

**WOODHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL**  
*Trustee for the King George's Field, Woodhouse Eaves [Charity No. 1087237]*  
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council  
**7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 18:45**

Present:

Mr P Searancke, Chair  
Mrs R Barrington  
Mr P Ince  
Mr D Shiels  
Mr T Sault  
Mr C Bennett

In attendance:

Mrs E Crowe, Clerk to the Council  
Mrs E Rowley, Responsible Finance Officer  
Mr G Watson, Premises Manager

8 Members of the public

**21/127 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr L Pole Mr R Thomas & Mr J Horne – Personal Reasons

**21/128 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY & PERSONAL INTERESTS & ANY DISPENSATIONS**

None this month

**21/129 POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MATTERS**

PCSO Mitch reported 2 burglaries reported both residential garages been broken into. Nothing was taken. No suspects identified. No reports of vehicle crime.

**21/130 REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR**

See Appendix One

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

**21/131 REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

See Appendix Two

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

**21/132 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

[a] A resident asked if the government are still subsidising bus companies. County Council are reviewing the bus services and where the demand may be and will carry on subsidising the bus services until July.

[b] A couple of residents asked about installing extra seats around the villages. The Clerk to write in Roundabout asking for the public to submit proposed locations for seats.

[c] A resident asked if the Borough Council are going to do anything with a house on Bird Hill which is empty. Mr Snartt replied that the Council are aware of the house and were looking into it.

**21/133 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

The Minutes were confirmed and signed as a true record.

**21/134 ENVIROMENTAL WARDEN REPORT**

[a] Mrs Schou and Mr Horne met with Dr Matthews, Geologist from the Charnwood Forest Regional Park project regarding the Forest Rock playing an important part in how they tell the story of Charnwood Forest.

**21/135 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**RESOLVED:**

[a] To note payment of the following accounts for previously approved or delegated expenditure:

DCK Accounting – Monthly payroll charge	25.87
NEST pensions – monthly	89.83
KGV Charity – Monthly PC Office Rent	500.00

Dusters Cleaners – cleaning of public toilets – 4 days per week @ £16/hr = £64 per week	192.00
PD Solutions – personnel consultancy	100.00
Zoom – 1 month charge	11.99
Shephed Lions Club Community First Responders – new defibrillator pads	84.00
2Commune – website hosting, support and annual license and email management	635.00
ICO – data protection annual license	40.00
LCC – 4 <sup>th</sup> instalment for conversion of street lighting columns to LED	1950.34
Target Hygiene – quarterly feminine hygiene servicing of public toilets	18.90
Salaries	1130.07

[b] To approve Financial reports:

- The monthly bank reconciliation at 22 February
- The monthly reconciliation of accounts at 22 February

[c] To note Council income for February is £100.00

- £100 - allotment rents

#### **21/136 PROPERTY RESOLVED**

[a] Mr Ince reported to the Council on the condition of the Broombriggs Farm drainage ditches (Maplewell Roadside) Cllr Taylor asked for Mr Ince to send her a copy of the letter and map from LCC so she can clarify exactly which part of the ditch needs clearing.

#### **21/137 CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED RESOLVED**

To note the correspondence received:

[a] Leicestershire County Council are currently revising the management plan for Beacon Hill. A 5 year plan that helps set the strategic and operational direction for the rangers' work on the park. Mrs Schou, Mr Thomas and the Clerk to attend a tour of the park to understand more about their plans.

[b] Finding Fitness Free Holiday Club promotion leaflet with details of the club running from 19th to 22nd April for children aged 5-13 year olds in the King George V room. To book a place, please visit [www.finding-fitness.co.uk/booking](http://www.finding-fitness.co.uk/booking)

[c] Charnwood Borough Council Armed Forces Covenant Officer at Charnwood Borough Council would like to bring all the Armed Forces Champions and councils who have signed The Covenant together to create a small network on 8th April. The Clerk to attend.

