

**Minutes of the  
Annual General Meeting  
Of Freeby Parish Council  
Held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017  
at 7.30pm in Freeby Village Hall**

**Those Present:** Mrs Beverley Howes (Chairman)  
Ian Manchester  
Kerry Conboy  
Simon Faulks  
Frances Waberski (Clerk)  
Byron Rhodes  
Malise Graham  
Joe Orton  
  
Peter Barnet  
James Brown

**Apologies:** Dennis Fisher

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

**2 Matters arising**

**Road repairs in Brentingby/ Wyfordby –**

The wet hole next to Cottage Farm – the owners have now found the drain in the ditch and cleaned it out which has solved the problem at present.

Access track next to Hall Farm, Wyfordby – Peter Barnett reported that the drains have now been cleaned out and the track is much dryer and greatly improved. The workmen which carried out the cleaning also work for the Council. They told Peter that ideally the ditches in

the village should be cleaned out. It is a Council job but realistically they will be unlikely to do them.

**Wyfordby/ Brentingby hedges** – the hedges have been cut by the Landowners without the Parish Council having to contact them.

**Parish Defibrillator** – Frances Waberski will contact MBC to see if they run any schemes to train people as first aiders.

**Pension Requirements 2017** – The Government run a Nest Egg Scheme and this will be the cheapest option for the Parish Council. Frances Waberski will get this set up.

**Brentingby Wind Turbine** – Peter Barnett reported that there are presently people working on the wind turbine – presumably with a view to repairing it.

**Saxby Station** – Following January's meeting, both Malise Graham and James Brown have complained about it to the Planning Department at MBC. Two officers have now been assigned to looking into it. Malise has spoken about it to Jim Worley, who has expressed concerns that there may not be anything illegal/ in contravention of planning regulations going on and so whilst the site is an eyesore, it may not be possible to do anything about it.

**Wyfordby junction** – Frances Waberski is to chase up LCC Highways to see if white lines could be repainted onto the junction at the bottom of Wyfordby Hill.

**Broadband** – Frances Waberski said she has not heard back from Helen Harris or Niall Quinn following her email after January's meeting. She explained that she looked up the superfast rollout programme on the Leicestershire website. Our area is graded as having access to superfast broadband through alternative/ private providers which means that we are not on the list to get superfast fibre provision this year. There was then a discussion about the private provision, which it seems comes from the Buckminster Estate. It was said that the Buckminster agreements are relatively expensive and in many cases do not provide satisfactory consistent broadband speeds. Byron Rhodes recommended that we complain to Helen Harris and tell her that the Broadband supply in the area is not satisfactory.

**B676** – Byron Rhodes told the meeting that strict traffic calming measures are due to be implemented along the B676 into Melton. A 50 mph speed limit will be put in place and this will be enforced with average speed cameras. Delight was expressed by all present and the meeting thanked Byron for his assistance in this matter. It is hoped that they will be in place within 9 months, depending upon the speed of the statutory processes needed to allow these restrictions to be put in place.

The signs which had been blown round have now been righted.

**Leicestershire County Council Representative** – Byron told the meeting that because of the boundary changes he would now no longer be the LCC representative for Freeby Parish Council. Joe Orson will now be taking over that role. Beverley thanked Byron for all his hard work for Freeby Parish Council over the years and welcomed Joe. It was also added that having

achieved the implication of speed restrictions on the B676, it was a brilliant final act by him for the Parishes.

### **3 Appointment of Officers**

As it is the Annual General Meeting the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk need to be re appointed.

Chairman – Beverley Howes was nominated by Ian Manchester and seconded by Kerry Conboy

Vice Chairman – Kerry Conboy was nominated by Beverley Howes and seconded by Ian Manchester

Clerk – Frances Waberski was nominated by Beverley Howes and seconded by Kerry Conboy.

Beverley Howes then explained that Dennis Fisher has sadly had to resign due to ill health. He has been an active member of the Parish Council for many years and always had a useful contribution to make to issues which were affecting the Parishes. Frances Waberski is to write to him thanking him for all his hard work over the years.

