



Redbourne Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual parish meeting of Redbourne Parish Council held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 23 May 2023

Present: Chair Cllr L Wainwright, Cllr J Brown, Cllr T Eaden, Cllr P Hawley, Cllr G Hawley, Cllr P Hotham, Cllr P Stevenson
Parish Clerk – Jo Curtis

Apologies: Cllr M Belza

Public Participation

No members of the public attended.

AM23/24 –0501 Minutes of Previous meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday, 17 May 2022 were approved and signed.

AM23/24 –0502 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

AM23/24 –0503 Chairman's Report

Councillor Lynn Wainwright, Chairman of Redbourne Parish Council made a short presentation detailing the work of the Parish Council over the past year:

Following on from last year's report, I am very disappointed, but not entirely surprised that a number of issues still remain outstanding, the majority of these lie with NLC.

Redbourne Flood Alleviation Scheme – in November of this year it will be 4 years since the last flooding incident in the village. I had hoped to report that the Redbourne Flood Alleviation Scheme was now complete, but although much work has been undertaken at Emmerson House in Little Redbourne and the culvert underneath the main road, little progress has been made on the attenuation pond situated on the A15 – this part of the project is vitally important and until its completion, homes in Beck Lane are still very much at risk. The PC are advised that this requires the co-operation of the landowner, negotiations between the landowner and NLC have apparently taken place but the Parish Council are unaware of the outcome. I would question why work on the project seems to have come to a halt with no apparent progress since last year and with no consultation with either the Parish Council or residents.

Much concern has been expressed about the further industrialisation of the airfield not only from residents but also from walkers and others visiting the village. The approval by NLC for the storage of 60 prefabricated buildings has been blatantly abused by the landowners with in excess of 200 units stored on the airfield. NLC have issued Enforcement Notices stating that it appears that a breach of planning control has taken place within the last 10 Years – namely storage. The site lies within the open countryside where development is strictly controlled. RPC have strongly objected to all applications for open storage on the airfield, unfortunately our concerns and comments seem to have been disregarded by the planning authority the results of which are evident to see on the airfield; transportation of these abnormal loads through the village, footpaths and grass verges mounted and left in a poor and dangerous condition and the total disregard for planting with broken tree branches as these loads travel to and fro through our village. It is also concerning that a number of companies producing these modules have ceased production.

Signed _____ Position _____ Date _____

I reported last year that the original planning application for the AD on the airfield stated that significant landscaping would take place, following discussions Future Biogas acknowledged that further landscaping was required. Although this decision was welcome, the consequent planting does not reflect the 10-year lapse and subsequent growth, whips have been planted and frankly the screening from Redbourne is still inadequate with the loss of 10 yrs growth, it is very disappointing and does not reach the standard of other local Future Biogas sites. It is also disconcerting that NLC have not ensured that the conditions placed on the original planning application have not been adhered to.

A15 – we have raised concerns regarding the position of the old A15 which should have been designated as a PROW in 1996 – unfortunately this is not showing on the definitive map – requests to rectify this error have been passed to NLC who have a duty to keep said map under continuous review – according to the PC archives, it was important from the Parish Council's point of view at that time that this should be done properly so that in future years there be no misunderstanding of people's rights to be able to walk this public right of way. The present PC agrees with this statement and believe it is important to rectify and correct this anomaly for the future.

Church clock – we have obtained 3 quotes for the restoration of the church clock which unfortunately has ceased operation. Discussions have taken place with each of the clock restorers and we hope to make a decision shortly. The PC have applied to receive a grant from NLC's Community Fund, the costs for clock repair/restoration are considerable but we are hopeful that Redbourne will be successful in this application. I know residents are missing the clock and we hope to have it back in operation as soon as possible.

At Christmas a tree was installed in the Blacksmiths and we were able to offer once again the usual festive fare for the lights switch on, Father Christmas arrived courtesy of the Lions. The event was well attended with good feedback from residents.

In May the nation celebrated the coronation of a new king, an event to mark the occasion was organised by the PC together with several residents from the village. Refreshments, children's games, bunting, and tombola had all been planned, inclement weather meant that some of the games had to be postponed for another occasion. Nevertheless, residents expressed their enjoyment and thanks to the organisers and hoped that a further community gathering could perhaps be held later in the summer.

Gardening – a small group of stalwart volunteers work hard to keep our village beds, planters and boxes looking good and further volunteers would be very welcome – the village has again entered the CPRE competition for this year

Speed signs – 2 speed signs have been purchased and installed in the village by the PC, together with the Speedwatch initiative we believe this combination is helping to alleviate speeding traffic through our village – my thanks to volunteers and to those who installed the signs.

We welcome Jo our new clerk and 2 new Parish Councillors. There are numerous projects on the go and getting to grips with the challenges and learning the history of our village and all that entails is no mean feat – I know we wish them well.

Finally, I have been asked to mention the amount of work undertaken in the village on behalf of residents by Parish Councillors, whose role is purely voluntary and unpaid. Litter picking, street sign & bus shelter cleaning, gardening, event organizing, general village maintenance, and hours of research by those unseen – the list goes on, my thanks to you all.

AM23/24 –0504 Public Comment

No members of the public attended.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm

Signed _____ Position _____ Date _____