[d] Charnwood Borough Council is undertaking a review of their Statement of Licensing Policy in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003. A draft of the Statement of Licensing Policy and all Appendices can be accessed at [http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/licence\\_alcohol\\_and\\_entertainment](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/licence_alcohol_and_entertainment)

[e] Leicestershire Waste Partnership (LCC and the 7 districts) are seeking views on the new Resources and Waste Strategy for Leicestershire as part of a 12 week public consultation. The strategy examines what happens to your recycling and waste and how this can help reduce climate change and save raw materials. accessed via [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/have-your-say/current-engagement](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/have-your-say/current-engagement)

#### **21/138 PLANNING MATTERS RESOLVED**

To note responses to new applications:

P/21/2665/2 Conversion of existing stable block into habitable accommodation. (Listed Building Consent) at Broombriggs House, Beacon Road, Woodhouse Eaves, LE12 8SP  
No objection

P/21/2430/2 Proposed erection of Victorian style greenhouse to rear of existing dwelling to replace existing car port at The Homestead, 46 School Lane at Woodhouse, LE12 8UJ  
No objection

- P/22/0070/2 Proposed amendment to further extend single storey side and rear extension previously granted within P/21/2198/2 at 21 Hill Rise, Woodhouse Eaves, LE12 8QX  
No objection
- P/21/1915/2 Demolition of summer house, erection of single storey extension to side of house, alterations to window, outdoor fireplace, construction of retaining walls and landscaping at Nanhill, Nanhill Drive, Woodhouse Eaves  
The Council commented as agreed by the Planning Committee  
This application states that trees or hedges will be pruned or removed during the proposed works, but there is no detail that we can find of which trees/hedges or how they will be affected and no plan showing their position. This needs to be supplied before permission is considered.
- P/21/0669/2 Conversion of existing public house and associated buildings to form 12 dwellings with new access and parking arrangements at Manor House Hotel, Woodhouse Road, Quorn. LE12 8AL  
Withdrawn
- P/22/0108/2 Certificate of lawful (proposed) development for a new access to agricultural land off Deans Lane with associated works West Beacon Farm, Deans Lane, Woodhouse Eaves, Leicestershire, LE12 8TE  
Information Only
- P/21/2123/2 Two storey side and rear extension at Aldermans Haw, Charley Road, Ulverscroft, LE12 8SY  
No objection

#### **21/139 TRAFFIC WORKING GROUP**

The group are planning to meet over the next month and formulate a positive plan for traffic calming in the village.

#### **21/140 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Charnwood Borough Council have confirmed that Woodhouse Parish Council is the only Neighbourhood Plan that complies and makes the criteria for the NPPF Paragraph 14b. Woodhouse Neighbourhood Plan identifies a target, a site allocation and the opportunity for windfall developments. This approach was tested at examination.

#### **21/141 MEETINGS ATTENDED**

None attended

#### **21/142 MATTERS ARISING**

[a] Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the village - Open Gardens and the Art Exhibition are on over the Bank Holiday weekend. The Clerk has obtained 300 metres of red, white and blue bunting from Charnwood Borough Council Grant.

Meeting closed at 20:04 hrs

CHAIR

### **Neighbourhood Plans**

I have referred before to my concerns about Neighbourhood Plans not meeting certain criteria of the National Planning Policy Framework, especially paragraph 14b which states: 'The Neighbourhood Plan contains policies and allocations to meet its identified requirements'. This is important in the current circumstances because Charnwood Borough Council cannot demonstrate a five year housing land supply.

Previously I was disappointed to hear the answer to my question at the Full Council meeting in January, that none of the Neighbourhood Plans in the Borough were currently meeting the criteria set out in paragraph 14b. Therefore, I continued to press for more information why this was the case. I was not happy to find the Woodhouse Plan, after all the hours spent by volunteers did not conform.

I have now received a Neighbourhood Planning Advice Note from the Council detailing the current state of Neighbourhood Plans across the Borough. Out of the 10 Plans Woodhouse is the only one that meets the criteria, stating: 'Woodhouse Neighbourhood Plan identifies a target, a site allocation and the opportunity for windfall developments. This approach was tested at examination'.

