

KIRBY MUXLOE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.00 pm on

Thursday 1st December 2022

At Kirby Muxloe Parish Council, Station Road, Kirby Muxloe

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors:	B Atkinson	N Beck	A Bruen
	R Ford	M Fox	C Frost
	J Johns	S Michaels	F Quilliam
	M Riley	W Wernick	

In Attendance: Parish Clerk
Members of Public – Four

COU/122/22-23 **Chairman's Welcome and to note a member's resignation**
The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and noted the resignation of Cllr J Stafford.

Cllr A Bruen joins

COU/123/22-23 **To receive apologies for absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Mulholland.

Apologies were also received from County Councillor N Chapman

COU/124/22-23 **To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests to any matter pertaining to the agenda and to consider dispensations**
Cllr C Frost declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Blaby District Councillor and a Non-Registerable Interest in Kirby Meadows, as did Cllrs J Johns, W Wernick and S Michaels, as a result of their neighbouring properties.

Cllr N Beck declared a pecuniary interest in The Byways, as a result of her neighbouring property.

COU/125/22-23 **To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2022**
PROPOSED by Cllr N Beck and SECONDED by Cllr F Quilliam

Further to placing the planting of additional trees on the agenda under COU/110/22-23, replacing Cllr F Quilliam with M Mulholland (COU/113/22-23ii) and changing 2022 to 2023 under COU/114/22-23, it

Chairman's Initials C. J.F.

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was **RESOLVED** that the minutes on the meeting held on 27th October are a true and accurate record.

COU/126/22-23

To receive a Report from Leicestershire County Council

It was noted that there was no further update to provide.

(Apologies were received from County Councillor N Chapman)

On behalf of Cllr N Chapman, it was noted that there is no update on the Highways Fund or the tarmacking at Kirby Meadows, due to communication being restricted to email only. However, enquiries can be made on LCC's website.

OU/127/22-23

To receive a Report from Blaby District Council

District Cllr C Frost advised that currently seven of the ten refuse vehicles at BDC have been converted to run on vegetable oil rather than diesel.

A Report regarding installation of solar panels on BDC's building shows the design of the building is not ideal

It was further noted that budgets are currently being considered and staff turnover is high at BDC.

COU/128/22-23

To receive a Newsletter from Leicestershire Police

It was noted that the November newsletter hadn't been received.

COU/129/22-23

Public Participation

(15 minutes are set aside for members of the public to raise issues and ask questions)

Members of the public questioned the number of Freedom of Information requests received, the cost incurred and why these are discussed in closed session, rather than public.

They were advised that over the past ten plus years, there had been in excess of two hundred Freedom of Information requests received, largely from one household within the village.

It was noted that the Clerk had never received a Freedom of Information request in her previous roles as Parish Clerk, which is not uncommon, and therefore this task, which has stringent response times, had to be outsourced to a Data Processing Consultant, which has been an additional expense to the Parish over the years.

The Accounts were also questioned, to which members were advised that these are initially audited by an Internal Auditor and then an External Auditor. It was advised that this tends to be when Objections to the Accounts are submitted by the household previously noted. As a result of

this action, there are currently seven years of accounts now outstanding with the External Auditor. The former External Auditor was charging around £200 per hour to consider the objections made, which has now almost doubled, since the appointment of a new External Auditor. The predicted cost for the outstanding seven years of accounts is around £145,000.

It was noted that such objections contributed to a Public Interest Report, which at this stage is likely to generate a further cost of approximately £11,000.

Council emphasised their frustration that public money was being utilised in this way, instead of benefitting the village and its residents.

Cllr A Bruen joins the meeting

It was noted that the Clerk has since gained Freedom of Information knowledge, which on average accounts for twenty per cent of her time each week.

It was questioned whether it would be helpful to invite the household to come into the office, to enable a discussion. Members of the public were advised that within the last seven years, the residents concerned had visited the office on one occasion and have never attended a Parish Council meeting.

It was noted that the Member of Parliament for Charnwood had been contacted regarding this ongoing issue, who responded recommending legal action.

The Freedom of Information request/response published on the website was questioned by the public, who were advised that attendees at the Public Interest Report meeting requested these should be published for the whole village to see. Following advice, redacted personal data within the Freedom of Information request/response was published, which is why these matters are addressed in closed session.

COU/130/22-23

Clerks Report

- i. **To verify all payments made since the previous meeting**
It was noted that since the previous meeting, total payments of £27,784.63 have been made, which were verified by members.
- ii. **To verify and authorise the Payments Schedule**
PROPOSED by Cllr C Frost and SECONDED by Cllr M Fox

It was **RESOLVED** that the Payments Schedule detailing net payments of £5297.59 be **APPROVED**.

Chairman's Initials C. J. F.

