

**Minutes of Laceby Village Council Finance and Planning Meeting
Held at the Stanford Centre, Cooper Lane, Laceby on Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 7.30pm**

- 13243 Present:** Chair – Cllr D Hasthorpe
Cllr B Metcalf, Cllr S Turner, Cllr S Greenbeck, Cllr D Johnson, Cllr R Childs,
Cllr B Barford, Cllr P Page, Cllr R James, Cllr P Schofield
- Also present:** Clerk – Nicola Ashton
Mr A Snell – EQUANS (NELC)
23 members of public
- Apologies:** Cllr H Hudson, Cllr Swinburn

Cllr Hasthorpe opened the meeting, welcoming everyone present to the meeting of Laceby Village Council. Cllr Hasthorpe explained that Cllr Swinburn had hoped to be present, however, was unable to attend tonight due to other commitments. Apologies were received and accepted.

13244 Minutes from the 9th January 2024

Minutes from the Finance and Planning Meeting on the 9th January 2024 were put forwards for approval. The minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting, and proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Page. Cllr Hasthorpe ensured all Councillors agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of events and, with a show of full hands, the minutes were approved.

13245 Declaration of Interests & Dispensations

Cllr Johson requested that a declaration of interest be recorded in regards to expenses incurred which are due to be reimbursed.

Cllr Hasthorpe requested the following statement be recorded.

"I am a member of North East Lincolnshire Borough Council's Planning Committee and I am present here in my role as Village Councillor and not as member of North East Lincolnshire Council's Planning Committee. I am able to participate as the proposal before us does not substantially affect the well-being or financial standing of the Village Council, and must make it clear that my views and vote are expressed on the limited information before me. I must reserve judgement and the independence to make up my own mind on each separate proposal, based on my overriding duty to the whole of North East Lincolnshire, not just to the people in the village, as and when I hear all the relevant information when it comes before me at Planning Committee.

I will not in any way commit myself as to how I or others may vote, or what may be said, when the proposal comes before Planning Committee. I will declare a personal interest in relation to my being a member of the Village Council when the item is before Planning Committee."

The declarations of interest were accepted. There were no dispensations recorded.

13246 Public Forum

Cllr Hasthorpe opened the public forum and acknowledged that many of those present were there for Grimsby Road parking issues, and explained he would extend the public forum to allow the time to deal with the issues. He enquired if anyone had anything else for discussion first.

Mrs F asked:

- The Women of War statue at Caistor Road is leaning – Cllr Hasthorpe advised that the council was aware, however, could not do anything at present due to the ground being so wet.
- What the position of the Village council was in regards to the Local Plan and National Grid; were the council objecting to that. Cllr Hasthorpe advised that would be discussed under the relevant section.

- What was the Village Councils' position on devolution, were they aware that the mayoral precept would be £30, and had the council spoken to residents regarding this? Cllr Hasthorpe advised that all residents had had the opportunity to put their opinion forward via NELC consultation.

Mrs B asked:

- Would the council like some volunteers to help deliver the newsletter which is due to come out soon? Cllr Hasthorpe advised that that would be fabulous if she was offering – this was confirmed as yes.
- Will the village doing something for D-Day 80 this year, and whether the Council would be willing to collaborate or consider other community groups in its plans? Cllr Hasthorpe advised this was on the agenda for discussion tonight.
- The Laceby Community Collective (LCC) are trying to organise a Summer Social for this summer, and asked if the Village Council would be proactive within that, and if not from an organisation perspective, from a financial perspective? Cllr Hasthorpe advised that the Village Council was involved with the last event and had also contributed £1000 towards the community event. Mrs B added that the feeling from residents was that the Council should support the LCC and contribute to costs. Adding that as unfair as it was, the Village Council had a poor image amongst residents, and that involvement would help remedy that. Cllr Hasthorpe fully agreed with this, and advised that the aim of the Village Council was to improve engagement. He added that the Council wanted to see people come to the meetings, be involved in their village, yet very little feedback is received from residents. The idea of the newsletter is to ensure a dialogue for the Council and village community groups to be able to tell residents what is available in the village. Cllr Hasthorpe explained that the Council was an integral part of the village, but that most of the time it was just the Council who attended meetings, with very few, or the same, residents attending.