In my view, it is important to meet this criteria, especially as the Council can only demonstrate 3.4 years housing land supply. I will be asking further questions on behalf of the Woodhouse Neighbourhood Plan Group, especially the process to keep the Plans updated.

### **Investigating Solar Farms**

Charnwood Borough Council could explore the creation of two solar farms to reduce its carbon footprint. The Council has identified two locations on land it owns in Loughborough and its Cabinet will consider a proposal to carry out feasibility studies. The idea is in the very early stage and at this point it is only considering gathering further information to understand the investment needed and the level of energy generation possible from solar installations.

The report to Cabinet says two primary sites for solar farms have been identified. One is a 21-acre piece of land at Nanpantan, near to where the new cemetery is being created. The other is a 40-acre site at Allsopp's Lane in Loughborough. Both sites are owned by the Council. The feasibility study will also consider the potential of rooftop installations on Council buildings and at Council car parks. One of the strategic priorities is the commitment to making the Council's operations carbon neutral by 2030.

### **The Outwoods**

Over 1,000 trees have been planted at the Outwoods to help the ancient woodland return to its true and natural historic state. Charnwood Borough Council which maintains the Outwoods, working alongside the Outwoods Management Committee, has planted the native oak and hazel trees as part of the restoration project to help return the Outwoods back to its former glory of a natural acid oak woodland. The long-term plan to restore the woodland got underway in 2019 when the Council started to gradually remove non-native coniferous trees in phases.

The second phase of the restoration project was recently completed in November and a total of 1,450 native trees have been planted to replace the non-native conifer trees which were removed. The newly planted trees are classed as young saplings and stand between 50-100cm tall. The recently restored areas will look similar to a young woodland after around 25 years. For more information and the latest updates about the project visit [www.charnwood.gov.uk/Outwoodsrestoration](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/Outwoodsrestoration).

### **Council Tax Payments**

Over 70% of Charnwood residents pay council tax by direct debit as this is the simplest, most convenient method. To join them, complete the on-line form at [www.charnwood.gov.uk/DD](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/DD).

To sign up to DD you will need your sort code, bank account name and number, together with your council tax account reference which can be found on your bill. In the coming weeks, residents of Charnwood may receive texts and/or e-mails from Charnwood Borough Council with overdue payment reminders and promotion of the e-billing and Direct Debit services. All messages will have logos visible and sender id's of Charnwood Borough Council on them. But if you are concerned that any correspondence is fake and not from the Council, please contact the Council on 03456 091258 (calls charged at local rates) or e-mail [council.tax@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:council.tax@charnwood.gov.uk).

## APPENDIX 2 - Report from County Councillor

County Council Report – March 2022

### **Ukraine**

The County Council Leader and I issued a joint letter condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The letter was sent to Leicestershire members of parliament, district and borough leaders, and parish councils raising concerns about the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Ukraine.

In the letter, also sent to Leicestershire's police and crime commissioner Rupert Matthews and chief constable Simon Cole, they urge people to be ready to help refugees who may end up in the county seeking refuge.

The Leader has also asked view of contracts, spending and pension fund investments as he looks to sever all the authority's ties with Russian firms. So far the review has identified that the council has no contracts with Russian firms but around £10 million of its pension pot (0.15%) of the total fund is invested with Russian companies.

### **Ofsted**

Ofsted Inspectors have set out the positive progress made by social workers and senior leaders responsible for supporting vulnerable children and young people in need of help and protection in Leicestershire.

Ofsted published the findings of a focused visit inspection of Leicestershire County Council's children's social services on 2nd March 2022. The visit, in January, was Ofsted's first since a full inspection in 2019 which found that leadership and services for children in care and care leavers were good.

During the latest Ofsted visit, officials examined performance data, quality assurance work, key policies and strategic documents and, most importantly, the quality of social work practice with children and their families.

### **Secondary School Places**

Over 90% of secondary school applicants across the county have secured a place at one of their preferred schools. Figures released on 1st March show that a total of 7,918 applications were received, an increase of over 400 students from 2021. A total of 92.8% now have a place at one of their top-three choices.

