

YOXALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday, 1st September 2022 at 7.30pm
in the Parish Hall, King Street, Yoxall

Present: P Hughes, J Williams, D Muir, R Yapp, P Kitt, P Bailey, S Evans
and M Arch

Also Present: Two Members of the Public
R Young – Clerk to the Council

1) APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from R Keys, J Jessel and L Beech.

2) CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman, P Hughes, mentioned the following:

1. Thank you to all Parish Council members for their seamless hard work during recess.
2. The boundary review is due to take place and be established May 2023. Our Ward will be known as the Bagot's and Needwood Ward. This will cover eight parishes. It will be advantageous to form a dialogue with the leaders of the other parish councils within this new Ward.
3. Severn Trent abandoned sites at Sich Lane and Town Hill – work has been undertaken during July and August to make good these sites. However, there is great concern regarding security of both areas, particularly vulnerable to 'wild camping'.
4. Stolen gate at the entrance to the old A515 – this has been reported to SCC.
5. St. Peters car park – Councillor Jessel has spoken to Andy O'Brien of ESBC regarding transfer of ownership – this remains ongoing.
6. A request has been received from residents of Upper Hoar Cross Road for the installation of a bench, a planter on the island and a phone box repair. I have been in touch with

Richard Rayson and we will carry out a site meeting when he is available.

7. Incidents at Milne Holme Pingle including the burning of a wooden seat and damage to fencing – this has been reported. Also, later to this incident, wild camping has taken place. This was reported to Police and the individuals were moved on.
8. Dialogue with PC Tim Leathers – regarding reports of speeding North of the village entrance, Main Street and Woodhouses. Also, suspicious activity at Milne Holme Pingle. PC Leathers has assured us of an increased Police presence but requires greater information of times of the speeding. There is also a website available where reports can be directly given by the public.
9. Concern regarding the lifting of the left-hand turn ban for HS2 traffic which affects Kings Bromley and Woodend Lane.
10. Regarding unused burial ground – this is in great need of upkeep. Unfortunately, what could have been a simple issue for access via the adjacent field has been made difficult and expensive due to the owner insisting on legal advice.

3) DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- Declaration to be made when relevant item raised.

4) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH JULY 2022

It was proposed, seconded and agreed the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7th July 2022 be approved as a true and correct record, subject to the following amendment:

10 viii) to read – “Highways England keeping their promise to divert traffic away from the A515”.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7th July 2022, subject to the above amendment.

5) MATTERS ARISING

- ESBC Enforcement Officer specified a requirement to plant an alternative variety of tree to replace the Willow tree which had been removed. A Willow tree being more suited by the river.
- Replacement padlock needed for the gate at Goose Green.

6) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- No matters raised.

7) REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

a) Report of County Councillor

County Councillor J Jessel reported the following:-

Please accept my apologies as I am not able to attend this meeting.

The only update I have is with regards to the Alexander Drive junction. I have met with Richard Rayson who is arranging for analysis of the traffic data in this area, similar to that undertaken for the A515 a few years ago. Depending on the outcome of this survey, suitable options for any traffic calming will be documented. I have suggested to Richard that at that stage he and I attend a Yoxall Parish Council meeting to discuss, if this is agreeable to you and your Council.

b) Report of Borough Councillor

- No matters reported.

8) PLANNING

R Keys reported the following:-

Planning – July/August is a quiet period and the one notable application is P/2022/00911 – the re-application for the conversion of a barn to a dwelling on land off Morrey Lane, Yoxall.

ESBC raised various issues regarding design and the applicant has now provided a scheme which is based on the barn's exterior appearance.

Severn Trent – Work is now underway at Town Hill to commission the site, though a site visit at Sich Lane did not resolve any problems regarding its layout and boundary treatment. Severn Trent and Amey now both admit they cannot reinstate the hedge, despite issuing work schedules with this work included. Together with local residents, I explained that the current layby is a security risk, noting the problems already occurring at the Town Hill site and that they made clear undertakings to reinstate hedges and gates. We rejected their current ideas and asked for a new proposal more in line with securing the site and making it more presentable, i.e. screening. We await ST's response.

