

**Whatton in the Vale Parish Council**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday April 24, 2018, at the Jubilee Hall, Whatton in the Vale at 7.30pm**

Coun. Chris Grocock (Chairman) (A)

Ray Evans (A) Chris Edwardson

Jane Morris Julia Faulconbridge Gregg Redford

Also present clerk Mike Elliott, and Notts County Council member Coun. Francis Purdon-Horan.

Coun. Gregg Redford was elected chairman of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, Couns Chris Grocock, Ray Evans
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were none
3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 27, 2018 were accepted as circulated and signed by the chairman
4. OPEN SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC  
There were no members of the public present

5. CLERK'S REPORT

The clerk said Rushcliffe Borough Council had been aware of the removal of trees from the Cherry Trees property on Old Grantham Road and had given permission for the felling that had taken place.

Coun. Edwardson said there had not been an organised litter pick but the water course that was to be the target was clear and it seems the recent heavy rain storms had washed away most of the rubbish that had been there.

6. REPORT FROM THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER  
There was nothing to report.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

David and Lynne McCall wrote in respect of the position for the Neighbourhood Plan. The chairman said it needed at least ten people to join the inaugural group to make progress viable. Tess Bennett wrote in respect of the poor condition of the road surface on Beverleys Avenue. The clerk was asked to write again and press for action on repairs.

Jim Freeman Notts County Council wrote in respect of road repairs that were planned for the parish. The council chairman Coun. Grocock wrote to echo his concerns on the condition of the roads. NALC advised that the Section 137 expenditure limit for 2018-19 was £7.86 per elector. Notts CPRE wrote regarding the Harry Johnson award scheme for 2018 which exemplifies enlightened restorations. The council did not have any examples to put forward.

Coun. Redford had written to the clerk in respect of the Asset List and said it needed to have the information boards and the flagpole added to it.

It was agreed to order a further 20 of the large red [poppies the Royal British Legion were asking to be displayed in villages.

8. PLAYING FIELD

A report of a damage tree on the Playing Field would be investigated by Coun. Edwardson following a suggestion the tree in question could be a danger.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

There were no applications or decisions and no items were raised.

10. FOOTPATHS

The chairman said there was nothing further to his report presented at the previous meeting.

11. FINANCE

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT were approved as per the circulated list.

DATA PROTECTION The clerk said he was continuing to make the necessary arrangements to ensure the council was compliant with the new Act. The Data Protection Officer (DPO) was preparing a Retention Policy which the council would need to adhere to.

12. ENVIRONMENT

It was agreed to organise a meeting to allow residents to raise matters involving damaged roadside verges – particularly in the Conservation Area – and the condition of roads in the parish. The meeting would be on a Saturday morning at 10-30am and the clerk was to check on the availability of the Jubilee Hall in late May and June. Coffee and biscuits would be served.

13. QUEEN'S WOOD

Coun. Julia Faulconbridge presented a report prepared by her son James on possible future plans for the Wood which members approved in full, adding their appreciation to Mr Faulconbridge for what they felt was a superb report.

In respect of Grassland, the report said the current character is semi-improved tussocky grassland with the nutrient content meaning grasses such as false oat and cock's foot with lots of dandelion and similar exist. To improve the wildlife interest and value of this grassland management needed to concentrate on reduction of nutrient status, best achieved initially by intensive cutting - once a month perhaps over the course of a year. The absolute critical element to this working however is removal of arisings offsite - otherwise it makes it worse.

In respect of Pond and Mounds Mr Faulconbridge said three actions which could be taken together would be to break out the concrete and retain at least some of the rubble to construct hibernacula. A shallow pit could be dug to pile it in and then mound it up to around 1-2m high. Overtop with subsoil from the pond construction to produce a banked refugia/hibernacula which would be used by amphibians and small mammals for shelter and hibernation as well as a south-facing bank to create nesting sites for bees and similar. The use of subsoil should give an instant low-nutrient growing medium so over sowing this with some wildflower mix should give an existing grassland in a much shorter timeframe.

There is a bit of the site in the middle which clearly holds water in the winter, this would be a good spot for a pond.

The report suggested an aim to maintain the current extents of bramble but to look at diversifying it. The site would obviously in time develop into a woodland, but for the next 10-15 years it will have much more of a meadow character, so the suggested management should maximise this value in the short term. Once the trees do develop, the composition of the species underneath will shift but they should have developed an interesting assemblage which can adapt and maintain interest as an understorey and woodland-edge meadow.

It was agreed that the approved report be forward to Mr Gwynne Owen for his information.

The question of interpretation boards for the Wood was approved.

14. NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

The letter and form outlining the current position was currently being delivered door to door with the latest issue of the Newsletter.

15. WW1 COMMEMORATION

Couns. Morris and Edwardson agreed to visit the British Gypsum site at Newark to view a piece of rock which the company were prepared to give and deliver free. The council agreed to make a £300 donation to the company's partnership charity fund. The clerk was to contact Mrs Audrey Newton regarding flag flying days in the village and to ascertain if she wished to continue to have the responsibility.

15. CASUAL VACANCY The Vacancy were still being advertised.

16. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING MAY 4, 2018 (annual meeting of the parish council and annual Parish Meeting). The WW1 event was to be a continuing item.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9,25pm.

