

# PAPPLEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held at the Papplewick and Linby Village Hall On 13th March 2024 at 7:15pm

### Present

Cllrs: S Roberts (Chair), S Walker (Vice-Chair), R Smart, A Bly, S Bennett and L Gretton (Clerk)

Parishioners & Visitors: 10, Cllr C Barnfather (NCC), Cllr S Bestwick (GBC), PC Steven Dennis

| Minute No. |  |
|------------|--|
| 24/24      | <p><b><u>Apologies</u></b><br/>Cllrs M Smith, S Pickering<br/>C Hesketh,</p>   |
| 25/24      | <p><b><u>Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly</u></b><br/>The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were accepted as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair, S Roberts.</p>  |
| 26/24      | <p><b><u>Chairman's Report</u></b><br/>Cllr Roberts presented the following report:</p> <p>Firstly, a thank you to all the Councillors and the Clerk for their continued work for the Parish and to our regular meeting attending parishioners who contribute to the Open Forum. Also a thank you to our local Gedling and Notts Councillors for their continued support of the Parish. I would also like to welcome Cllrs Andy Bly and Sylvie Bennet to their first (and I hope not last) Annual Parish Assembly. As always a busy year for the Parish Council. In no particular order ...</p> <p>The HR Committee has met to confirm the Clerk's current pay and employment requirements. The Finance Committee met in October to review the Council's finances and to suggest the Precept for 2024/2025. The Precept for 2023/2024 had been increased by 2.28% and a greater increase was needed for 2024/2025 of 9.47% not just to cover the general increases in costs due to the increased rate of inflation nationally (just over 6% on the day of the Finance Committee Meeting) but also to take into account the very necessary cost to the Council making appropriate provision for the Clerk. The Council consider this increase to be necessary and unavoidable. We continue to hold ear-marked reserves for a number of aspects of Council work such as the Playing Field and equipment replacement.</p> <p>Planning – a number of planning applications and appeals for us to consider and comment on. We have received information on planning from both Gedling and Ashfield Councils. There are particular concerns amongst the Councillors about proposals for larger developments near the boundary between the two authorities; some of the proposed work falling under Gedling and some under Ashfield. We continue to object to proposals which will add further traffic to the crossroads and also to what we consider to be inappropriate development within the Green Belt. I'm not always sure that the views of the Parish Council are taken into account but we can only try. A working party to start the 'half-term' review of the Neighbourhood Plan has met and sub-groups established to look at the different aspects of the Parish as it relates to the Plan.</p> <p>Highways – we continue to have regular contact with Notts CC and VIA on a number of matters. One matter of continuing concern is the Hall Lane/Blidworth Waye drainage or rather lack of drainage which creates a very dangerous situation whenever there is more than just a shower of rain. A recent week-long closure of Forest Lane to improve drainage in the area and also to resurface a badly potholed section of road caused serious traffic problems for many people and only goes to show exactly how much traffic really does use the B6011 Forest Lane/Linby Lane route.</p> <p>We report any fly-tipping seen in the Parish either as individuals or through the Clerk</p> <p>The Council continues to receive complaints about parking on the footpath on Main Street making using the footpath almost impossible for those with pushchairs, mobility scooters etc. This is a very big priority for the Council and advice is regularly sought from the Police but it would appear unless a report is made at the time of an obstruction there is little that can be done about this. We appreciate the road is not very wide and so ask people to park considerately whenever possible.</p> |

The decorative road sign from Forest Lane which had been damaged is now with the Parish Council and a new site has been agreed further along Forest Lane towards the A60. This site will put the sign further back towards the fence and hedgerow away from the road. Thank you to the Marshall family for agreeing this new location.

Following the possible loss of the 141 bus service, we were pleased to hear this would still operate with the support of the County Council until the next elections in Spring 2025.

