

Belton in Rutland Parish Council

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Parish Clerk. Mazzie Soar.

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Draft Minutes of the Belton Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 4th March 2021

Council Agenda

- 13/2021 Present
Steven Wilby
Hugh Neill
Jane Cronin
Colin Gordon
Jane Thornalley
Matt Ahearne
Mazzie Soar (Minutes)
- 14/2021 Apologies. None.
- 15/2021 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest on items included in the Agenda. None.
- 16/2021 To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th January 2021
Proposed by Jane Cronin, seconded by Colin Gordon and **agreed** by all present.
- 17/2021 Co-option of new Councillor. Councillors agreed to continue to try to recruit a new Councillor

Correspondence/Matters brought forward from previous meetings

- 18/2021 1) Village Hall.
Steven Wilby and Jane Cronin had prepared a presentation on the outcome of searches to establish ownership of the village hall, including the documents relating to the will of Mrs Gough and her beneficiaries. Unfortunately there is no clear outcome as to the present ownership and due to the many years which have passed the paper trail has been lost and the issues of ownership of the hall and the trust fund have been obscured. In view of this Steven Wilby suggested that the Parish Council consult a land lawyer with a view to establishing ownership of the Hall for the Parish Council. The costs of this to be met from the additional £10,000 grant the Parish Council had received this year. The motion was proposed by Jane Cronin, seconded by Jane Thornally and **agreed** by all present.
- 2) Parish Council Website.
Colin Gordon and the Clerk had attended a meeting with 2Commune the website provider. Colin Gordon gave a report on the meeting and had been impressed with both the layout and possibilities of the Website itself and the clarity and professionalism of 2Commune. A training session has been arranged for Tuesday 6th April 2021 and meanwhile a 'beta' or non live website had been set up to enable the users to practise and familiarise themselves with the layout and basic processes. It was confirmed that the website would contain an electronic calendar to which meeting papers could be linked and would also

S.M. Wilby

be useful in facilitating village hall bookings in future. The Council were assured that there would be a clear link between the Village Website and the new Parish Council Website.

3) War Memorial.

i) Planning permission had now been received from RCC for addition two names to the memorial and general weather repairs.

There had been some comments from parishioners concerning the validity of the right of the two men to be commemorated on the Belton Memorial as the depth of their connection with the village was questioned, and also an issue of commemorating their rank. However it was agreed that the works should go ahead as planned and that rank would not be on the memorial, to keep consistency with those already commemorated. A suitable local Stone Mason would be contacted for an estimate.

ii) Repair of damage by Sundown Lorry. The Company owning the lorry had agreed responsibility and the matter would be dealt with by their insurance company. An estimate for the cost works to be sought by the Parish Council.

4) Maintenance of assets. The clerk had contacted the Gardener and Maintenance Contractor both of whom agreed to accept ad hoc jobs (subject to estimate) to carry out repairs and general maintenance as required.

5) Grass verges, protection and maintenance. Colin Gordon had mapped the area and suggested and marked specific areas where protective posts and other measures might be taken. This would be forwarded to RCC Highways for their consideration.

6) Tree Planting. Jane Thornalley had mapped out possible areas where planting would not interfere with visibility nor verge maintenance. This would be submitted to RCC Highways for their comments.

7) Memorial Tree request. This could be arranged subject to permission from RCC under 6) above.

8) Roles and Responsibilities within Belton Parish Council.

War Memorial – Jane Cronin

Website – Colin Gordon

Planning – Jane Thornalley, Jane Cronin, Colin Gordon

Finance – Steven Wilby, Matt Ahearne, Hugh Neill

9) Rutland and Stamford Community Radio. The Chairman and the Clerk had attended the presentation by the operational working group planning the radio station. They were well organised and had obtained funding. It was anticipated the station would go live within the next few weeks. They were not asking for additional funding at this point but for general support in publicising the station to the public.

10) Response to Draft Design Guidelines for Rutland and South Kesteven. (Design Supplementary Planning Document) In view of the fact that this was asking for a response to the design of the document itself rather than any specific planning issues, Hugh Neill proposed that a formal response to the document by the Parish Council was unnecessary, this was seconded by Jane Cronin and **agreed** by all present. A copy of the document will be downloaded and stored on the website for future guidance.



11) It was proposed by Steven Wilby, seconded by Hugh Neill and **agreed** by all present to update the Microsoft Office Package on the Parish Council Laptop and to look into the costs of an additional monitor.

Public Session

19/2021

Council Policies.

20/2021

The meeting decided to keep the following wording in place for the short term.

In response to the Covid 19 Outbreak in the uk and in the event that it is not possible to convene a meeting of the council in a reasonable time, the Clerk shall have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the council where such decision cannot reasonably be deferred and must be made in order to comply with a commercial or statutory deadline. The delegation does not extend to matters expressly reserved to the council in legislation or in its Standing Orders or Financial Regulations. Any decision made under this delegation must be recorded in writing and must be published in accordance with the relevant regulations. This delegated authority ceases upon the first meeting of the council meeting after the council meeting at which the delegation was put in place .

Finance

21/2021

Chairman's report and balance of account. Hugh Neill gave the report

i) As the bank statement had not yet been received Councillor Neill was not able to supply a precise figure. However it was estimated that the balance at the end of March was likely to be just under £25,000, meaning an overspend this financial year of just over £600. This overspend was largely due to additional staff and training costs and the street lighting costs which had been carried over from last year.

ii) Reclamation of VAT. This is planned to take place in the next month.

iii) The Audit is booked for 29 May 2021

Payments

22/2021

i) Clerk's invoice. 1/1/2021-31/1/2021
£ 231.00 plus £24.00 (home working allowance)
Total £255.00

ii) Clerk's invoice 1/2/2021-20/2/2021
£151.00 plus £24.00 (home working allowance)
Total £175

iii) LRAC training (Planning) £120.00

iv) LRAC training (Accounts and Audit) £80.00

Standing Orders



23/2021 i) To adopt the updated Risk Assessment. Proposed by Hugh Neill, seconded by Steven Wilby and **agreed** by all present.

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24/2021

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Thursday 22nd April** 2021. It will follow directly from the Annual Parish Meeting which will be held at 7.00pm.

S.M. Wilby