Nearly 7,000 students have been offered their first-choice option. This equates to 84.7% of all applicants, while 6.5% secured their second choice and 1.6% their third choice.

Not every student has secured one of their preferred choices and those in need of advice should get in touch with the School Admissions Service as soon as possible to discuss the options available to them, including the appeal process. To find out more, or to contact the service, visit [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/admissions)

### **Work & Skills Leicestershire**

This scheme is open to anyone who is seeking employment or training. Work & Skills has already helped over 300 people since its launch last June and is now expanding and holding sessions in Measham and Anstey.

Weekly pop-up sessions are being held from 10am until 12pm at:

Measham's community-managed library - on 3rd and 10th March

Anstey's community-managed library - on 31st March, and 7th, 14th and 21st April.

Work & Skills Leicestershire also runs at four other main centres:

- Loughborough Library on Tuesdays 10am until 12 noon
- Hinckley Library on Fridays between 10am and 12 noon
- Wigston Library on Wednesday from 10am until 12 noon
- Coalville Library on Wednesday from 2pm and 4pm on.

Everyone who signs up to Work & Skills Leicestershire is offered one to one support and the opportunity to have a tailored work plan drawn up for them. Help is given with CV and letter writing skills, job searches, interview techniques and much more. To find out more, drop into one of the hubs, call 0800 988 0308 or visit [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/work-and-skills](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/work-and-skills)

## **Green-Fingered Volunteers**

A call has gone out to Leicestershire residents to help spread the word about the county council's green initiatives, such as the creation of wildflower verges to encourage wildlife, and the planting and restoration of local woodlands. People are being encouraged to become biodiversity champions.

Leicestershire is one of the poorest counties for biodiversity and conservation value in the UK.

We are aiming to boost the county's biodiversity recovery by recruiting volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds, as part of its 'Environment Action Volunteer scheme'.

New recruits will not only be able to develop new skills along the way by completing specialist environmental modules funded by the county council, but also share knowledge with their local community. Giving just a few hours each month will make a huge difference and help the council with its woodland conservation, grassland restoration and monitoring of invasive and non-native species to tackle the decline of local wildlife.

The council are also seeking master composters. Training is provided by environmental charity, Garden Organic, and volunteers can develop their interest in gardening while helping to reduce the amount of organic waste going to landfill.

The scheme is open to residents of Leicestershire (excluding Leicester City) and volunteers must be over 18.

Anyone who would like to apply or find out more about becoming an Environment Action Volunteer can visit [www.lesswaste.org.uk/volunteering](http://www.lesswaste.org.uk/volunteering) Opens another website in new window . Alternatively, you can contact the volunteer co-ordinator on 0116 305 7005 or email [wasteprevention@leics.gov.uk](mailto:wasteprevention@leics.gov.uk)

## **Budget**

The County Council's budget was agreed at the full Council meeting held on 23rd February 2022.

The council's proposed medium term financial strategy (MTFS) looks to manage the rising costs of caring for vulnerable children and adults while finding ways to deal with increasing inflationary costs across services and on key multi-million pound capital projects needed to support the county's growing population and economy.

The council is proposing to increase its share of the council tax bill by 3% April. A 2% rise in the basic levy and 1% ringfenced to contribute towards adult social care. This rise is below the current rate of inflation and the lowest increase in recent years.

The precept rise will also help fund other key services including children's social care, public health, transport, education, planning, road maintenance, libraries, waste management and trading standards.

More than half a billion pounds is to be spent on major capital schemes between now and 2026 to provide for essential infrastructure, such as new roads and schools.

The popular 'Shire Grants' scheme is being boosted with an additional £150,000 to make up a £600,000 pot available annually to communities to bid in to for projects that will make a real difference for Leicestershire's residents.

The council remains committed to its target of helping to plant 700,000 trees across the county (one for every resident) and the MTFS contributes £100,000 to developing a tree nursery to grow saplings towards this target, helping to make our county cleaner and greener. The MTFS also provides £50,000 to enable the cost of road closures to be waived for communities and groups planning street parties to celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June.

Cllr Deborah Taylor