After checking if there were any other items, Cllr Hasthorpe asked if the rest of the residents present for the Grimsby Road parking issues wanted to put forward their representative to speak to them.

Mr W took the floor to explain that many residents were unhappy with the recent report from EQUANs which stated that there were no issues and no recommendations to make changes to Grimsby Road and surrounding streets (Whitgift & Trevor Close and Grange Avenue), asking what time was this survey done because he had over 100 signatures on a petition which says it isn't ok, and it isn't safe adding that people cannot get in and out their drives safely as well. He added that the planning condition placed on Marshalls was not being adhered to with deliveries still parking on the road, despite the new restrictions being in place.

Cllr Hasthorpe advised Mr W that he understood the feeling in the room and high emotions on the subject, but requested that people calm down, advising that they could be asked to leave if this did not happen (this was repeated request). Cllr Hasthorpe asked what the residents believed to be the answer? Mr W advised that using the park and ride in place at the Oaklands, car sharing, and asked why the Council felt it was not worth writing to Marshalls?

Resident 1 advised that they have lived on Grimsby Road for many years, but that there was more traffic than ever before coming through this route now. It is hazardous for everyone, including bus drivers etc and residents because of the parking on Grimsby Road. She asked whether it was possible to open Caistor Road junction back up?

Resident 2 advised that residents cannot safely reverse out their drives, that the bin wagons cannot get down, and that the cars are all day (sometimes multiple day) parkers. The only reprieve is a Saturday when the garage park on site, and that 2-hour restrictions on parking would help.

They also advised that before any business was given permission to expand or change their site, NELC should only give approval where there is parking on site provided and the community should be considered within that decision making process.

Cllr Hasthorpe introduced Mr Snell from NELC, asking if he could provide information. Mr Snell advised that whilst he could not comment on planning issues, he could confirm that the double yellow lines along with the double blips along the kerb means NO Loading; if a Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) sees this happening, then they can issue a ticket. If residents call NELC and report it when they see it, then the CEO will come out and if the vehicle is there, they will issue a ticket. Mr Snell went onto explain that NELC can look at traffic / highway issues if there is a genuine road safety concern, and advised that if residents wanted to send their concerns to the Clerk, she would collate these and send them over to NELC he would be willing to look at those concerns.

Mr W asked why George Butler Close had been given restrictions, but this was not considered for other streets?

Mr Snell advised that the residents made an application, which was considered and approved. There was no such request made from residents of other streets, however, if this was something that the residents want to be considered, then this should be sent via the Clerk and it will be considered (as explained previously). He added that all TRO's are placed in the paper, on the internet and residents notified.

Resident 3 asked what constituted a road safety concern? Mr Snell confirmed examples to be a concern regarding access for emergency services, bin lorries etc., cars mounting the pavement, speed etc.

Cllr Hasthorpe advised that the residents were now aware that they should send in their objections, including name and address to the Clerk who will collate and share them with NELC. Cllr Hasthorpe advised he will be involved as Ward Councillor as well.

Mr C advised that the Caistor Road turning had been restricted following numerous, serious accidents, where it was identified the accidents were a road issue, not a driver fault. Some of those issues are still there, but the layout of the junction and the volume of cars did contribute to those accidents and in some cases deaths. Cllr Hasthorpe advised that he has requested a review of that junction to see whether it can be safely opened, and what possible scenarios will facilitate that.

It was agreed that Mr W and Mrs H would represent the residents, and a working party group meeting be set up with Mr Snell, Cllr Hasthorpe and other representatives as identified.

Public Forum closed at 8.07pm.

13247 Matters Arising

- **Grimsby Road Parking Issues**

It was noted this had been dealt with within the public forum.

