

LITTLE EATON PARISH COUNCIL
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**Minutes of the Monthly Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 24th January 2024 at Little Eaton Village Hall.**

PRESENT: Parish Councillors D Howard (Chair), R Brown, A Campbell, C Holmes,
E Poyser-Darby & J Reid
IN ATTENDANCE: Parish Clerk, County Councillor C Hart

23/186 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Bush, Jennison-Boyle & Scott who were unable to attend due to work commitments and Councillor Rowlinson and District Councillor B Eddy who were unable to attend due to illness.

23/187 To Receive Declaration of Members Interests - none received.

23/188 Public Speaking – (15 Minutes)

There was 1 member of the public present at the meeting and a representative of the The Bates Trust.

County Councillor Hart informed members that Derbyshire County Council (DCC) are working extra hard to try and fix the unprecedented number of pot holes which have appeared following the recent storms.

There has been no progress on determining who owns Millenium Way, although Councillor Howard did inform members that he has found documentation from the early 2000s relating to a cultivation licence covering Millenium Way.

Councillor Hart also confirmed that Erewash Borough Council (EBC) are unwilling to take on the responsibility for maintenance of the closed churchyard at St Paul's Church.

New Street residents have expressed concern that visitors to the school are using New Street to access the school, especially at school drop off and pick up. As it is a private road, they are concerned that they are liable for any wear and tear on the road surface. DCC have stated that although they are unable adopt the road, they will inspect it and help with any minor maintenance.

The discriminatory way that the brown bin fee has been implemented is a concern to DCC and they have contacted EBC with their concern that people who cannot pay online are being charged a higher amount for the scheme.

The resident present also wanted to highlight the poor communication by EBC and the discriminatory way that the garden waste charge was being implemented. He stated that there are still many residents who do not have an internet access that are unaware of the change to the garden waste scheme coming into effect on 1st April 2024 and that unless paid before 1st April a higher rate will be applied. Many residents, in particular the elderly who do not have any way of paying the charge online will be penalised even if they pay in person.

Councillor Brown wondered whether EBC could reintroduce the scheme whereby the bin lids could be changed so that the brown bins not being used for garden waste going forward could be used for recycling instead. Currently residents are being asked to store their bins if case they wish to join the garden waste scheme at a future date.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Brown and **seconded** by Councillor Howard that the Parish Council should write to EBC expressing their dissatisfaction with the discriminatory way the scheme is being implemented. All **agreed**.

Lynne Siddons spoke on behalf of The Bates Trust and explained a little about how the Trust and that its main responsibility is the maintenance of the Almshouses in Little Eaton. However, when it is able to, it also supports other local causes and is able to award funds towards the preservation of the Churchyard. Trustees of The Bates Trust have therefore agreed to allocate funds of £1,000 towards the removal of the trees that fell during the recent storms.

The Chair and Councillors thanked The Bates Trust for their support of the maintenance of the Churchyard.

23/189 Variation of Order of Business - none required.

23/190 To consider a resolution to close the meeting for public participation under the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 – not required.

23/191 To confirm the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 22nd November 2023 and the extraordinary meeting held on 11th December 2023.

Councillor Reid **proposed** and Councillor Holmes **seconded** that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes as being a true and correct record. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed.

23/192 Chair's report

On behalf of the Book Exchange Committee, the Chair expressed thanks to the community for their continuing support of the Book Exchange.

It was also noted that a resident had reported to DCC that Bottle Brook was blocked by a large tree underneath the bridge on T'owd Lane bridleway (footpath number 30). This has now been cleared and the Parish Council thanks the resident and DCC for their prompt action.

The Chair also reported that the nettles in the car park have been cleared and that the leaves collected over the autumn have been left at the back of the car park to create a natural habitat to encourage biodiversity.

Actions from the Minutes

23/015 Clock renovations – no progress during the month.

23/048 Pest control in the car park – Councillor Reid reported that there was no evidence of rats around the village hall but that he would continue to monitor the area.

