

***SEIGHFORD PARISH COUNCIL***

**MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT GREAT BRIDGEFORD VILLAGE HALL**

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| Present: | Cllr John Busby (Chair) | Cllr Carole Allen |
|  | Cllr Neil Brown | Cllr Mark Turnbull |
|  | Cllr Mark Hodgkins | Cllr Charlotte Darvill |
| In attendance: | Lisa Horritt | Locum Clerk |
|  | + 10 members of the public |  |

# 19/9/01: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES, RECORD ABSENCES

Apologies were received from Councillor Price

# 19/9/02: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

No written requests for dispensations had been received

# 19/9/03: PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Planning Application 19/31030 64,000 Bird Free Range egg production unit.  
A presentation was given by Chris from Wot a Hen who will be operating the site. He outlined the companies background which is in farming and is part of the Warrendale Farms group. The group have a number of businesses with their core part being ducks.  
They raise their own birds – approximately 4 million per year which started after issues with quality of birds supplied from elsewhere. The company have a compassion in farming good farm award.

The unit proposed is a high welfare unit, it will have the best equipment and will be a 20 year investment for the company. Measures to ensure welfare include: data collection, biosecurity, enrichment and economies of scale.  
The muck produced will be removed 3 times a week and therefore produces very limited smell.  
20 acres of trees will be planted around the perimeter of the site reducing the impact to the area.  
Questions asked by the public:  
What is the traffic impact? A: 2 staff on site, egg collections twice a week (1 lorry), feed collections twice a week (1 lorry).  
Will you use renewable energy? A: The site does not use much energy but the sheds are designed that solar panela can be added if required.  
What fencing will be used? A: There will be a perimeter fence approximately 6 ft high.

Dog Mess  
A member of the public attended to raise issues in Great Bridgeford. Some homes along the main road have been having dog mess put into their bins when left out on bin day. They are unhappy about this. There are also issues on the playing field where owners have not cleaned up after their dogs. It was noted that offenders can be reported to Stafford Borough Council and prosecution will result in their name being publicised and a £75 fine.

Planning applications 19/31074/FUL and 19/31075/LBC – Seighford Hall.

A member of the public attended to make their representations about the application and the demolition of significant parts of the building. He asked the Parish Council to object to the application.

# 19/9/04: UPDATE FROM BOROUGH / COUNTY COUNCILLORS

None available.

# 19/9/05: ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL 15th JULY 2019

1. Minutes

It was unanimously **resolved**: the minutes of the Council Meeting on 15th July 2019 be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1. Actions since the last meeting

Great Bridgeford Pavements

These are now in progress with Eccleshall Road nearing completion.

Derrington Bus Shelter Repair – this has been completed.

**19/9/06: PLANNING MATTERS**

19/31030 – 64,000 Free Range Bird egg production unit.  
Following the presentation by Wot a Farm and the clarification ref traffic, smell and welfare. The Council did not have any objections to make to the application.

19/31074/FUL and 19/31075/LBC – Seighford Hall  
It was agreed to object to the application on the following basis:

1. The application clearly changes the setting of the listed building and the demolition of such a large portion of the Hall itself with 17 new homes is damaging to the character of the setting.
2. As part of the enabling development the applicant should provide financial information to justify the use of “enabling development” and this is not shown as part of the application. It should be clear that such extensive works should not be done for significant profit.
3. The site design is not in keeping with the local area or the historic fabric of the building.
4. Traffic – this development will increase the traffic significantly – for 18 homes potentially a minimum of 2 cars (36) or even 4 (72) and the development is located on a country road with bends to either side. The applicant has not provided any data to show the traffic flow will be acceptable.
5. Foul drainage – there is no access to mains sewerage on the site which indicates a treatment plant will be required. The Council is concerned that a development of this size will exceed permitted levels of discharge into the watercourse.
6. Funding for schools – the Council is concerned that the development does not make adequate provision for potential school children. Both Cooper Perry and Sir Graham Balfour are, we understand, oversubscribed and the estimate of 4 primary school children and 3 secondary school children is very low.

**19/9/07: WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY REGULATIONS**

The Clerk updated the meeting about new legislation covering Parish Council websites in relation to accessibility for all users including those with screen readers, using keyboards without a mouse etc. A Parish website may be required to comply and the clerk will advise further at the next meeting.

# 19/9/08: PARISH FINANCES

* 1. **Update on expenditure against budget for 2019/20**

It was **resolved** to accept the report which had been circulated.