- **Village Newsletter**

The Clerk shared the final draft of the newsletter, adding that it had taken a lot of work and nagging to get contributions from some of the community groups, and had made changes right up to 5pm today due to some material coming in. Cllr Hasthorpe suggested that a date be set by which all contributions be submitted. The Clerk thanked Mr Cross for providing the picture on the front of the newsletter. Cllr Barford asked if the LCC leaflet could be delivered at the same time as the Village Council newsletter, the Clerk suggested that the LCC might have some volunteers to help deliver them all? Cllr Barford confirmed there would be people to help with

distribution. The Clerk advised that whilst the Council and LCC volunteers will help distribute the first one, we will need volunteers to help with future copies. Newsletter now sent to print.

13248 Police Matters

The Wolds Police Newsletter was shared and it was noted that there had been 32 crimes reported across the Wolds, with the following occurring in Laceby:

- Theft of camper van on Kenmar Road;
- Damage caused to vehicle parked on Church Lane over past 5 months;
- 1 minor assault;
- 1 report of ASB relating to illegal use of motorbikes around the village.

The Clerk explained that the policing team had suggested that instead of them trying to attend all Parish/Village Council meetings, that instead a meeting with all quarterly would be a better use of time for everyone. After discussion it was identified that this conversation already happens as part of the Town and Parish Liaison Committee and it would not be beneficial to have a further meeting. Clerk to feed this back.

There were no concerns to be raised directly with the policing team.

13249 Ward Councillors Report

Cllr Hasthorpe advised he had no update to give.

13250 Planning Matters

Local Plan information

The Clerk advised that the consultation was now open for consultation until the 8th March 2024. Cllr Hasthorpe advised that several Parish / Village Councils had opted for Councillors to submit individual responses because it was likely that a collective view would not be easily reached and as such each individual Councillor could then comment based on feedback from residents and their own thoughts, adding that everyone has a right to their own opinion on the matter. Cllr Hasthorpe added that there were lots of developers putting speculative plans to get the development into the local plan, and despite many of these plans having been already refused they are trying again – it does not mean they will succeed.

Cllr Childs advised that surely the Village Council should be putting forward a view which represents the whole village, citing the Grimsby West as something within the local plan which has significant objection amongst residents. By doing this it could give the removal of Grimsby West more weight and that the Councillors were elected on this in their mandate.

Cllr James explained that in order to do this, we would need to consult the village, and there was not the time to do this, collate that data gathered and then send to NELC in time to meet the deadline. Cllr Hasthorpe, Cllr James, and Cllr Barford advised that whilst the Village Council were 'elected' members, there was no mandate at this level of local government. Cllr Barford questioned whether we had to speak to residents or could the Council submit something on their behalf? It was noted that there was very little representation from the village at the meeting (tonight or previously) in regards on the local plan and people's thoughts on that.

Cllr Hasthorpe proposed that the Councillors all put in their own individual submission regarding the local plan and this was put to the vote. With 10 Councillors present, 5 voted for the proposal and 5 against. Cllr Hasthorpe advised that a negative of having an even number of councillors meant that there would be occasions where there was a 50/50 split. He explained that as the Chair of the Council the final decision lay with him when split 50/50, with the resolution that each Councillor should submit their own response to the local plan.

National Grid upgrade

It was noted that everyone had received documents regarding the upgrade to the national grid. The Clerk advised that the Council had not received anything in regards to the consultation, however, there were events that people can attend to discuss the upgrade, and options to submit opinions online.

Mrs F asked the Council what their stance was in regards to the upgrade; Cllr Hasthorpe advised that at present there was no stance as it had not yet been discussed.

There were no planning applications received to be reviewed.

