

**Minutes of the Meeting
Of Freeby Parish Council
Held on 9th January 2017
at 7.30pm**

Those Present: Mrs Beverley Howes (Chairman)
Ian Manchester
Kerry Conboy
Simon Faulks
Frances Waberski (Clerk)
Byron Rhodes

Chris Hewardine
James Brown

Apologies: Malise Graham
Peter Barnett

1 The minutes of the last meeting were read and agreed.

2 Matters arising

Road repairs in Brentingby/ Wyfordby – Frances Waberski read out Peter Barnett's e mail which he had sent to her prior to the meeting and asked her to raise the points in it. Regarding the road repairs he commented:

I The repairs that have been done are already creating new potholes as water is collecting around the joins.

II They have missed the potholes right next to the potholes they did patch up.

III Little repair work seems to have been done along Main Road considering the road was closed for a week.

IV Why was the spoil carted away from the repair work that was carried out and not used to fill in the wet hole next to Cottage Farm House?

A general discussion followed. It was acknowledged that Council budgets are tight but it was generally agreed by the Wyfordby and Brentingby residents that the quality of the road repairs could have been much better.

Regarding the wet hole next to the Cottage Farm House, Chris Hewerdine said he believed there is a drain under the mound there. He thinks it is blocked and will dig down to it. The PC will then try to get LCC to deal with it. Byron requested that we copy him in and he will chase it up.

Peter also reported in his email that he had a meeting with Phil Bennett at the beginning of December . He is in charge of Drain Jetting and Gully Emptying for the Council. He is arranging to jet the drain along Peter's drive. The Barnetts are paying for this. Peter is hoping the gullies in the village will also be emptied.

Wyfordby/ Brentingby hedges Chris Hewerdine complained that some of the hedges are overgrown and are forcing vehicles off the road onto the verges. Ian Manchester reported that he and Frances had been and looked at the hedges after the October meeting but felt that they were not bad enough to justify writing to the Landowners about. The PC will have another look at the situation and, if it felt appropriate, the Landowners will be contacted.

Wyfordby Grange – James Brown clarified that the road is metalled up to Grange Farmhouse and not as far as the Bungalow, as stated in the previous minutes. He then confirmed that plans for the barn conversion were submitted to Melton Borough Council today (9th January). No plans have been submitted for Highfields yet.

Saxby Church – Kerry Conboy updated the meeting on the dispute about the newly installed door in the Church, which had to be specially made. Previously, the owners received a letter from the Borough Council saying that the door wasn't in keeping with the fabric of the Church and must be removed. They argued the case and the door was to remain. However, MBC have now contacted the owners of the property and told them that whilst they must have a door in that position as it is the reopening of an historic opening, the door must be redesigned. There are no details of this on the MBC planning portal. Frances Waberski has reported this to Mr Ebbs the Planning Officer and he is to look into this. In the meantime, Kerry will keep us informed.

Wyfordby Church – the lead thieves have been caught.

3 Community Resilience Plan

At October's meeting, Andrew Muir had come and given a presentation on Community Resilience Plans. There was a general discussion about whether one should be put in place within the parishes. As we are a rural community, it was felt that we are used to looking after each other and so it was agreed to put it on hold for now.

4 Parish Defibrillator – Frances Waberski has looked into the cost of buying and maintaining a defibrillator. In summary, the cost for an indoor package is £895 + VAT, and if an outdoor package was required it would cost £1249 + VAT. This would only provide one to cover the 5 Parishes. It seems unfair to expect the villages where it isn't kept to pay for it. Statistics also show that they are rarely used. It was felt that, given the problems of choosing where to keep it, the likelihood of needing it and the cost, the money could be spent more beneficially. Kerry Conboy suggested the Parish Council could fund training someone in basic first aid in each village instead. Frances Waberski will look into this and report back at the next meeting

5 Pension Requirements 2017 – there is a requirement for the Parish Council to have a pension in place this year. Frances Waberski will look into whether one is needed and if one can be set up at minimal cost. She confirmed that she will not take it up.

6 Precept/ Council Tax Support Grant 2017/ 18 – The Precept for 2017/ 18 needs to be applied for. Frances Waberski presented the meeting with a budget and confirmed that the Council Tax Support Grant will be reduced to £29.93. There has been a considerable increase in the burden of work for the PC due to recent legislation, requiring, among other things, a PC website and the pension regulations. Beverley Howes proposed that the Clerks fee should be increased to £450 per annum. Ian Manchester declared an interest. The increase was agreed by the meeting. It was felt, however, that this small increase could be absorbed by the budget and that the precept should remain at £1300. The forms were completed and signed accordingly for Frances Waberski to return to MBC.

7 Planning

The Bede Houses, Stapleford – a planning application notice has been put up outside the Bede Houses at Stapleford, although nothing has been received by the Parish Council. Frances Waberski is to contact the MBC Planning Department.

Brentingby Wind Turbine - the wind turbine at Brentingby is still not working, and has not done so since at least July 2016. It is understood to be in need of repair.

Saxby Station – There continues to be much activity at Saxby Station, and concern was expressed that several containers are now being stacked on each other. It is not known what activities are carried on there or whether planning permission has been given for any of them. This problem has been raised continuously by the Parish Council over many years but successive MBC Enforcement Officers have been unable to get clarification on what goes on there. Byron Rhodes suggested we contact Alan Duncan and try to see him about what is undoubtedly and eyesore on the area. Frances Waberski and Beverley Howes will look into taking this forward.

8 Any Other Business

Grit bin – Wyfordby – Chris Hewerdine asked whether a grit bin could be put on Wyfordby Hill as it gets very icy there and is steep. Beverley Howes will email the residents to see if there is a general demand for one and Frances Waberski will look into the practicalities of the Parish Council supplying one as it did for Freeby.

Wyfordby junction – Chris Hewerdine asked if the white lines at the junction at the bottom of Wyfordby Hill could be repainted as they are no longer visible.

Broadband – there were general complaints about the speed of broadband available in the Parishes. Superfast is supposed to be rolled out soon all over the Melton District and it seems we are one of the few areas who do not have it yet. Byron Rhodes suggested Frances Waberski contacts Helen Harris and Niall Quinn at Leics County Council to ask for a specific timetable.

B676 – Road safety – Byron Rhodes is looking into what can be done to improve the safety along the B676 and is attending a meeting next Monday. He will report back to the Parish Council after that.

Signage – Chris Hewerdine reported that the road signs at the top of Wyfordby Hill have been blown round. Byron Rhodes will arrange for this to be fixed.

Date of next meeting: 3rd April 2017 at 7.30pm in Freeby Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm