

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of the Bingham Town Council held in **The Old Court House**, Church Street, Bingham, on **Tuesday, 4th December, 2012**, at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Councillor A. Harvey - Chairman
 " A. Ashmore
 " G. Davidson
 " J. Eagles
 " Mrs. T. Kerry
 " F. Purdue-Horan

Also in attendance: Councillors Mrs. A. Bryan, T. Fox, J. Stockwood and two Network Rail representatives – Andy Milne Dave Allen.

1.00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPTANCE:

Apologies for Absence were received and accepted from County Councillor M. Suthers.

2.00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no Declarations of Interest received

3.00 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th October, 2012, having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4.00 MATTERS ARISING (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):

There were no Matters Arising out of the Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th October, 2012.

5.00 ACTION POINTS:

See attached Appendix 'A'.

6.00 NETWORK RAIL'S PROPOSALS FOR A NEW FOOTBRIDGE - UPDATE:

The Chairman invited representatives from Network Rail to update members on the forthcoming consultation. Andy Milne apologised for issues surrounding the previous consultation. There would be four schemes put forward to the revised public consultation to be held on the 10th December, 2012.

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6.00 **NETWORK RAIL'S PROPOSALS FOR A NEW FOOTBRIDGE - UPDATE** continued.....

Mr. Milne explained that, nationally, there was an aim to close foot crossings. Bingham's crossing fell within the top fifty hazardous crossings and the Tesco planning application had fast forwarded those in Bingham. Tesco has offered a contribution but the amount was dependent on the cost of the actual scheme put in place. The representatives responded to queries and comments from Councillors.

The Chairman thanked the Network Rail representatives for attending.

7.00 **LENGSTHMAN SCHEME - UPDATE:**

The Chairman gave a brief account of the recent Lengsthman meeting which both he and the Vice-Chairman attended. (Appendix 'B').

It was agreed to

RECOMMENDATIONS as per the report by Councillor Harvey as follows:-

- 01 No action be taken on the Lengthsman Scheme at this time, but that Environment Committee continues to monitor the scheme over the next 12 months.
- 02 To formally seek recommencement of consultations with the County Council in respect of the localism agenda and to ask the Policy and Resources Committee to consider the establishment of an apprenticeship scheme for the Council.
(1 ABSTENTION; ALL OTHERS IN FAVOUR)

8.00 **ORNATE STREET-LIGHTING COLUMNS AROUND THE MARKET SQUARE - UPDATE:**

Nottinghamshire County Council had replaced three ornate columns within the Market Square and these now just require painting. Three other columns around the Market Square, after being inspected, also require replacing. These should be replaced this financial year and the remaining columns will be included in the future replacement scheme for 2013/2014.

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9.00 **THE MANOR HOUSE - UPDATE:**

At a short meeting held on the 3rd December, 2012, Friends of the Manor House had updated Councillors on their proposals to submit a grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Over the next few weeks, they would attend preliminary meetings with Heritage Lottery Fund personnel with a view to submitting a formal application. In the event that the initial application was successful, there may be a need for third party funding. In the short term, Friends of the Manor House had requested Rushcliffe Borough Council to take the necessary steps to protect the building from the elements. The Borough Council had considered issuing a works notice to the owner to undertake works, and the position was that if the owner defaults, then Rushcliffe Borough Council would undertake the work and recharges the cost to the owner.

10.00 **UPDATE ON N.C.C. MATTERS, INCLUDING:**

01 **Request to Install a Box Junction on Fairfield Street**

The scheme is with Nottinghamshire County Council Improvements Team with a view to it being in place this financial year.

02 **Update re. Parking Restrictions on Cherry Street**

This matter is included in the Grantham Road Area Scheme which is with Nottinghamshire County Council Improvements Team with a view to it being in place in 2013/2014.

03 **Update re. Grantham Road Speed Signage**

This scheme is with Nottinghamshire County Council Design Team with a view to it being in place this financial year. Clerk to chase matter of eastbound sign.

04 **Update re. Flooding Issues**

A letter had been received from a resident, asking whether Bingham;s drainage resources are adequate. Noted.

11.00 **CONSIDERATION OF RENEWAL OF CONTRACT RE. FLOWER BASKETS AND STRESS-TESTING OF STREET-LIGHTING COLUMNS:**

The Clerk reported receipt of a renewal contract relating to flower baskets. The Clerk to obtain three quotations and also identify the contractors from the County Council re. stress testing of street-lighting columns.

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12.00 **REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL LITTER BINS:**

The Chairman reported request for additional litter bins on Church Farm Estate and Mallow Way. It was agreed to request ground staff to monitor. However, it was felt that Mallow Way would be the priority.

13.00 **ENVIRONMENT BUDGETS 2013/2014. (APPENDIX 'C' ATTACHED)**

14.00 **CORRESPONDENCE:**

01 Letter re. Improved Rail Services

It was agreed to support request from a Gedling Resident for the Nottingham to Skegness train to stop at Netherfield.

02 Complaint re. parking at Carnarvon Place and Repainting of Yellow Zig Zag Lines

The Clerk confirmed that this had been reported to Nottinghamshire County Council.

03 Congestion at End of Moor Lane Due to Gates on Private Car Park Now Being Locked

Clerk to speak to owners.

05 Newgate Street

Concerns were raised over pedestrians being put in a dangerous situations re. the entrance to main car park and crossing of Fairfield Street being hazardous. It was considered the crossing of Fairfield Street would be easier once the proposed yellow box crossing had been installed. It was agreed that the County Councils design team be asked for any ideas to improve any risks for pedestrians at the entrance/exit to the car park.

As there was no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m

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CHAIRMAN.