Playing field – the playing field has been kept in good condition by WeedFree of Mansfield on grass cutting, following the demise of Malfords, and volunteers and the lengthsman. Work has also been done round the parish by the lengthsman and we are always on the lookout for suitable work. The Council will continue to keep this very special part of the parish in good order and have many ideas to develop woodland play. The playing field is included as an important part of the Neighbourhood Plan Review and a complete revamp of the equipment (grant funding being available) will be up for consideration in the not too distant future. The container now in place on the playing field provides excellent storage and also as a base for volunteers when working on the playing field.

Best Kept Village Competition once again did not take place. We continue to ensure the village looks good and we try and stay on top of litter.

The Environment and Community Fund which is supported by the payments for the turbine at Barracks Farm have once again been used to restock planters in the village and also to provide our own Christmas tree and other festive decorations. A thank you to the Marshall family for allowing the tree to be placed on their land. The tree once again looked lovely.

Replacement barrels are being put in place round the village and we would like to thank our local Borough and Council Councillors for their sponsorship of these.

A tree is to be planted on Church Lane to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III. Thank you to Cllr Chris Barnfather for his support.

We will be taking part once again in the Great British Spring Clean on a date yet to be confirmed – all volunteers are welcome. Details of this will be available once decided.

The bonfire event had to be cancelled at almost the very last minute following very heavy rain and storms, the field being far too wet to allow the building of a bonfire and safe access to the site for 'workers' and spectators. Plans are soon to be made for the 2024 event which we hope will be as successful as others have in the past.

Anti-Social Behaviour – There has been very little of this recently – the skate-park no longer being as attractive without the ramps. Concern was expressed about Scramble Bikes using the Moors footpath and the police operation notices have been placed at each end of this for a number of months. It is hope this had reduced the problems. The Council will continue to look at this problem and re-site the notices as and when considered appropriate.

Poppies and Remembrance – the Parish was decorated with poppies and Silent Soldiers in November and a short service of Remembrance attended by the Royal British Legion and Rev Trevor Raaff was held on 10<sup>th</sup> November. The Parish Council was also represented at the Remembrance Service on the Green in Linby.

Finally: last May saw local elections for both Parish and Borough Councillors. There was no need for an election in Papplewick as only 5 people including 2 newly interested people had put in nomination papers. Papplewick Parish Council should have 7 Councillors and for a couple of years has had 6 or even only 5. This makes the voluntary role much more difficult. Later this evening in the Council Meeting we will co-opt a former /returning Councillor which will put our numbers up to 6. We do have another person who has expressed an interest in joining the Council so we will then be back to 7 as we should be. It is always good to have people interested in the role of a Parish Councillor. The next Parish Council Meeting which will also be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

27/24

**Financial Controller's Report****Budget / Precept**

The budget was reviewed at the Finance Committee Meeting in October and ratified at the November meeting.

The precept for 2024/2025 has been agreed at £22,287, a 9.47% increase on last year's precept.

**Donations/Receipts**

The Parish Council has received the following receipts for 2023/2024:

|                         |   |                  |
|-------------------------|---|------------------|
| Gedling Borough Council | Donation towards a barrel from Cllr's         | £300.00          |
| Notts County Council    | Donation toward a barrel from Cllr Barnfather | £300.00          |
| Barracks Farm Limited   | Wind Turbine Annual Payment                   | £2,377.37        |
|                         | <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>£2,977.37</b> |

**Other Income**

|                 |                                   |                  |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| HMRC            | Vat Reclaim                       | £1,411.59        |
| Aviva Insurance | Claim for damaged sign            | £1,583.00        |
| Aviva Insurance | Additional claim for damaged sign | £215.00          |
|                 | <b>Total</b>                      | <b>£3,209.59</b> |

**Banking**

The Parish Council continue to bank with Virgin Money. Payments continue to be made by bank transfer. Last year Carolyn Hesketh was removed from online banking after leaving the PC. Cllr Stephen Walker has been added as an authoriser.