23/136 Parish Council Contracts Review – The Chair stated that the Park Bank and Village Centre maintenance contracts had been renegotiated for 2024/25 resulting in a cost saving.

It is intended that the park maintenance contract will be split into 2 separate contracts for 2024/25. One will be for the mowing of the park and this contract will require the contractor to have their own equipment. The second contract will be for a park keeper who will be responsible for the playground and the area around the memorial benches. The Park Group are in the process of obtaining quotes for these contracts.

Investigations into how the Parish Council became responsible for the cutting of the grass on Millenium way has found that part of the stretch cut by the Parish Council falls within Breadsall Parish Council's boundary. It appears that the Parish Council applied for a cultivation licence with DCC in the early 2000s due to the poor state of the verge at that time. This new understanding does not affect the Environmental Action Group's plans to create biodiversity in the area, although Breadsall Parish Council should also be informed of the parish Council's plans. Once the plans have been formalised the Parish Council can renegotiate the Millenium Way maintenance contract.

23/179 Flood Action Plan Policy – no update

23/182 Tree Survey – quotes for required works – this will be progressed during February.

23/193 Report of the Parish Clerk

The Clerk reported that the limit for S137 expenditure for 2024/25 will be £10.81 per resident for 2024/25.

23/194 Working Group Feedback:

- Recruitment Group
 - Induction Pack – this should be finalised before the next meeting.
- Village Hall
 - Draft Minutes from 15th November meeting – noted.
 - Keyholders audit – this is progressing.
 - It was noted that a new caretaker for the Village Hall has been appointed.
- Park Group
 - Criminal Damage at St Peter's Park – It was noted that the damage to the playing field at the park caused by the quad bikes has been reported to the police. Councillor Reid **proposed** to install a post at either end of the park entrance to narrow the entrance sufficiently to prevent a quad bike from getting onto the park whilst still allowing a wheelchair or double buggy through. Councillor Brown **seconded** the proposal and all **agreed** that Councillors Reid and Poyser-Darby should go ahead and install the posts as long the cost is no more than £250.
 - St Peter's Park wall repairs – Councillor Reid informed members that a quote of £450 has been received for the repairs to the boundary wall of the park. Councillor Reid proposed that as there was a health and safety issue with the wall it should be repaired as soon as possible and therefore the quote should be accepted. Councillor Brown **seconded** this proposal and all **agreed**.
 - Playground refurbishment – defer to February meeting.
 - Google Calendar of park use - defer to February meeting.
 - Car Park barrier not working – the Clerk stated that despite sending a chase email no response had been received by the barrier company as to whether the repairs quoted for in May 2022 had ever been carried out. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should telephone the company.
 - Village Hall car park lights – All the car park lights that were blown have been replaced with LED lamps so all the lights in the car park are now working. It was noted that quotes have been received for the supply and fitting of a car park light timer of £110 +VAT and to alter the playground lamp post

to suit LED lamps of £160 +VAT. Councillor Reid **proposed** and Councillor Howard **seconded** that these items of expenditure should be deferred until the 2024/25 financial year. All **agreed**.

- Finance Group
 - Budgets 2024/25 and precept demand – consideration was given to increasing the 2024/25 due to the extent of the storm damage and ongoing maintenance at the Churchyard. It was **agreed** that rather than increasing the precept further, the Parish Council will continue to be prudent with expenses and look for further savings elsewhere in the budget.
- Environmental Action Group
 - Draft Minutes from 13th November meeting – noted.
 - Councillor Holmes informed members that the EAG has received a grant of £268 from the Carnival Committee to go towards setting up the recycling hub.
 - Declaring a Climate Emergency – the EAG will look at incorporating this into the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Footpaths
 - It was noted that there are a few trees on Millenium Way that require clearing. Councillor Howard agreed to take a look.

23/195 Finance

- It was noted that income totalling £2,571.36 had been received during December and January.
- Payments for December and January totalling £6,992.72 were circulated to members for approval. Councillor Campbell **proposed** and Councillor Holmes **seconded** that the payments be approved and the accounts to which they relate paid. All **agreed**.

23/196 Planning Applications

Consultation Number: CD8/1123/37

Proposal: Development of part of the former Midland Railway Ripley Branch Line to construct a 3m wide, 5.6 kilometre long surfaced strategic greenway between Duffield Road, Little Eaton (south) and A609 Rawson Green (north). The route will form part of the Key Cycle Network.

Application received during the Christmas recess and it was agreed to support the application.

Application Number: ERE/1223/0012 – 8 Blue Mountains Riga Lane, Little Eaton

Proposed development: Two-storey side extension

Application received during the Christmas recess and agreed that the Parish Council has no objection subject to mitigating measures being incorporated to ensure there is no increase in surface water run-off following development.

Application Number: ERE/1223/0033 - Eaton House Duffield Road Little Eaton Derbyshire DE21 5EG – received during the Christmas recess and agreed no objection although concerns raised about the parking provision and cars parking on the road outside the site.

Proposed development: Change of use class from a part vacant industrial unit and part gym to a mixed use housing a shop, a café, and a gym, a dance studio and offices.

Application received during the Christmas recess and agreed that the Parish Council has no objection. Concerns were however raised about whether there was adequate parking provision for the potential increase in footfall.

Application Number: ERE/1223/0038 – 3 Highfield Road, Little Eaton

Proposed development: Extension to roof to create a first floor to the front elevation and second floor to rear including a projecting dormer to the side to form additional accommodation.

Following discussion, it was **resolved** that the Council has no objection to this planning application. It does however feel that consideration should be given to the appropriateness of the building materials to the streetscape.

Application Number: ERE/0124/0028 – 162 Alfreton Road, Little Eaton

Proposed development: Re-modelling of roof by raising ridge height, removal of chimneys and addition of flat roof dormer.

Following discussion, it was **resolved** that the Council has no objection to this planning application.

23/197 Newsletter advertising

The Chair proposed and Councillor Brown seconded that for 2024 the newsletter will have 4 advertising slots per edition, each costing £60. An option to purchase an advertising slot in all 4 editions will be offered to businesses, for an annual fee of £200.

23/198 Discontinuation by website supplier

The Clerk reported that following 2Commune's announcement that they will not be able to supply the Parish Council website after 31st March she had started looking at alternative providers.

23/199 St Paul's Churchyard – storm damage and maintenance

Councillor Reid informed members that 3 quotes had been received for the removal of the storm damaged trees in the Churchyard. Councillor Reid **proposed** and Councillor Howard **seconded** that the Parish Council accepts the quote from Greg Long totalling £1,500 +VAT as this represented the best value for money.

23/200 Churchyard Maintenance Policy

A draft Church Maintenance Policy was circulated to members, together with a response to the draft document from Church Representatives. Following discussion Councillor Reid **proposed** and Councillor Brown **seconded** that the Church Maintenance Policy be adopted.

23/201 Criminal Damage at St Peter's Park – see above.

23/202 Pavilion changing rooms – defer to February meeting as a Football Club representative was not present.

23/203 Oak tree overshadowing village hall – this tree was included in the tree survey and so will be addressed by the tree surgeons undertaking the work recommended in the survey and in line with the Parish Council's policy on tree maintenance.

23/204 Biodiversity Policy – defer to February.

23/205 Correspondence for Action

- Emails from residents registering concern about the remaining tall trees in the churchyard following 3 being blown down during storm Pia. – It was noted that the trees in the churchyard have historically not been included in the 4 yearly tree survey. It was therefore **agreed** that the Parish Council will arrange for one to be undertaken as soon as practical and will act on its recommendations, having regard for the fact that the churchyard is in a conservation area.

23/206 Correspondence for Information

- DALC December & January newsletters – noted.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm.