

Belton in Rutland Parish Council

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Colin Gordon-Chairman

Sophie Turner - Clerk

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting to be held on the 4th December 2024 in Belton in Rutland Village Hall at 7:30 pm.

- 151/2024 Present
Colin Gordon (CG) Chair
Clare Farmer (CF)
Jane Thornalley (JT)
Steven Wilby (SW)
Pam Sellers (PS)
Sophie Turner (ST) Clerk
- 152/2024 Apologies
Matt Ahearne (MA)
- 153/2024 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest on items included in the Agenda.
None declared.
- 154/2024 To agree minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 November 2024.
Resolved to agree by all.
- 155/2024 Public session.
County Councillor Andrew Johnson attended and gave an overview of a new transport initiative where a demand based bus service (Call Connect Bus Service) would be available in Rutland, using 12 new electric minibuses. This would not replace the 747 bus service through Belton.
He also spoke of pending Government funding cuts to rural County Councils, whereas urban areas were likely to benefit from increased budgets. There were indications from the Government of big changes to how councils would be run, with smaller councils being abolished to form unity authorities.

Council Agenda

- 156/2024 Local government services pay agreement 2024/25- CG
In line with NALC guidelines wages, the clerk's hourly wage had increased from £12.63 to £13.26 (SCP 7). This took effect from April 2024, requiring back pay of 8 months to be remunerated. To allow for this increase it was proposed to approve up to £110 so payment could be made before Christmas.
Resolved to agree the increase in hourly rate for the clerk, also allowance of up to £110 for the back payment in line with this increase. Proposed and seconded.
Action – Clerk to calculate back payment due and implement new hourly rate.

- 157/2024 Bollard for War Memorial Update- SW

Payment for the bollard was awaited. CG mentioned that a complaint had been received about the cement used to repair the surrounding wall's top stones. It was confirmed that the memorial's surrounding wall is not listed. Special quick set cement had been recommended, as lime and mortar had been proven not strong enough after several similar repairs caused by careless drivers.

158/2024 Salt Bin quote for replacement Littleworth Lane – CF

A quote of £585.87 (including VAT) had been received from Highways to replace and refill the damaged salt grit bin at the junction of Littleworth lane, Nether Street and Main Street.

It was resolved to agree on the replacement cost. Proposed and seconded
Action – Clerk to contact Highways with confirmation.

159/2024 LRR Community Response Plan – CG

CG referred to the RCC Liaison Meeting for PCs where “LLR Prepared” had given a presentation on the Community Response Plan project. Its aim was to increase resilience at all levels by anticipating what risks each community might face and identifying resources available. Each PC in Rutland had been invited to draft their own plan.

CG had already circulated the LLR Prepared paper, which presented a large list of risks to consider and how to respond in the event of an emergency, particularly if normal first responders such as ambulances, police or the fire service were overloaded or could not reach the village. The meeting agreed that the most likely risk was being cut off either by snow, floods or fallen trees. The meeting also agreed that the village had coped well through the pandemic which could form a basis for any future Community Response Plan.

CG therefore suggested that each PC member compile a list of those households who might be vulnerable and who could support them. JT would take Goughs Lane and adjoining closes. MA is requested take the Belton House mews cottages and Coach House. CF would cover Littleworth Lane and Nether Street to the War Memorial. PS would cover College Farm Lane and Loddington Lane. SW would take New Lane and Back Lane. CG would take Lambley Lodge Road, Chapel Street, Church Street and Main Street. It was agreed that the proposed plan would be discussed further at the next PC meeting on 15 Jan. A simple format could be as follows:

Potential Vulnerable Households	Possible supporter(s)
Name, address and number in household	

160/2024 Setting Precept and Budget for 2025-26 – SW

SW gave the meeting an overview of the PC's finances. The precept had been increased to £9316 for 2023/24 as the cost of insurance had increased and street lighting costs were very high. However, over the course of 2024 there had been an unexpected increase in income from cemetery fees and a VAT refund. He predicted £2000 would be left over at the end of the year. There had also been no demands from any village causes. As a result, SW proposed keeping the precept the same for the next financial year 2025/26.

Resolved to agree, propose and second.

Action – Clerk to notify RCC of intention to keep Precept at £9316.

161/2024 PAYE – CF

CF had a payment process document which had been shared. Our Clerk would continue to submit timesheets and now complete payslips as recommended in the audit. Payments would be submitted by the Clerk to the bank with approval from two councillor signatories.

Resolved to agree the new payment process.

162/2024 Lloyds Bank Charges – SW

Lloyds Bank was changing the treasurer account to a normal business account from January 2024. Each account would now be subject to a monthly £4.25 fee. The interest on our savings had been a welcome source of income but would now be diminished by the new charges. SW felt other accounts should be investigated.

Action – SW to look into charges and authorisation protocols available from other bank providers.

163/2024 20mph Speed limit review – CG

CG briefed the meeting following the LLR Police Commissioner's contribution to the RRC Liaison Meeting on 4 November. One point he had made was 20 mph limits were regarded as guidance only and police would not normally act against offenders. Other options such as cobbling an area of road were discussed or erecting '20's plenty' signs instead.

Action – CG research costs of implementing '20's plenty' signs.

Planning – Applications

164/2024 2024/1328/FUL PROPOSAL: Replace existing covered storage area to rear with a new garden room structure. Relocation of oil tank in garden. 11 Church Street
Deadline for comments- 18th December.

No issues raised.

Planning – Decisions

165/2024 2024/0427/CAT - PROPOSAL: T1, 1 no. Holly to be reduced by 2.5 meters in height. LOCATION: 18 Main Street. No (TPO) restrictions imposed by RCC. 20th November

Finance

166/2024 Financial Report – SW

Funds in bank account reconciled		26-Nov-24	
Funds B/F	£ 28,937.43		
Acc Receipts total	£ 10,556.08		
Acc Payments total	£ 4,626.29		
Bank Current Account	£ 1,230.95		
Bank Savings Account	£ 33,892.95		
Acc Total	£ 35,123.90		
Bank	£ 35,123.90		
Reconcile Delta	£ -		
PC Ring Fenced		Used Total	This FY
Village hall	£ 8,044.00	1456	
Reserved for election	£ 1,000.00		
CIL	£ 1,929.00	3066	
Church Clock maintenance	£154.75		25.25
	Total	4522	25.25
	PC Reserves		
	£ 24,150.90		
Precept (minus Payments + Ring Fenced to date)	£ 4,714.96		

167/2024 Payments: To be authorised
 Clerk Payslip - £321.55 + £110 for back payment.
 Salt Bin replacement- Littleworth Lane - £465.73 +VAT (£93.14) = £558.87
 RCC Street Lighting 24/25 – £702.02
 Church Vestry hire fee and Defib electricity charge;
 for 2023 - £150.83, 2024 - £ 160.93 and for 2025 - £163.65.
 Totalling - £475.41

Resolved to agree the cost of the invoices, proposed and seconded.

168/2024 Receipts:
 Interest on savings - £30.62

169/2024 Business to be taken forward

- Resilience Plan
- 20mph
- Start preparing for the next audit; check on points raised and review of SOPs.

End of Business

Meeting finished at 20.31 pm

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 15th January.