

News from Wolston Parish Council - July / August 2017

A week prior to the 2017 General Election, when the Parish Council last met, there was neither Borough Council nor County Council representation, as the relevant members were otherwise involved in the democratic processes involving canvassing. This meant that some of the issues raised by members of the public, and by individual parish councillors on behalf of residents could not be resolved quite as smoothly as they would normally be. However, details were recorded with the Clerk who would be arranging to make contact with the relevant Council staff to deal with issues raised during the public forum. These included concerns about the state of the roads, with reports about the surfaces breaking up near the old School, and potholes around the drain covers on School Street with the metal cover sticking up. There are potholes on the Avon Terrace side of Main Street; problems near the bus shelter on Main Street; another on the junction where Coalpit Lane joins the Fosse Way. The Priory Road footpath was also described as terrible. A drain cover on the corner of School Street and Dyers Lane had been repaired but it was reported that it was broken again. The Clerk said that she would contact the Locality Officer and report the issues.

A resident asked if anything could be done about dogs not being kept on leads on the streets. He explained that the question was because his wife had been working in her front garden when a dog came into the garden and made a mess. The person who was with the dog came and apologised, but did not offer to clear up the mess. Councillors confirmed that it was their understanding that it is an offence not to have a dog on a lead when walking on the public highway and it was suggested that signage needed to be improved to make people aware. There was a report of a dog coming into the Recreation Ground and running straight to the piece of play equipment with the tyres on the rope and making a mess, which the owner then cleared up. There were concerns that there is always going to be some residue, however thorough the attempt is to clean up after the pet, and that there really ought to be some segregation of pets from children's play equipment. There was also a report of a dog which had charged at a lady and scratched her arm. The Clerk asked that people who see incidents take the time to report them on the Borough Council website so that the Dog Wardens can be asked to factor in visits to Wolston to try to deter and discourage further incidents. Also the more incidents which are reported and escalated to RBC the more chance there is that they may progress their deliberations on Public Space Protection Orders.

The meeting was reminded that the Parish Council is looking at installing CCTV cameras on the Recreation Ground to deter damage to equipment, or any other infringement, of existing legislation. This, together with other measures, will hopefully lead to improvement.

A request was made to have a bike removed from the Brook railings, where it has been padlocked, for over 12 months. The Clerk will put a notice on-line advising that this is going to be done.

A councillor had been asked to raise an issue about the height of the trees growing on the Main Street verge opposite Avon Terrace, which now obscure the residents' view across the Church Meadow to St Margaret's Parish Church. The trees were originally planted to deter vehicles parking on the grass verge and churning it up. The trees have previously been trimmed, but are beginning to resemble a small forest. There were concerns from residents that the delightful view is being obliterated.

A councillor had received a request from two residents at Bennett Court for assistance with a parking problem. There are concerns with the limited amount of parking available, particularly with the number of care workers who have to visit throughout the day. There is also a restricted level of access for ambulances because the parking at the Warwick Road end of the site is very limited. The chairman reported that County Councillor Mrs Timms had been investigating this request for help and had been sent an email containing the suggested alterations for the parking. Another councillor reported that there had been late night noisy activity in the vicinity of the garages between the Grove woods and Manor Estate which had disturbed residents. A member of the public reported that there had been a similar disturbance in Dyers Lane the same evening and wondered if the incidents were related. The councillor was asked to contact the resident and get them to report the issue to the Police.

The members of the public were thanked for their participation in the open forum, the session was closed, and the formal meeting was opened.

The chairman explained how it was traditional to observe a minute's silence when members, or former members, of the parish council die. Sadly adding to this roll call was Keith Brameld who had served the parish so well from June 2003 to March 2010. Keith had been active on the Finance Committee and the Wolston Brandon and Bretford Joint Burial Committee, and had always been very supportive as a councillor. He had championed getting dropped kerbs installed on various locations around the Meadow Road estate to make it easier for residents, who were less mobile, to negotiate. Keith had a very engaging manner and his sense of humour when difficult moments arose helped to overcome tense situations during council meetings. He often sent inspirational or humorous emails to fellow councillors and others, to endeavour to raise their spirits when life was difficult and was an unfailingly kind friend and colleague. He will be greatly missed.

Tim Harvey-Smith

Chairman,

Wolston Parish Council