**Audit**

The Accounts for 2023/2024 will be prepared after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. An interim audit has been carried out by Sue Stack with no accounting issues to report.

All accounts notices, minutes and polices are available to view on the website.

28/24

**Representatives Reports****a) Moor Pond Wood**

Cllr Walker reported it has been a successful year. The number of volunteers have increased and they meet regularly. They've received considerable contributions in grants from Miner2Major incl. £2,500 toward a grassland project, £5,000 to complete the archeology near Papplewick Lane and a contribution to reinstate the ground after the archeology as the footpath was in a poor state. In 2022 they received a community grant from the Co-op which has been spent on habitat improvements. Volunteers have laid most of the hedgerow on the western bank. NCC supported with the local community grant towards providing additional interpretation. There is an event on 11<sup>th</sup> May at the Village Hall to sign off the Miner2Major and NCC work with the tasks completed. A very successful and busy year for the Moor Pond Wood project.

**b) Papplewick & Linby Village Hall**

As we are all aware the annual fireworks event had to be cancelled due to the heavy rain. Unfortunately, 2024 got off to a cold start with the boiler breaking down several times. It has now been decided to replace the boiler. Quotes have been obtained but as yet I haven't heard if it has been fitted. A new fridge/freezer has now been bought and repairs made to the kitchen. All completed and invoices paid.

No action has been taken on buying new benches but plans are in hand for a shed, possibly metal (less fire risk) to be erected at the back. The area would be flattened for the base.

Regarding the side fence, contact has been made with the supplier but waiting to hear back.

The fire brigade's fire assessment report raised a few problems, namely the way in which the main entrance doors were being locked during pre-school sessions. The fire brigade are unable to comment/give suggestions to solve the problem. After discussion it was decided to get a professional fire assessment made. The assessment was made today (March 13) and a suitable possible solution put forward.

The new website has been started in draft form. As well as pix of events it was felt that it should focus on regular hirers and contact details.

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|       | <p>Recently there was a problem in the car park when one lady was about to lock the gate. Three cars were still in the car park and as she approached to speak to the owners she was verbally abused. For safety reasons it was felt that anyone on their own should not approach parked cars but just leave the gate unlocked.</p>   |
| 29/24 | <p><b><u>Papplewick Environment &amp; Community Fund</u></b><br/> As reported in the Chairman's Report, the Fund has contributed towards various projects over the past year.</p>   |
| 30/24 | <p><b><u>Parish Action Plan – Update on Projects and Objectives</u></b><br/> Cllr Walker reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Priorities for the year included information gathering regarding the playground equipment. The PC created a questionnaire as part of the Neighbourhood Plan review which was distributed to the whole parish, to ask the views of residents.</li> <li>- Refurbishment and replanting of flower beds, lamp post baskets and barrels including replacing barrels.</li> <li>- Continued improvements to the new website and taking advice on how it can be streamlined. It now appears near the top on a search engine.</li> <li>- The PC have been monitoring the fencing and hedging around the playing field and applied for a grant from Greenwood Community Forest to put a hedge the length of the farmers field on the eastern side. This was planted last April. The fencing has been improved and a lot of the tasks on the playing field have been carried out by the Lengthsman.</li> <li>- The Welcome sign on Forest Lane was damaged and has been taken away for repair and will be reinstated. The sign on the A60 was removed during roadworks and we were told by Gedling Borough Council that the sign wouldn't be replaced. The PC want to unify the parish and the houses on Mansfield Road are very much part of the village and so replacing the sign will be discussed further at the following meeting.</li> </ul> |
| 31/24 | <p><b><u>Parish business – members of the public are invited to address the Council on any matters within its jurisdiction</u></b><br/> Mrs Kerr thanked the PC for all their hard work.</p>  |
| 32/24 | <p><b><u>Date of next meeting</u></b><br/> The next Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025.</p>  |

**The meeting ended at 19:37**

**Signed Chairman:**

**Date:**