- iii. **To verify Bank Reconciliations**
The Bank Reconciliation as at 28th October 2022 was presented and verified.
- iv. **To verify Income and Expenditure to date**
The Income and Expenditure Report as at the end of October was verified by Members

COU/131/22-23

- To provide an update on**
- i. **The Byways, 11 Court Close, Kirby Muxloe**
It was noted that the Companies defect period is twelve months and therefore the warranty has expired
 - ii. **The Local Plan**
There was no further update
 - iii. **Barry Drive ‘Rat Run’**
There was no further update

COU/132/22-23

- To receive a report from**
- i. **Conservation Area Working Party**
It was suggested that BDC be informed of the three areas within Kirby Muxloe to assist with planning matters, but noted this would not be worthwhile until the application had been examined.
 - ii. **Events Working Party**
A Report was provided on the Christmas Lights Switch On event, which raised circa £250 for Menphys.

COU/133/22-23

- To receive a report from Representatives to Outside Bodies:**
- i. **Kirby Muxloe Village Hall**
It was noted that there was no further update
 - ii. **Kirby Muxloe Library and Community Hub**
A verbal Report was provided
 - iii. **Lubbesthorpe Impact Group**
A Report was provided on the meeting held on 22nd June 2022.

COU/134/22-23

- To appoint a keyholder**
PROPOSED by Cllr C Frost and SECONDED by Cllr W Wernick
- It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr S Michaels would temporarily be a key holder, until a key safe can be considered.

COU/135/22-23 **To appoint a member to the Planning Committee and Leisure, Parks and Cemetery Committee**
No new members were appointed to the Planning Committee or the Leisure, Parks and Cemetery Committee

COU/136/22-23 **To discuss and consider**
(Permission to be gained from Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground Charity, where required)

- i. **The Lawn Tennis Association's Play Initiative (including the introduction of an online booking/gate system and pricing)**
PROPOSED by Cllr A Bruen and SECONDED by Cllr C Frost

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the Lawn Tennis Association's Play Initiative (including the introduction of an online booking/gate system and pricing)

- ii. **The Proposed audit fee increase and funding outstanding external audit costs**

The article regarding audit fees was noted.

- iii. **The Local Government Pay Award**
PROPOSED by Cllr C Frost and SECONDED by Cllr F Quilliam

It was **RESOLVED** that staff (and those who had recently left employment) receive payment in accordance with the Local Pay Award

- iv. **The Replacement/removal of bin/s**
PROPOSED by Cllr C Frost and SECONDED by Cllr F Quilliam

It was **RESOLVED** that this item be budgeted for in 2023/24.

- v. **Purchasing replacement self-watering planters**
This matter was deferred to a future meeting.

- vi. **Developing a new website**
Photographs of the village which could appear on a new website were requested

- vii. **Glenfield Lane wildlife verge**
It was requested that yellow rattle be purchased for Glenfield Lane wildlife verge

It was **RESOLVED** that yellow rattle to the value of £20 be purchased.

- viii. **An issue with the heating system in the office**

This issue was noted and is to be resolved as soon as possible.

- ix. **Forming a Working Party/Committee for Kirby Meadows (14/0917/1/OX)**
PROPOSED by Cllr M Fox and SECONDED by Cllr F Quilliam

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllrs B Atkinson, C Frost, J Johns, S Michaels and W Wernick be appointed to Kirby Meadows Working Party.

- iv. **A request regarding re-turfing**
It was **AGREED** that the plot concerned is re-turfed without charge.

- v. **The preferred location of a bench and two planters**
It was **AGREED** that the bench be relocated on Desford Road.

COU/137/22-23

To receive a recommendation from the Leisure Parks and Cemetery Committee for maintenance within the Rose Garden
PROPOSED by Cllr C Frost and SECONDED by Cllr J Johns

It was **RESOLVED** that the recommended maintenance within the Rose Garden be undertaken and be budgeted for in 2023/24.

COU/138/22-23

To consider a draft budget for 2023/24
After some discussion, it was **AGREED** that this item be considered further at the next meeting.

COU/139/22-23

To note any other business
(This item should only be used to register future agenda items or items that are solely for information only. No issues requiring a decision or with a financial implication can be raised)

There was no other business

COU/140/22-23

To confirm the date and time of next meeting
The next meeting will be held on Thursday 12th January at 7 p.m.

PROPOSED FOR CLOSED SESSION

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and the Local Government Act 1972 ss100 and 102, members of the public and press are likely to be excluded from the meeting at this point due to the confidential nature of the business

PROPOSED by Cllr C Frost and SECONDED by Cllr F Quilliam

It was **RESOLVED** to move into closed session

COU/141/22-23 **To receive an update on Freedom of Information Requests and to discuss and consider associated matters**

An update was provided and a draft letter presented to members.

PROPOSED by Cllr M Fox and SECONDED by Cllr J Johns

After much discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the requested amendments be made prior to sending.

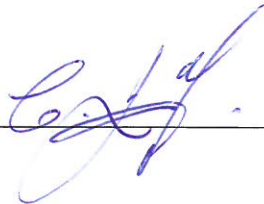
COU/142/22-23 **To receive an update on Staffing and to discuss and consider associated matters**

PROPOSED by Cllr F Quilliam and SECONDED by Cllr C Frost

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint the selected candidate as Assistant Clerk on salary scale LC1 13, which is to be reviewed in three months' time.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:50 p.m.

Chairman's Signature _____



Date _____

9/2/2023

Chairman's Initials _____