13251 Finance Matters

Payments for authorisation

The following items required approval for payment, all were Bacs payments:

Salaries x 3 members of staff for February 2024	£1,197.98
HMRC – Salaries February 2024	£223.70
Pensions – February 2024	£60.25
Cemetery Waste – Jan/Feb 2024	£55.89
Clerk Phone & Broadband – Jan/Feb 2024	£20.29
Clerk Petty Cash	£30.96
Clerk Printer	£249.99
Anglian Water - Cemetery	£8.60
Cllr Johnson – reimbursement for padlocks	£13.53
Information Commissioner	£35.00
Allotment Association – Insurance re plot 38	£6.23

Cllr Childs proposed the payments, and this was seconded by Cllr Greenbeck, all Councillors agreed the payments be authorised with full show of hands.

13252 St Francis Grove Matters

Cllr Johnson advised that he had done the safety check last Thursday, and everything was safe and no concerns with the equipment were identified, and that nothing had been broken this month! He explained that the waste bin has been put back and, in a position, where it is visible for residents to keep an eye on it, adding that the bin can be moved in the summer if needed.

13253 Church and Cemetery Matters

Cemetery

The request for the remembrance bench was considered and approved by everyone; the Clerk will advise the family and then show them where it can be sited.

Church

Cllr Hasthorpe advised that the Church Wall sub-committee will be meeting on Thursday, and that a report will be provided at the next meeting.

13254 Stanford Centre

Cllr Metcalf advised there was nothing to report on this month.

13255 Correspondence

The Clerk apologised when she realised the info regarding the 80th Anniversary was not for VE day, but for D-Day on Thursday 6th June 2024, and that the 80th Anniversary of VE day would be 2025. The D-Day event includes bell ringing and the lighting of a beacon. Following discussion, it was

agreed to speak to the Legion and to offer to loan them the beacon, gas and that we will light it if they wanted to facilitate an event.

13256 Information Exchange

Cllr Turner expressed her upset at the negative comments made by residents that the Council does not do enough for the village, adding that she does a lot and will help anyone who speaks to her about a concern. She felt the negativity was unfair when the Council worked hard to help the residents of the village.

Cllr Barford explained that he understood how much the Village Council did for the residents that flies under the radar and that perhaps the Council needed to be more visible in their support of local projects, and went on to provide more context to this.

Cllr Childs added that the Council could provide funds to the LCC from its reserves to improve how the Council is perceived. The Clerk explained that the Council cannot just provide more funds to one group, but that any request for funds had to meet set criteria for funding, within a set limit, and it had to be for the good of the community (i.e. village history, prizes, plaques, community funded groups). Adding that the reserves were all allocated monies in line with the audit requirements of local funds; it is not 'spare' cash. The Clerk added that all requests for funding were considered at the Full Council meetings, to ensure they met the required criteria. Cllr Johnson explained that the LCC had assured the Council they would be self sufficient with the funding they were receiving and the plans for the site, and asked if that had changed?

Cllr Hasthorpe and Cllr Barford explained that the newsletter will enable the Council to demonstrate to the village what it is doing and hopefully change that 'negative' opinion. It was agreed to add the Laceby Community Collective to the next meeting for discussion.

Cllr Turner advised that there remained a problem with the buses, as the last few weeks the buses have either been an hour late or not arrived, and that some bus drivers have been rude when it was raised with them. One young lady waiting at the bus stop was upset that she was going to be late to work and she would be in trouble. Cllr Turner advised that this is also affecting hospital appointments, and that she had feedback to NELC but felt it needed escalating. Cllr Turner also advised that she had also raised the lack of timetables to be told that the funding had not yet been approved for them – Clerk to raise with NELC.

Cllr Metcalf advised that in the copse of trees between the Rookery and Red Cottages there were trees which were leaning at a 45-degree angle and at risk of falling. It is unknown who is responsible for that land – Clerk to raise with NELC.

There were no other items raised.

The Chair confirmed the next meeting dates as:

- Full Council & Planning Meeting – Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 7.30pm
- Full Council & Planning Meeting – Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at 7.30pm
- Full Council & Planning Meeting – Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 7.30pm

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.14pm.

Signed:

Chair

Dated: