

## Meeting of Laneham Parish Council

Minutes of Laneham Parish Council held on the 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021 virtually via Zoom, as per the regulations enacted under the Coronavirus Act 2020, the meeting commenced at 7:00pm.

<b>Members Virtually Present</b>	Cllr Malcolm Spray	Chairman
<b>Via Remote Attendance</b>	Cllr Phil Beckett Cllr Corinna Reeves Cllr Rosemarie Connole Cllr Gareth Kirk (from item 04/21)	Vice-Chair

<b>Also, Virtually Present</b>	Ed Knox Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
<b>Via Remote Attendance</b>	0 Member of the Public County Cllr John Ogle

- 1/21 To Approve Apologies for Absence  
None.
- 2/21 To Record Declarations of Interest in any items to be discussed  
Cllr Beckett declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8/21.
- 3/21 To Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting  
After discussion, the council **resolved** to accept the minutes. The chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true and accurate record.
- 4/21 To Receive a written application for the office of Parish councillor and to potentially Co-opt a candidate to fill the existing vacancy  
After discussion, the chairman called for a vote, all in favour **resolved** to co-opt Gareth Kirk. Mr Kirk signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form and completed the 'registration of interests' form. **Action**, the Clerk to inform Bassetlaw District Council.
- 5/21 To Receive District & County Councillors Reports  
Dist Cllr Isard: No report received. The Council raised concern that there are several Bassetlaw related matters on the agenda which the Council could do with the assistance from the District Councillor on. After Discussion, the Council resolved that the Chairman and the Clerk contact Dist Cllr Isard to explain the assistance the Council requires in obtaining an agreement with Bassetlaw to allow parish council owned play equipment to be installed, maintained and insured by the Parish Council on Broadings Lane playing field. **Action**, Clerk and Chairman.  
County Cllr Ogle: No report received.
- Adjournment – 15 Minute Public Forum  
The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow members of the public to speak. There were no members of the public present, therefore, the Chairman reconvened the meeting.
- 6/21 Finance:  
Monthly Income & Expenditure  
After discussion of the Financial Information, circulated by email before the meeting, the council unanimously **resolved** to accept them as a true and accurate record.

1. To Approve Payments:

The Council **approved** the following: -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
None		£0.00
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>£0.00</b>

2. Receipts:

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Canal & River Trust	Final Rental Payment for Over Trent Piece	£69.77

<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>£69.77</u></b>
<b>Bank Balances</b>	
The Current Account Balance	<b><u>£14,496.14</u></b>
The Deposit Account Balance	<b><u>£5,861.40</u></b>
Direct Debits and Standing Orders for staff and agency worker salaries including PAYE and Pension, all <b>approved</b> unanimously.	
After discussion, Cllr Spray <b>proposed</b> and the Council unanimously <b>resolved</b> that training for Cllrs be funded by the Administration budget of the Parish Council and all members to undertake the new Planning on-line training provided by NALC. Action, Clerk to contact NALC.	

7/21 To Progress the Parish Survey  
 Cllr Kirk agreed to provide a photo and a brief bio for the survey. Cllr Beckett agreed to provide a photo for the survey. After discussion, Council **resolved** for the final draft to be distributed to each property by post due to Covid-19. The survey draft will be finalised by all Cllrs and the Clerk by 31<sup>st</sup> January, the Survey will be printed and posted to each property by 15<sup>th</sup> Feb with a deadline to respond by 1<sup>st</sup> March. The results to either be hand delivered to the Village Hall post box or emailed to the Clerk. The consultation feedback will be analysed and debated in the March meeting. The role of Lengthsman has been funded by the Council to recruit an employee, based on 6hrs a week, the Precept has already been adjusted to factor in this cost and it is hoped that the survey will attract some positive comments about this role. The Lengthsman is someone employed to undertake various tasks from salt spreading to litter picking, to minor cleaning and maintenance work such as road/street signs, the parish council bus stop, war memorial, noticeboard by the Trent etc. **Action**, Cllrs & Clerk.

8/21 To Discuss Laneham Village Hall  
 Cllr Spray advised the background history of the Village Hall Extension project for the benefit of Cllr Kirk, and the total cost which could be as high as £267,000. Cllr Kirk expressed concern that the extension was not viable for such a small population as Laneham Parish. Cllr Spray added that the village hall has hardly any parking space at present and there is no potential to increase parking, the extension project would remove what little parking there is. Cllr Connole advised that there are larger halls with more parking all within a small traveling distance, Dunham and Rampton being the closest. Halls in the local area provided a wide variety of activities and groups. Cllr Connole added that due to Covid-19 people have become used to meeting virtually and it is not known, when life returns to normal, if attendance at halls and community centres will return to their pre-Covid levels. Cllr Spray advised the £30,000 Notts County Council Local Improvement Grant had been declined for the project. Cllr Spray discussed grant processes and the Public Loan Works Board (PWL) the hall has to have a solid business plan that is evidence backed to show that it would run either covering all its routine overheads or run at a profit, Cllr Spray confirmed that the Council had not seen any business plan. Cllr Beckett added that in Pre-Covid times, the hall was enjoyed by those who attend Bookies & Cookies and the Flicks in the Sticks mobile cinema; however, the cinema has always run at a loss. The current usage levels of the hall, before Covid hit, meant the hall doesn't run at a profit.  
 Cllr Spray added that If the project was ever to continue, the full procurement processes would have to start again from scratch. Cllr Spray reiterated that the management committee of the hall do a great job for the local community and the parish council is grateful to have these valuable volunteers who work tirelessly to keep the hall operating. After further discussion, Cllr Spray **Proposed**, Cllr Beckett **Seconded** and the Council Resolved that the matter of the village hall extension will be added to the January 2022 agenda as a 5-minute maximum discussion to see if anything has changed that would warrant the continuation of the project.

9/21 To Discuss Bassetlaw District Council's Public Toilets at Church Laneham  
 The Clerk has chased the BDC Principal Environmental Service Manager (PESM) regards the draft agreement document outlining what the District Council and what the Parish Council shall be responsible for. The PESM advised that BDC are still working on the draft and couldn't give any specific timescales for the agreement. The Council discussed the Toilets in summary:

- No agreement document exists between Bassetlaw Council (BDC) and Laneham Parish Council
- The Toilet building and land belongs to BDC
- The external grounds maintenance is undertaken by BDC
- Repairs are undertaken by BDC
- Utility bills are paid by BDC
- The opening and closing times are dictated by BDC
- The majority of users are visitors to the parish, with the busiest period in the summer months
- Since 1999 BDC has paid the money for the current Toilet Cleaner Person (TCP) to Laneham Parish Council each year to then pass straight onto TCP
- The Parish Council has no agreement with the TCP and the TCP is not an employee of the Parish Council

- All janitorial/cleaning materials and loo rolls are provided by BDC
- The £4,700 payment from BDC has been frozen again by BDC for the 3<sup>rd</sup> financial year running.

After further discussion, the Parish Council could not see the logic in involving the Parish Council as a 'go-between' to receive money from BDC and pay it out again to the TCP, it would be more efficient and make more sense for BDC to simply pay the TCP direct as there's no other need for the Parish Council to be involved with this matter. Cllr Spray **Proposed** and called for a vote, all **in favour** that Parish Council **1)** declines the public toilet £4,700 grant and informs BDC that they need to move that money to the budget holder at BDC responsible for their public toilets. **2)** that BDC needs to pay their TCP direct from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. **3)** the Clerk writes to BDC and the TCP to inform them of this and to give each other their contact details so they can make arrangements to pay TCP direct from BDC. **Action**, Clerk

#### 10/21 To Discuss Broadings Lane Playing Field

The Clerk chased BDC Council's Strategic Leisure and Health Communities Manager, Leisure and Cultural Services (SLHCM), who has advised they are still looking into the possibility of an agreement allowing the Parish Council to arrange to supply, install, own, insure and maintain potential play equipment on the playing field, whilst BDC would potentially then continue to own the land, cut the grass, maintain the hedges, trees and empty the rubbish bin. The SLHCM still currently looking into this and at present has no timescales he can give.

Cllr Spray advised that the Village Hall Committee members who have fund raises approximately £3,000 towards the equipment wanted the Playing Field to be donated to the people of the parish and ran as a charitable trust, however with knowledge from other local parishes who run playgrounds, it is known that grounds maintenance for a local group/charity/council to undertake on their own is very costly, an unnecessary step as Bassetlaw currently maintain the Grounds.

The Clerk explained that at Norton & Cuckney Parish Council, the playground land is leased on a peppercorn rent from the Welbeck Estate, the Parish Council there maintain the equipment, and at Dunham Parish Council, the Darlton Playpark land is owned by Strawsons Ltd and is on a long-term peppercorn lease, and all the play equipment is owned, maintained and insured by Dunham Parish Council. The Clerk added that it is common place for the role of the Village Lengthsman to incorporate the fortnightly safety checks and recording of the inspections of the play equipment, something that if Laneham appoints a Lengthsman can be factored into their role.