Date:-

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ACTION POINTS

AGENDA ITEM	DETAILS	ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY
F6523 14 th June, 2011.	N.C.C. Grass-cutting	Lengthsman Scheme Pilot – Chair and Vice Chair attended a briefing and will update members.
F6303(6) 1 st June, 2010.	Butt Road/Cogley Lane junction – Lack of road markings.	Completed
F6523 14 th June, 2011.	Bus parking and driving (outside town centre).	N.C.C. – On-going
F6523 14 th June 2011	East Street	Refer to e-mail dated 14 th July from N.C.C. To be included for Detailed Visual Inspection (DVI) to assess inclusion in 2012/2013 Programme of Works.
F6575 August, 2011.	Request for 20 m.p.h. restriction on Newgate Street	N.C.C on-going Agreed to follow up after Health Centre plans addressed. Suggest speed check undertaken.
F6611 18 th Oct 11	Carnarvon Primary School	If adequate funding, consideration will be given to additional set of zig-zag lines
	Weight restrictions	Further signage is in process of being erected.
	Restricted parking on Cherry Street/Church Street	NCC to undertake formal consultation.
	One way system on Market Street	NCC to prepare simple design by 31.3.13
	Transport Consultation	Chair & Vice Chair to meet with Clive Greyson.

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LENGTHSMAN SCHEME UPDATE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Committee members on the progress of those parishes taking part in the Lengthsman Scheme following a briefing session organised by the County Council

2. Background

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Committee in June (minute 9, F6767 refers), members gave detailed consideration to joining the Lengthsman Scheme and concluded that there was insufficient evidence of the value of proceeding at that time, but instead chose to review the situation following feedback on the experiences of those parishes that had chosen to take part.

- 2.2 On 13th November the Vice Chairman and myself attended a feedback session at Rufford Park organised by the County Council and at which three of the Parish Clerks gave an update on their experiences of the scheme.

- 2.3 A positive view of the scheme was presented by all three Clerks, but within their presentations and on further questioning during a break-out session, the following points came to light:

- A total of 16 parish and town councils participated in the trial scheme forming four clusters;
- The pilot was funded 100% by NCC at circa £2,400 per parish/town council;
- All three parishes already employed handymen/ground staff before the scheme. On the implementation of the scheme these individuals (who were clearly well thought of) became the parish Lengthsmen. All three were in business for themselves;
- The scheme had only been running for a few months and winter conditions had yet to be experienced, meaning that a longer period for feedback may be advisable;
- The scheme allowed the parishes to identify and undertake preventative rather than remedial work and allowed the parish to prioritise their own priorities, at least to a degree;
- The Lengthsman duties were wide ranging, (but in reality are less than those undertaken by our own ground staff);
- All mentioned that the hours worked could do with extending;
- A lot of training was required in order to undertake various functions and this needed to be taken into account;

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- Two of the three representatives admitted that they had utilised the NCC funding to buy equipment and had ended up subsidising the salaries themselves;
- All three representatives asked that the NCC funding of the scheme be extended well beyond the original trial period; and
- Two of the councils may be looking to take on apprentices.

2.4 At the conclusion of the presentation, following a more in-depth table by table review, parish representatives who were not in the scheme presented a summary of their views.

2.5 The general consensus was that the scheme offered some benefits for smaller parishes, particularly for those who currently had no such provision (although not all the smaller parish reps shared that view) but that the scheme lacked flexibility for larger parishes, such as Bingham and that the financial package was not sufficiently attractive to move the project forward on a larger scale. Comments were also made about the County Councils lack of formal consultation on parish issues generally and the lack of facilitation of joint parish events where views may be shared on a more regular basis.

2.6 An update on the scheme and formal feedback will be presented to the County Councils Policy Committee next week.

3. Summary and Conclusion

3.1 I think it is fair to say that both the Vice Chairman and myself were somewhat disappointed that nothing new was on offer and that the feedback had made clear the real costs of the scheme and its seeming lack of flexibility for larger parishes at this time.

3.2 The real issues here are the County Councils flexibility in dealing with individual councils within the localism agenda and a reality check for the County Council to sort out its unit management costs so that realistic negotiations can take place with regard to the transfer of services. Given the governments tightening financial restraints on the County Council, I would hope that this message is realised quickly.

3.3 Notwithstanding the above, there is no doubt that those participating in the scheme were doing so enthusiastically, but given that we have competent and experienced ground staff, I am not convinced that the Scheme would be of positive benefit to Bingham at this time.

3.4 It was interesting to note that two of the participating parish councils were looking to be involved in an apprentice scheme and it may be that this is an area Bingham should be examining.

3.5 The Vice Chairman and I will update on details at the meeting

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Given the information received, I can only recommend that the Committee recommends to Council that no action be taken on the Lengthsman Scheme at this time, but that Environment Committee continues to monitor the scheme over the next 12 months.
- 4.2 Committee members may also wish to discuss whether to formally seek recommencement of consultations with the County Council in respect of the localism agenda and whether to ask the Policy and Resources Committee to consider the establishment of an apprenticeship scheme for the Council.

Alan R Harvey
Chairman, Environment Committee
29 November 2012

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2013/2014 BUDGETS RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEES, 4TH DECEMBER, 2012.

Environment

	Budget 2012/2013	Actual @ 30-Sep- 12	Estimated 31-Mar-13	Budget 2013/2014
<u>Expenditure</u>				
General Maintenance	640	362	640	640
Beautiful Bingham	4500	4,047	4500	5500
Litter/Dog Bins (Env & Rec)	450	0	450	450
Transfer to Environment Reserve	500	0	500	500
	6090	4,409	6090	7090