors applied to stand again, there will be no election process. This means that we have 3 vacancies so if anyone wishes to join us, you would be very welcome and it would give you the opportunity to assist in the decision-making process.

This concluded the Chairman's Report.

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

Members were asked if the spotlights in the main hall are to stay. It was noted that these will be removed as part of the forthcoming redecoration of the hall.

Members were asked about the cables hanging down the back wall. It was noted that these are to be removed during the remaining works.

Members were asked when the 2018/2019 annual accounts would be available. It was noted that they are due to be submitted to the external auditor by 30th June 2019.

Members were again asked about the damage to verges on Ilkeston Road by both trees & parked vehicles as nothing has been done. It was noted that the Parish Council keep reporting these issues to the NCC Members who represent Trowell. It was also noted that the Parish Council has also recently got the local MP involved in an issue that is affecting a local resident.

Members were advised that the trees are overhanging everybody's gardens & that the verges are full of self-setting saplings. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council will continue to raise the issue with the appropriate authorities.

A parishioner commented that this is not a new issue & this has been battled over year on year, with it being a headache for residents for the last 20 years & now residents are being told to deal with the matter themselves.

It was noted that when a Member of the Royal mail staff reported problems with trees on Church Close, they referred the matter to the Parish Council for attention only for the Parish Council to refer it back as BBC were the contractor responsible for maintain the trees in question.

It was noted that NCC are taking the same stance with tree issues throughout the County, even stating that they are happy for a householder to pay the Council to remove a tree if it is causing a problem. It always comes back to Council funding.

Cllr. Rigby advised that he had previously been successful in getting all the trees along Ilkeston Road crown lifted but that trees do not stop growing & so it needs doing again now. He did however; comment that trees should not interfere with telecom cables, adding that it might be the time to litigate against NCC.

The large Oak tree on Ilkeston Road is magnificent but it has become a problem as it has moved the adjacent drain to such a degree nothing now flows through it.

Members pointed out that they are grateful for the issue being brought to the Parish Council but added that it needs more people to complain as it adds strength to the Parish Council's case against NCC. More people contacting the Parish Council on this issue would be useful.

A parishioner commented that people get fed up of complaining.

The Chairman pointed out that if the Parish Council complain to NCC that counts as one complaint, it needs more residents to raise the issue directly too.

Cllr. Rigby added that there is a huge problem with trees across the area & the law is very weak in regards to trees with the exception of leylandii. People have no rights to light or a view, the strongest issue is when trees are causing structural damage.

Members suggested that the Parishioner concerned invite the residents affected along to a Parish Council Open Forum session. The parishioner concerned advised that it is difficult to get people out. Members invited the parishioner to try & co-ordinate something as if not enough people complain it makes it difficult to get things done.

The Chair advised of recent success in respect of road surfacing issues on Nottingham Road where the Parish Council had not given up & had eventually located the correct person at NCC to address the issue.

Members advised the parishioner that the Parish Council needs the residents to come to it, the Parish Council does not want to discriminate.

It was noted that the parking on the verges does not appear to be as prevalent as it used to be & it is some people's views that it is better/safer than vehicles being parked on the carriageway along that stretch of road.

At this point the Chairman presented two certificates, the first to Cllr. Lockwood, in recognition of his 20 years long service to the Parish Council & the second to Cllr. Rigby in appreciation of this work on behalf of Trowell as a Borough & County Council over many years. It was noted that Cllr. Rigby has decided to retire at the forthcoming elections.

The Chairman then concluded the meeting by encouraging more people to attend Parish Council meetings.

As there were no further questions forthcoming, Cllr. Pringle closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their time & attendance. Parishioners were then invited to partake of the light refreshments which were being served in the lounge.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.15pm.

Signed:..... (Chairman)

Date:.....