

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

20 April 2017

Held at the Calverton Village Hall, William Lee Memorial Park, Park Road, Calverton, at 7.00pm.

PRESENT

Chairman of the Parish Council: Mr J Bailey

Parish Councillors present as members of the general public:

Mrs P D Bosworth, Mrs M Brackenbury, M J Hope, Mrs J E Inger, Mrs P A Marks, N J Quilty,
Mrs P A Rutt, R Rutt, G Wilson.

Parish Council Staff present: Mr G W Bott

Other members of public present: 21

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chairman made a special Civic Award presentation to Michael Lloyd in recognition of the many local community groups and activities he has supported over many years.

The Chairman noted that the Parish Council will formally introduce an annual civic award scheme with effect from the Annual Parish Meeting 2018.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 26 April 2016, having been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

None.

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman gave thanks to fellow Parish Councillors for supporting his Chairmanship and contributing via liaison groups focusing on specific aspects of the Parish Council's remit.

He then gave his report which covered:

- The Parish Council's adoption of a Strategic Plan through to 2019 covering seven strategic objectives;
- Engagement with the GBC Local Planning Document processes including efforts to influence the location, number and type of housing development to reflect local preferences – making specific reference to the work of Councillor Mrs E E Quilty and the engagement of professional support by the Parish Council;

- The significant progress being made on developing the local Neighbourhood Plan with particular reference to the leadership of Councillor M J Hope and the community Steering Group and the engagement of professional support by the Parish Council;
- Road safety developments and plans referencing the need to appoint a local Speedwatch co-ordinator;
- Issues with parking in the village noting the work with GBC to introduce time restricted free parking on the council owned car parks and the desire, if funding allows, to increase the parking provision on those car parks;
- A commitment to protect community open spaces referencing in particular the Parish Council's opposition to the proposed development on St Wilfrid's Square;
- Ongoing management of Parish facilities, provision of hanging basket and Christmas lighting displays and support for local groups and initiatives via grant donations; and
- Delivery of the new village hall and sports pavilion on William Lee Memorial Park, where the Chairman noted the input of the working party and the growing use of sports facilities on the park.

The Chairman explained the increase in Council Tax Precept for 2017/18 could be entirely accounted for by additional estimated costs due to compliance with workplace pensions legislation and reductions in redistributed grant from GBC.

The Chairman concluded with the wish that the new Council continues to listen to residents and represent their interests fairly and effectively, and pledged to play his part in helping the Council achieve that and deliver the Strategic Plan.

ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

A resident of Jumelles Drive noted that the open space in that area was potentially dangerous to users due to the significant holes and uneven surface. The Clerk was asked to report the matter to GBC who currently undertake the grounds maintenance works.

A resident local to William Lee Memorial Park asked if the park fencing could be made more secure to stop people entering the park after closure causing nuisance and damage. The Chairman noted that this was an issue the Parish Council regularly considered but doubted that anything could be done to stop unwanted access without regular security patrols which would be financially prohibitive. M J Hope felt that, ultimately, natural fencing would be most effective and the Council had planted hawthorn and blackthorn for this purpose. Unfortunately, it would be many years before the plants were mature enough to provide an effective barrier. Mrs P A Marks noted that James Seely Park suffered similar unwanted access at night, though this park is not locked. N J Quilty suggested the trespass and nuisance were issues that should be dealt with by complaints to the police but the cuts in resources meant there was far too few police to respond effectively to reports even if they are made. M J Hope emphasised the need to report matters to the police even if residents were not confident the police would respond. He noted that the police response is guided by statistics and currently Calverton registers very little reported crime and anti-social behaviour so it is low on police priorities. Mrs P D Bosworth noted that Calverton is served, along with five other villages, by a beat manager and a PC support officer.

A resident questioned the way the Parish Council responds to and addresses service user complaints. The Chairman noted that a current complaint from a village hall user was under investigation and it was not appropriate to discuss the private details of the complaint in an open public forum.

A Royal British Legion representative asked about repairs to the village flagpole. The Clerk noted that he had received one quotation and was seeking another.

A resident asked about time restrictions on the use of the village hall. The Clerk noted that the planning consent limited use to between 9.00am and 11.00pm daily. Any variance would require the written consent of the local planning authority, GBC.

Councillor Mrs P A Marks noted the need to convene a meeting of the Parish Council's New Cemetery Development Group to plan for opening the Hollinwood Lane Cemetery in the next few years.

A resident asked about the progress of the planning application for the car wash on Oscar's car park. The Chairman noted that the application was with GBC and had not been decided as yet.

The Chairman thanked people for attending and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

GWB/LJH
8-May-17