* 1. **Accounts for Payment**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **To be paid** |  |  |  |  |
| **Paid To** | **Details** | **Amt** | **VAT** | **Total to pay** |
| L Horritt | Payroll - Aug 19 | 291.03 |  | 291.03 |
| L Horritt | Payroll - Sept 19 | 291.03 |  | 291.03 |
| HMRC | PAYE Q2 | 184.80 |  | 184.80 |
| Autela | Payroll Costs Q2 | 47.08 |  | 47.08 |
| L Horritt | Office Costs 29th July to 16th Sept | 23.03 |  | 23.03 |
| J Charleton | Reissue chq 1417 lost in post | 204.65 |  | 204.65 |
| S Worden | Locum costs Jul 19 | 116.42 |  | 116.42 |
| Great Bridgeford Village Hall | Hire 16/9/19 | 19.50 |  | 19.50 |
| Alan Dymond | Inspection July | 119.97 | 23.99 | 143.96 |
| Seighford Village Hall | Hire Jan, May, July | 45.00 |  | 45.00 |
| SPCA | Councillor Course costs - CD | 20.00 |  | 20.00 |
| Derrington Village Hall | Hire | 20.00 |  | 20.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 1,406.50 |

**It was resolved to approve the accounts for payment**

* 1. **To approve the Bank Reconciliation**It was **resolved** to approve the bank reconciliation.
  2. **To approve Churchyard Grants for 2019/20 – Seighford and Derrington**Requests had been received from Seighford and Derrington PCC’s for grant funds to pay towards churchyard maintenance. Councillors queried the use of these funds as they were aware of a large volume of volunteer work carrying out these tasks. It was agreed to fund a grant of £400 to each PCC for 2019/20 but write to them and ask for supporting documents and receipts relating to the spend. Members also requested if the Clerk could find out how many years these grants had been paid.

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# 19/9/09: CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

1. **Retirement of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Great Bridgeford**

The Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator at Great Bridgeford is retiring after many years. It was agreed to write a letter of thanks. Cllr Turnbull will make enquiries about the nature of role.

# Use of residents’ wheelie bins for dog mess

It was noted that this had been raised during public open forum. The Councillors appreciated that this was distressing for the residents involved. Ex Councillor Brown had put new dog mess stickers up around the village earlier in the year. It was noted that the bin in Eccleshall Road which the resident reported as missing had been moved a few hundred yards as it had been incorrectly moved onto the speed sign pole. It was agreed to request further signage from Stafford Borough Council but as it was a small number of individuals who are causing the issue then residents may wish to consider reporting them to Stafford Borough Council for a fine to be issued.

# Vehicle Activated Signs - update

The sign located on the Newport Road has been moved to the Eccleshall Road. Unfortunately, this has coincided with roadworks on Eccleshall Road and once these have finished then the batteries will be replaced for the sign to show speed again.

# 19/9/10: PARISH COUNCILLORS REPORT

* Cllr Hodgkins updated the meeting about an issue found during hedge cutting in Eccleshall Road in Great Bridgeford. The paths have not been cleared and this resulted in several dogs having thorns in their paws. Clerk to write to hedge owner.
* Cllr Busby updated the meeting about works in Derrington Play area. Rails have been replaced. He also queried about the significant cost of the dog bag refills in Derrington and asked whether an alternative solution could be found to use the free ones provided by Stafford Borough Council. This will be carried forward to the next agenda.

# 19/9/11: HIGHWAYS, FOOTPATHS and PLAYING FIELDS

1. Play inspection report and actions required:

**Seighford** – the posts identified as rotten on the latest inspection report do not belong to the Parish Council

**Derrington** – a working party will repaint the slide and clean the safety surfacing.

**Great Bridgeford** – the painting of the igloo is in progress, cleaning of the surfacing will also be carried out.

1. Hedgecutting schedule

It was agreed to request a price for the hedgecutting for a 3 year period. Adding the hedge fronting Eccleshall Road on the playing field at Great Bridgford. Clerk to action

1. Proposed Play area update – Great Bridgeford:

The Chair has received 3 quotes ranging from £23-30,000 for a zip wire, basket swing and a piece of toddler equipment. He would like to move forward and apply for grants. It was agreed that grant funding applications should be completed. It was also queried whether local businesses could be approached for donations or sponsorship. It was also noted that community could get involved and be encouraged to raise funds via events. This could be publicized via a leaflet handed out to Cooper Perry parents.

# 19/9/12: STAFFING MATTERS

The Clerk has handed in his notice with an effective date of 30th September 2019 due to continuing illness. Councillors were sorry to hear this and asked the clerk to write to him to thank him for his hard work.

It was agreed to advertise in the noticeboards, Parish website and the SPCA Bulletin. An interview panel of Cllrs Price, Turnbull and Darvill was agreed. Councillors also asked of the Locum Clerk could be available to assist.  
A close date of 11th October was agreed and the job specification and advert circulated by the Locum Clerk was approved.  
Councillors felt the quote of £480 plus VAT to advertise in the Staffordshire Newsletter was very expensive and agreed to only do this if no suitable applications were received following the first set of advertising as agreed above. The Clerk was authorised to approve the advertising if no suitable candidates came forward.

# 19/9/13: NEXT MEETING

Agenda items to include:

Dog bag refills – Derrington, Parish Council facebook page

# 19/9/14: MEETING CLOSE

As there was no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.45pm