Alexandra Drive – Bovis have sent contractors to start clearing the footpaths and will return to complete the work as FP 23/28 is very overgrown. The trees planted on all three footpaths are now causing concern with many residents, though part of FP 27 is in the Conservation Area which would require a visit from the ESBC Conservation Officer. It is unlikely that the trees on the footpaths outside of the Conservation area would be pollarded by the Bovis contractor unless they presented a safety risk or obstructed the path. I suggest we wait until the present work is completed and ask the ESBC officer to visit the site. Meanwhile, Paul Rochfort from SCC Footpaths has agreed to visit the paths on 12th September.

9) **CLERK'S REPORT**

a) **Correspondence**

- Staffordshire Archives and Heritage Newsletter.
- SCC – Temporary Traffic Regulation – Newchurch Road (Brackenhurst Hill), Hoar Cross.
- National Highways A38 Package of Work.
- ESBC – Parish Council Forum – 14th September 2022.
- SPCA Bulletin.
- New Parishioner's enquiry regarding a Welcome Pack.
- Councillor Brendon McKeown (Stafford Borough Council) outing concerns regarding Public Bridleway 61. The Chairman, P Hughes, gave an update and details of his reply.
- Trent Valley Way Celebration Poster.
- Sports Club – Invitation to a Meeting on the 8th September 2022 regarding the proposed practice Netting – J Williams commented there is already existing Netting and any amendments will not cause any interference with footpaths.

10) **MATTERS IN PROGRESS OR REQUIRING FURTHER ACTION:
REPORT OF WORKING GROUPS**

i) **Conservation Group**

S Evans reported the following:-

Conservation Group

Disappointing turn out for June work day. Extensive advertising and contact of members planned for 18th September event (Goose Green pond cleaning with BCV team) and 9th October, Green Corridor Project.

Walking: due to hot weather, trialling of walks and further development of leaflet delayed in July and August.

Footpaths – again, due to excess weather in July and August, plans delayed.

It was proposed seconded and agreed to purchase four bags of daffodil bulbs at a cost of £15.00 per bag.

Resolved: Purchase four bags of daffodil bulbs.

ii) **Best Kept Village Competition**

S Evans reported the following:-

BKV

Nothing heard/received in way of feedback, results or presentation evening. I will leave this until beginning of next week and if still no news, will contact organisers.

I have prepared a list of ongoing jobs and tidying up that village requires. This will be released along with the judges' comments/feedback when received.

Repeater boards and promotional material taken down. Propose that next year's event has new promotional format in village.

October: propose that we hold an event over the weekend of Saturday, 8th and Sunday, 9th October. Saturday for BKV maintenance jobs in village. Sunday for the Conservation Group/Church Green Corridor Project.

List of volunteers maintained for thanks in due course.

iii) **Riverside Regeneration**

D Muir reported the following:-

I also do not have much to report this month. The summer has been quiet on Goose Green, although the wild flower area has now been cut back. The pond clearance will continue on Sunday, 18th September when Burton Conservation Volunteer group will be visiting and helping with maintenance. Fin Law helped to put supports in some of the fruit trees and also trimmed around some of the new saplings on the north boundary as part of his DoE community volunteer work.

The award to the winners of the BKV Best Front Garden challenge were made at the beginning of August. First prize went to David Coulson of 4 Reeve End, second prize to Chris Finnemore of 80 Hadley Street and two third prizes were awarded to David Pitts of 42 Main Street and Angela Carr of Rook Cottage, Victoria Street. Vouchers for Woodhouse Green Nurseries were given as prizes.

iv) **Open Spaces**

P Kitt reported the following:-

Milne Holme Pingle

Litter picked and inspected 28th August – all in order.

The Totem pole and Bench is currently being prepared ready for installation in the near future.

Council needs to decide whether to reinstate burnt and damaged fencing (direct access to river from Milne Holme now exists). It was proposed, seconded and agreed to replace the damaged fencing.

Resolved: To replace the damaged fencing at Milne Holme Pingle.

Ferrers Field

Litter picked and inspected 28th August.

