

News from Wolston Parish Council – May 2017

Before the formal monthly Parish Council meeting opens, the chairman always invites residents and councillors to raise their issues of interest or concern.

At the April meeting Tracy Wasley from the Wolston Ladies Cricket Team spoke to councillors about the history of the club, the reason behind why they were having to move away from the Leisure and Community Centre site this season, and how they had successfully recruited five new players. Tracy also thanked councillors for their advice, guidance and support, particularly in relation to offering Dyers Lane recreation ground to the club to play their Home games this season. There are a few issues they may need to look at, and some equipment may need to be purchased, but it is looking positive that they will make it work for them. They are looking for umpires, and a discussion took place about encouraging new people to join the team, teaching youngsters to play, and the possibility of getting sponsorship and becoming a constituted group. The chairman thanked Tracy and her mother for attending the meeting and confirmed that all councillors were supportive of the team, wished them every success, and would assist in any way they could to keep the team in the village.

Borough Councillor Ellis reported that there would be a full RBC meeting taking place in April and advised councillors that if there were any questions they'd like raised they should let him know. A discussion took place about the new Green Waste Collection scheme and the possible increase in fly-tipping. The chairman raised concerns about the state of the local authority garages adjacent to the woods and Centenary Way. He provided photographs of a number of the garages which are derelict and boarded up and others which have been attracting graffiti. He was critical of the neglected state of the garages and felt that this not only reflected badly on RBC but spoiled the impression of the village the people walking the route would have.

The chairman reported that the Allotments and Gardens Society were looking to apply for a grant from the Rural Development Fund to make improvements to the Stretton Road site. All councillors were in support of their application and Councillor Grainger said he would be willing to assist as he had been successful in helping the Scouts with their application for a grant from RBC.

As there were no further issues raised the chairman closed the public forum part of the meeting and councillors agreed to start the Parish Council meeting at the earlier time of 7:35pm.

There had only been one planning application for consideration - for installation of a dropped kerb on School Street. This was supported unanimously, subject to "Neighbour Consultation".

Several items on the Progress Report were highlighted: the removal by RBC of the graffiti 'cat' from our bus shelter at Bretford Turn; the relocation of the 'emergency grab box', which contains items and equipment for use in an emergency in the village, from the Parish Office to the Village Hall, which is one of our village emergency centres (the box includes a first-aid kit, tools, dynamo radio/torches, hi-vis jackets, etc.) There was a brief update on the CCTV situation, with emphasis on looking at quotes for maintenance contractors. It was confirmed that the inspection of the Priory Manor development would take place on 11th April with a Planning Officer from RBC. A discussion took place about hedges and other issues which needed to be brought to the attention of RBC and Bloor Homes. Community Speed Watch was also raised and it was agreed that the Wolston Group would ask Brandon Group for use of the shared speed camera which they had last used in 2016.

The Clerk, Mrs Maria Meede, read out a letter from a resident highlighting the problems with vehicles double-parking on School Street. Whilst recognising that parking slows down vehicles and reduces speeding, councillors acknowledged the concerns about the safety of people (and in particular children) attempting to cross the road, and also the delays caused to emergency vehicles trying to drive along the road. The Clerk agreed to raise this with County Councillor Mrs Heather Timms and the Locality Officer, and it was suggested that this could also be raised at the next Community Forum session.

A number of residents had reported dog fouling issues, including reports of full dog mess bags being thrown into people's gardens or being hung in trees and hedgerows, and also of pets being allowed to foul on and around the new play and outdoor gym equipment in the Recreation Ground. There had also been reports of dogs jumping up at people and young children being knocked over and scared by dogs running loose. Public Space Protection Orders are enacted by RBC and a discussion took place about options which could include banning dogs on the Recreation Ground, restricting the areas where dogs can go, fencing areas off, and dogs being on leads, etc. Other areas in the village are also having problems with dog fouling, including Abbots Walk. It was agreed that residents should be encouraged to contact the Dog Wardens at RBC to report any issues. It was further agreed that councillors should consider what action would be appropriate at the Recreation Ground and the matter will be discussed again at a future Parish Council meeting.

Wolston and Brandon Angling Club had raised a query about registering the Fishing Pools as an Asset of Community Value - to put greater protection on the area. They had been advised of the information which they needed to gather before the matter can be taken forward - including establishing ownership of the land and clearly defining the area on a map. The club has agreed to come back to the Parish Council once they have the required information and councillors will look into the matter further once they have the relevant details.

Just a flavour of the sorts of things which get discussed at the monthly meetings, held on the first Thursday of the month. If you have a query or want to hear more, then why not come along?

Tim Harvey-Smith

Chairman, Wolston Parish Council