

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

26 April 2016

Held in The Council Room, Main Street, Calverton, at 7.00pm.

PRESENT

Chairman of the Parish Council: Mr J Bailey

Parish Councillors present as members of the general public:

Mrs S D Bereznyckyj, Mrs P D Bosworth, Mrs M Brackenbury, M J Hope, Mrs J E Inger, Mrs P A Marks, W Mellors, Mrs E E Quilty, R Rutt, E E Sturman, J Wood.

Parish Council Staff present: Mr G W Bott

Other members of public present: 4

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 21 April 2015, having been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman subject to correction of the date of the previous minutes those being from 29 April 2014 and not 30 April 2013 as printed.

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:

Engagement with the Aligned Core Strategies and GBC Local Planning Document processes including reference to the unsuccessful legal challenge brought by the Parish Council and others, noting the reductions in housing growth achieved;

The progress being made on developing a Local Neighbourhood Plan with particular reference to the leadership by Councillor Mike Hope of the community Steering Group and the engagement of professional support by the Parish Council;

Management of Parish facilities, provision of hanging basket and Christmas lighting displays and support for local groups and initiatives via grant donations;

Problems with car parking in the village and work being undertaken on Parish Council owned car parks to create additional spaces and introduce time limited free parking;

Environmental works and initiatives including the recent support for the Clean for the Queen Campaign in recognition of HM the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations;

Road safety, including the provision of a pedestrian crossing on Crookdole Lane, efforts to encourage further speed control measures and the need to recruit a coordinator for the local Speedwatch volunteer group; and

In particular, starting the building works on the new community hall and sports pavilion on William Lee Memorial Park, where the Chairman noted the work to deliver an affordable project requiring no additional Council Tax support in future years and thanked the working party for their support work and Calverton Park Bowls Club for arranging to play matches elsewhere whilst the building was completed.

The Chairman then set out his key aims for the Parish Council in the current term. Those are to:

Create a first class facility on William Lee Memorial Park which would provide a hub for community and family events for years to come; and

Agree manageable housing growth levels where homes were in the right place, of the right mix and were accompanied by the right improvements in local services to meet local needs.

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.

ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

A resident raised the issue of Parish Council Tax increases over recent years and the confusion over the percentage increase for 2016/17. The Clerk explained that he had wrongly advised Councillors of the scale of Council Tax change that the precept agreed for 2016/17 would result in. He had raised the mistake in the minutes at the April Parish Council meeting and a correction had been formally recorded. The Clerk assured residents that the error in no way affected the legitimacy of the setting of the 2016/17 precept. Councillors noted that parish councils had had to bear increased costs in recent years due to reductions in district and borough council funding as their grants had been significantly reduced. Councillors also recognised that housing growth does tend to spread the cost of supporting local services more widely over time.

A resident raised the problems of both off-street and on-street parking in the village. The Chairman referred to efforts the Parish Council is making to improve matters as regards the Council owned car parks and recognised that parking enforcement was an issue. He promised that reports made to the Parish Council would be addressed to the relevant authorities. He noted that some potentially dangerous incidents had been reported to local police.

A resident noted issues of littering and anti-social behaviour on local parks, in particular James Seely Park and the new park on the Brambles estate. Councillors noted that James Seely Park is in Parish Council ownership but was not manned on a regular basis. Litter picking is undertaken on a contractual agreement by Gedling Borough Council on a weekly basis. The Parish Council has no jurisdiction over the park on the Brambles estate. Councillors noted that their advice that the developers might have been better placed making a contribution to park improvements off-site as unsupervised on-site provision can often cause problems for residents.

A resident raised concerns about the poor state of local roads and pavements, suggesting that Calverton is less well served by NCC Highways than other nearby villages. Councillors noted that these issues are often brought to their attention and regular reports are made to NCC. M J Hope encouraged residents to use the NCC website reporting tool which he believes is effective in bringing issues to NCC's attention. Mrs P D Bosworth also suggested engaging the support of the local County Councillor, Boyd Elliott, to take up these matters directly on behalf of residents.

A resident also felt that the NCC grass cutting regime is of a poorer standard than other providers such as Gedling Borough Council. Councillors noted the differing contractual and liability arrangements which can impact on the standards adopted. Residents were again encouraged to raise issues directly with NCC via the on-line reporting tool, by telephone or via the local County Councillor.

The Chairman thanked people for attending.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

GWB/LJH
5-May-16