The signpost appears to have been removed from the ground and is lying on the floor. The bottom shows evidence of rot. Might be worth considering better bolder, bigger signs, in a different position (far more prominent and in your face, as it were) at all the main path entrance points to the Field, including by the stile; in light of the above situation and the prevailing dog issues (which, far from going away, seem to be worsening with people you would not expect to be totally non-compliant). Either they are not aware that this is criminal behaviour, or they are going to let their dog off the lead irrespective of any signs or what anyone says. Council needs to decide what further action should be taken regarding dog owners and non-compliance. Councillors reviewed the Parish Council signage for recreational ideas.

The ROSPA report has been done. It was agreed to make good items/issues raised in the ROSPA report.

The new Picnic Bench has been installed.

The new timber Football Goalposts and Basket Ball and Netball hoops/nets have been installed.

Some of the trees at Ferrers could do with tidying at the bottom and Ivy removed where necessary. A general inspection of branches would be useful/necessary as it is over 12 months since this was last looked at. I have emailed and left a couple of

telephone messages, but still await a response from Simon Manning of Fairview Arborists.

v) Village Amenities

J Williams mentioned the following:-

- Hadley End Telephone Box – Replaced light bulb. Need to review repairs of Telephone Box.
- Traffic Speeds in the Village – Enquired as to what happened to Speedwatch and, if disbanded, where is the Speed Gun?

vi) Village Hall

J Williams reported the following:-

- J Jessel agreed to support funding for new electric boiler.
- National Forest Trek coming to Village and using the Hall from Noon until 5.00pm on Sunday, 11th September 2022.
- Gave a review of access doors and their locks plus keys available. Also outlined details of new lock installed.

vii) Burial Ground

J Williams commented access difficulties to adjacent burial ground land and legal checks requested by neighbouring land owner.

viii) Roads and Pavements

M Arch reported as follows:-

1. Successfully reported the pothole in Savey Lane, near to the Health Centre. Have now reported a further pothole towards the junction with the A515.
2. Responded to a questionnaire from HS2/Staffordshire County Council regarding the removal of the turning bans at Wood End Lane, the junction of the A513/5 in Kings Bromley and the junction of Town Hill and A515 in Yoxall. The questionnaire asked for concerns regarding a partial removal of the bans in respect of HS2 vehicles and farm vehicles.

Pointed out that there is an agreement with HS2 that none of their vehicles come through Yoxall due to the proximity of the

road with the local school. To date, have not seen any offenders.

3. Have continued to liaise with Staffordshire Highways regarding improvements to the bump island at the North of the village. Concerned that no assessment has been made to date and any resulting improvements now appear to be pushed back to the 22/23 budget (one year later than previously advised). Pointed out that our concerns relate to safety/speeding motorists/bikers and not as a reason to reduce the number of vehicles passing through the village. Have suggested that signs at the island should include a "Give Way" element but there has been no response. Have been promised that Julia Jessel (County Councillor) and Richard Rayson of Staffordshire Highways will attend a future Parish Council Meeting. Needs to happen sooner rather than later.

ix) Website

M Arch reported as follows:-

Have updated the website with a series of road closures in the area in recent weeks. Further updates will be done following tonight's meeting.

x) Health and Safety – Health Services

R Yapp commented as follows:-

- Patient Meeting next week.
- Alrewas have map with location of seven defibrillators.
- Training dates in October 2022 for Defibrillator Operation and CRR to be confirmed.

11) WISH LIST

P Bailey confirmed the following:-

- Circulated updated Wish List.
- Need clarification concerning the proposed practice area for Cricketers to whether to be included on Wish List.

12) FINANCE

a) Cheque Payments

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to issue the following cheques:-

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS	£
01/09/2022	506551	HMRC (PAYE)	188.40
01/09/2022	506552	Parish Clerk	282.60
01/09/2022	506553	Gallagher – Insurance	3,728.20
01/09/2022	506554	Play Safety Limited	121.80
01/09/2022	506555	M & R Electrical	811.72
01/09/2022	506556	R J Francis	314.40
01/09/2022	506557	Betzy's	200.00
01/09/2022	506558	Parish Clerk – Mileage and Post	36.20
01/09/2022	506559	Upton Eng – Replacement Cheque	942.00
01/09/2022	506560	S Evans	155.00
		TOTAL:	£6,780.32

Resolved: To issue the above cheques.

b) Bank Balance

The Clerk confirmed the current bank balance.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

P Hughes
Chairman