Peter Barnett confirmed he is very interested in joining the Parish Council. Frances confirmed she has been in touch with MBC who have sent her some notices which have to be displayed for 14 working days. This period will end on the 6<sup>th</sup> April. If 9 or more people express an interest in joining the Council, an election has to be called. If not, someone can be co opted on.

**4 Freeby Village Bus Shelter** – Frances Waberski reported that James Brown has e mailed the Parish Council asking them to remove the bus shelter from its present position on the verge. Ian Manchester asked James Brown why Freeby Estate wanted the shelter to be removed. James Brown explained that he wanted it removing as the Estate wanted to develop the building behind it. He confirmed that the Estate wanted to retain the hedge which presently runs along the boundary of the Old Barn and would rather see the bus shelter removed instead. He said that the bus shelter is not currently used as a bus shelter, only as the village notice board.

Beverley Howes explained that the Parish Council are unwilling to lose the bus shelter. It was put there in 1987 to provide shelter for the village children when they were waiting for the school bus, and it would only need a couple of families to move into the village for it to be needed again. James Brown said that he had considered if it could be sited elsewhere, but had not been able to pinpoint an alternative suitable site. It was agreed it would be unsafe on the opposite side of the road and he did not want it putting by the paddock next to Laburnum Cottage. The suggestion was made that Freeby residents could be consulted and asked for suggestions about where it could be relocated to.

Beverley also explained that it is unclear whether the bus shelter is on Estate land or on the verge as the hedge seems to have grown around it and the Parish Council are looking into this at the present. It was agreed that the dialogue between Freeby Estate and the Parish Council would remain open.

**5 Saxby Station** – this had been discussed in the Matters Arising from the previous meeting (see 2 above).

## **6 Grit Bins**

**Brentingby** – Beverley read out the email the Parish Council had received from Ian Hawley. In it, he expresses his refusal for giving adjoining landowner's consent for the siting of the proposed grit bin on Brentingby Hill. Without this permission, the grit bin cannot be installed and disappointment was expressed by the meeting.

**Wyfordby** – Beverley read out the email the Parish Council have received from LCC which states the County Council's view that they have effective ownership of the verge along the road up Wyfordby Hill. They do not need to own the subsoil and even if the highway verge is registered to Freeby Estate, the Estate will only 'regain full control of the land when the highway rights have been removed.' Joe Orson confirmed that this is the general position. If this is the case, then the Parish Council will not have to enter into a lease/ licence with the Estate for the grit bin. James Brown said that his understanding was that this was not the position and he believed the Estate owned and had control of the verge. Frances Waberski said that in the email, the LCC say that 'If the Freeby Estate have any information to suggest the verge is not part of the public highway, then they would have to provide us with any information so that we can review our position.' James Brown is going to look into this and the proposed grit bin will be put on hold until this is resolved. James Brown asked that it be recorded that the Freeby Estate is in favour of a grit bin being put on the hill in principle.

## **7 Planning –**

**Wyfordby Grange** – planning permission has been granted

**Land behind Woodbine Farm** – a declaration of interest was made by Beverley Howes, Ian Manchester, Simon Faulkes and Frances Waberski. Kerry Conboy explained the basis of the objections made by the Parish Council. She stressed that in principle, she is in favour of new appropriately designed and sited housing in villages. James Brown explained that the Planning Officer had been out to the site and, in James' opinion, seemed to indicate that the building satisfied the planning criteria and that highways were very relaxed about the access. James Brown stated that he is trying to use the application to establish a principle of development and he will then try to move the new properties to a different position on the site.

**Saxby Church Door** - Kerry Conboy reported that the heritage report the owners had to have done confirmed there had been a door there originally and they are now trying to agree a design with the planners.

**Mill Cottage, Stapleford – Variation of Condition** - No objection.

**Any Other Business** – Beverley Howes reported that the letter box in Wyfordby has been stolen. Frances Waberski is to write to the Post Office to ask if a replacement could be installed.

Frances Waberski is to email customer services about the poor quality of repairs to the road in Wyfordby.

James Brown informed the meeting that the B676 will be closed in a few months time for a period of 6 – 8 weeks as the culvert over the Freeby Brook is due to be repaired. Frances Waberski will try to set up a meeting to meet someone from LCC to agree the diversion route to avoid the chaos which arose last time the B676 was shut.

**Date of next meeting – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 pm.**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.