

BICKER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26th July 2016 at the Methodist Church Hall.

PRESENTATION FROM BBC

Steve Lumb from BBC giving details of the proposed transformation programme the Borough is putting in place in order as they will have a funding gap of £2.2m by 2020 and cannot increase Council tax by more than 2%/£5 per annum. Although 6 points to achieve this only one affects Parish Council – reduce spending by cutting services. 3 main schemes, footway lighting, maintaining open spaces, maintaining closed churchyard and passing on election costs to Parish Council's. (This would be if a Parish Election was called not a contribution to BBC elections)

Potential options.

- Stop providing the service.
- Pay the Borough to keep providing the service.
- Parish Council take responsibility of services.

If the Parish Council is not prepared to take option 2 or 3 the lights will be turned off of an evening. There is the opportunity to switch off certain columns in the village if the Parish Council felt there were appropriate areas that would not have a safety issue. Original information was incorrect as it was stated they maintained our playing field and churchyard. Revised figures received showing Bicker has 77 footway lights, with an annual maintenance cost of £1052 and an electricity cost of £2277. This figure does not include replacement columns which the Borough has estimated an additional annual provision of £7564 is required by the Parish. Coun Chapman had previously asked for a breakdown of figures, to be sure the Parish Council contribution is correct. Steve had attended with the same figures from the presentation in Boston, so asked to ascertain correct figures. The only decision made by the whole Council was they were not prepared to take over footway lighting and if replacements were required, funding would be discussed on an as and when required. When costs confirmed the Parish Council may be prepared to take on maintenance and electricity costs.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Bowler, despite requests from Boston Borough Council regarding the expansion to the sub-station, no responses received, also advising public presentations for cable route. Triton Knoll – advising Statkraft are pulling out their 50% support.

Present Cllr Chapman
Cllr Adshead
Cllr Barnes
Cllr Benjamin
Cllr Carrott
Cllr Kelly
Cllr Pell
PCSO Williams &
& 2 members of the public.
Steve Lumb from Boston Borough Council

APOLOGIES – Borough Councillor Cooper.

POLICE REPORT – criminal damage in Donington Road, stone through window.

NOTES OF LAST MEETING – Were signed as a true copy, to become minutes.
Proposed Coun Cllr Carrott seconded Coun Cllr Chapman.

SUBSTATION UPDATE

No further updates.

ALLOTMENT UPDATE

Car has been removed but rubbish still there. Coun Chapman had visited the tenant and told him to remove it all.

Update- Coun Chapman has had 2 meetings, Allotment Society pleased Councillor now involved. Plots marked now at front, markers for back being made. Main issue at present is the unused overgrown allotments.

FINANCE REPORT

COUNCIL PAYMENT AUTHORISED APRIL			
	CLERK	WAGES/EXPS/BT	380.00
	SOUTH LINCS SAW MILLS	ROUNABOUT REPAIRS	475.00

Approve payments

Prop Coun Chapman seconded Coun Carrott.

Clerk to organise new mandate as only 2 signatories at present.

MEMBERS REPORTS –

Coun Benjamin – Broken barge boarding ForeLane/Back Lane

Coun Pell – Bicker sign in state of disrepair. Small triangle of verge in Morley Lane not being cut. Clerk to ask Chris Dawson to include.

CORRESPONDENCE -

Grant Thornton - received a certified Annual Return with no additional questions

Viking Link - public participation events regarding route corridors for cables

Planning land next to Ye Olde Red Lion and overhead wiring at Wind Farm.

South East Lincolnshire Local Plan showing 3 potential development sites in Bicker.

Coun Chapman declared a pecuniary interest.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 8th September 2016

Meeting closed at 8.35p.m.