After further discussion Cllr Spray **Proposed**, Cllr Connole **Seconded** and the Council **resolved** that 1) the land should remain in the ownership of Bassetlaw Council to maintain, **2)** A management agreement is sought from Bassetlaw Council, with the assistance from District Cllr Isard, **3)** Once an agreement is in place and feedback received from the parish survey, that the Council will approach the V Hall committee for the £3,000 towards the equipment, add £5,000 of parish council funds too this, apply to the Lottery Awards for All for a £10,000 grant, approach Dist Cllr Isard and County Cllr Ogle for a small grant each in 2021-22, the combined funds would then be used to provide the play equipment and seating at the playground. **Action**, Clerk.

#### 11/21 To Note the Openreach Community Broadband Partnership Scheme

Bassetlaw Nottinghamshire County Council have invested £750,000 in order to help deliver high-speed broadband to the most rural parts of the county. The £750,000 investment is to support the government's 'Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme' which delivers subsidy to rural homes and businesses without access to high-speed broadband to help deploy a full-fibre network. Under the scheme residential premises are eligible for up to £1,500 and small and medium sized businesses are eligible for up to £3,500 through a registered supplier when part of a group scheme. The Notts top-up doubles the value of the voucher, meaning rural residential premises are eligible for up to £3,000, and small and medium sized rural business are eligible for up to £7,000, to help deliver digital connectivity to the hardest-to-reach areas of the county.

Rural premises with broadband speeds of less than 100Mbps can apply for vouchers worth up to £3,500 for each small and medium size business (SMEs), and up to £1,500 per residential premises to support the costs of a new gigabit-capable broadband connection when they apply as part of a group project (defined as two or more properties). In Nottinghamshire, the maximum voucher values available are doubled as a result of the additional funding being provided by Nottinghamshire County Council.

To be eligible, the home or business benefiting from the voucher must:

- be located in an area defined as rural by Defra.
- apply as part of a group scheme. (Group projects are where two or more residents and/or SMEs get together to combine their vouchers towards the shared costs of installation). Single connections are not eligible for this scheme.
- not be able to get a broadband download speed of 100 mbps or more from any provider and be outside the scope of any publicly funded upgrade plans. For example, the Nottinghamshire BDUK Broadband Project. To be eligible for the additional Nottinghamshire top-up voucher funding, the following additional criteria applies:
- the property must reside in the Notts County Council area

- the property must be a permanent residential dwelling, which is eligible to pay council tax.

The clerk has spoken with Notts County Council Broadband Engagement Officer (NCCBEO) who explained that across Laneham Parish, there are 107 premises without access to at least 100Mbps broadband and the fact that only one full-fibre structure exists in Church Laneham, the vast majority of premises across the parish are eligible – criteria for eligibility is rural location according to DEFRA, part of a group scheme, and cannot access a broadband service of 100Mbps or below (Openreach FTTP and Virgin Media etc).

Up to 106 properties on the Dunham On Trent telephone Exchange which would benefit from a full-fibre network in Laneham Parish, due to connection issues on the line, a poor section of copper line causing reliability issues. Openreach can provide this upgrade for an Initial Estimate of £100,806 Cost Per Premise – £951 which is within the funded voucher scheme limit.

General FAQs from the NCCBEO:

- Properties will only qualify if they agree to be on broadband package, or already have broadband
- The Parish Council can submit all properties in the parish to see what is possible
- Most fibre supplies under the scheme are overhead rather than underground
- The NCCBEO is encouraging and working with as many parishes in the County to see if they have enough properties eligible for the scheme

Stage Two is to then approach everyone who can benefit, with the NCCBEO's help to encourage participation. Openreach will set up a community portal page, and the NCCBEO will provide leaflet templates and advert templates to go on Facebook, Websites and Noticeboards, if the Parish Council promotes awareness of the scheme, all the public have to do is visit the Portal Webpage, select their property and give consent to sign up at no cost, then Openreach will supply the broadband upgrade within approximately 1 year.

The Parish Council is waiting to hear back from Openreach regards the final confirmed quote and when the community engagement portal can go live.

The NCCBEO advised that If any residents have further questions, they can also contact the Notts County Council Broadband Engagement Officer and his Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire team using [enquiries.broadband@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries.broadband@nottscc.gov.uk) or by phoning 0115 977 2532.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 9:03pm. The next meeting is in March.