



# South Leverton Parish Council

## Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the **Meeting of South Leverton Parish Council** held on the 19<sup>th</sup> Jul 2022 at South Leverton Memorial Institute, the meeting commenced at 6:00pm.

**Council Members & Officer Present:**

Cllr Pete Beeston	Chairman
Cllr Agi Tomlinson	Vice-Chair
Cllr Andy Hardie	Cllr Catherine Hoyle
Ed Knox	Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

**Also, Present**

County Cllr John Ogle
0 Members of the Public

41/22 To Approve Apologies for Absence

After discussion, Cllr Tomlinson **Proposed**, Cllr Hardie **Seconded** that the Council **approved** the apologies of Cllrs Styring, Chambers and Buckland.

42/22 To Record Declarations of Interest in any items to be discussed

None.

43/22 To Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting

After discussion, Cllr Tomlinson **Proposed**, Cllr Hardie **Seconded** that the minutes be approved and the council **resolved** to accept the minutes. The chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true and accurate record.

44/22 To Receive District & County Councillors Reports

**Dist Cllr Coultate:** Due to the extreme heat, and a reduced meeting time tonight, Cllr Coultate emailed the following report:

- The Council will have a new leader. Not known at moment but Simon Greaves has resigned.
- I have chased up a joint response from all local councils regarding the DSA proposed closure via the Ch Exec.
- EDF will be holding a session about where they are with Cottam in early autumn.
- 190 bus - I have chased up Notts CC several times (also via John Ogle) requesting an urgent update on the new provider.

**County Cllr Ogle:** Gave an update on the Roosevelt Scholarship programme for Nottinghamshire and discussed various Highways matters with the Council.

➤ Adjournment for 10 minute - Public Forum

None.

45/22 Finance:

Monthly Income & Expenditure

After discussion of the financial information circulated by email before the meeting, Cllr Hoyle **Proposed**, Cllr Hardie **Seconded** and the council the council **resolved** to accept them as a true and accurate record. Direct Debits, and Standing Orders for staff salaries including PAYE, all **approved** unanimously.

1. To Approve Payments:

The Council **approved** the following: -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
24/7 Locksmiths	Noticeboard Lock Change & Keys	£108.00
Cllr Tomlinson	Sunrise Plants – Parish Planters	£36.00
Parcelforce	Minutes to Binding Company	£8.95
Parcelforce	Minute books to County Archives	£20.90
ASDA	Paper	£4.95
Cloudnext	Clerk Email Domain Name & Hosting Renewal	£119.98
The Sign Shed Ltd	Burial Ground Signage	£32.69

Royal British Legion	Lamppost Events Poppies x 30	£90.00
Helix Binders Ltd	Minute Book Binding	£44.60
Holmes Groundcare	Burial Ground & Millennium Corner Grass Cuts June	£244.59
S.Ashworth Diggers	Burial Ground Remedial Works, Paths, Wall, Spoil Heap, etc	£986.00
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b><u>£1,696.66</u></b>

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Unity Bank	Interest	£4.93
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b><u>£4.93</u></b>
<u>Bank Balances</u>		
The Current Account Balance		<b><u>£8,507.90#</u></b>
The Deposit Account Balance		<b><u>£5,712.04</u></b>
<b># £250 Ringfenced for Village Gateway's Project</b>		

46/22 To Progress Work at the Burial Ground

S.Ashworth Diggers has been instructed to remove/cap off the old water pipe, install the welcome signage, repair and repoint the memorial wall of remembrance, remove the old spoil heap/clay/weeds in the north east corner of the burial ground, remove any concrete debris from the former paths and back fill and level to ground level new top soil. This work is now complete and Ashworth's have recently returned to site to install the new Welcome Sign. The Litter Picker has been instructed to keep the burial ground clear of any litter and ensure the bin is emptied on a regular basis. The Lengthsman has been instructed to keep all the benches free from weeds and brambles and to weed and hoe the cremation area and the new topsoil of the former paths to keep it in good stead ready for Cllr Tomlinson's grass seeds to be put down in September. A 2<sup>nd</sup> bonfire pile has built up and needs burning so that S.Ashworth Diggers can return to prepare that patch for seeding. After discussion, the Council **resolved** that Cllr Hardie arranges to burn the pile as soon as the hot weather has passed. Cllr Hardie advised he will be removing the remains of the wall that was next to the shed and the piles of stones/broken slabs that are next to the recent urn interment. Cllr Hardie will also over the summer use the remainder of the yew trees to form a small hedge that will partially hide the spoil heap. After further discussion, the Council **resolved** that a contractor will be employed to undertake an annual hedge cut/trim after bird nesting season ends and that, depending on growth speed, weekly grass cuts will be undertaken in 2023/24 onward. The Clerk will look to obtain costs to include these for the budget.

47/22 To Progress the Possibility of a Parish Council Playground

There had still been no responses from the leaflet drop calling for land for a playpark. Cllr Tomlinson will be meeting with the school in due course. Cllrs to asked around the village to try and ascertain who the owner of the former Cricket Pitch, to be told a name of someone who lives at Treeton near Rotherham, however, we don't have any contact number for them. is so that they can be approached to ask to consider a small corner of this as a potential play area. Cllrs will continue to try to find and approach local landowners.

48/22 To Receive an update from Cllrs site meeting with Notts County Council Highways Manager

Cllr Beeston has been in touch with the Highways manager to try and pursue the items in the 2018 feasibility study but received unsatisfactory responses on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2022, as follows:

- **Extension of the 30mph zone** on Meeting House Lane: *"The 30mph zone currently ends at the eastern boundary of 'Fairholme'. This leaves 4 properties in the derestricted section at the point where Meeting House Lane narrows to a single car width, so any alteration would only benefit relatively few residents."* 12.07.2022 the Highways Manager advised: *"County Council have rejected the request because it only benefits very few residents and no accidents on record. However, the County Council Local Transport Plans & Programme team will look at this location along with a large number of similar requests from other parishes throughout Nottinghamshire. Should they decide that this area warrants altering I will keep you updated."*
- **Extension of the 30mph zone** along Cottam Road as far as Holmleigh: *"For this type of request (and including Meeting House Lane) we check accident data as areas are prioritised where there is a concern noted over the number of accidents for a specific road. This ensures our resources are used as effectively as possible in the areas where it is most needed. For these roads, thankfully there are no accidents recorded. Therefore, we are unable to pursue your request for alterations to the speed limit at these locations. I hope this is of use to you although I understand I've not provided the response you were hoping for."* 12.07.2022 the Highways Manager advised: *"Accident Data does not support/warrant the change of the 30mph zone therefore the request to Notts CC has been rejected. However, the County Council Local Transport Plans & Programme team will look at this location along with a large number of similar requests from other parishes throughout Nottinghamshire. Should they decide that this area warrants altering I will keep you updated."*

- **White Lining refreshment** on Retford Road, Church Street, and Treswell Road: *“I will look at the areas which need renewing and will update you on these”* Clerk chased again on 7<sup>th</sup> July for an update. 12.07.2022 the Highways Manager advised: *“I did look at the white lining for Retford Road, Church Street and Treswell Road. I have requested that Retford Road be renewed and that Church Street and Treswell Road also be looked at and renewed if considered necessary.”*

Since the site meeting earlier this year, Cllr Beeston has also taken up the following additional items with the Highways Manager with no response to the timescales involved:

- **Ref CSC410145596 – Treswell Road High Friction Red Surfacing** with the 30mph painted roundel to be refreshed: *No response received other than the highways manager has forgotten that they promised to have this done on a site visit and wrote back “Could you provide any information/email confirming that the High Friction Red surfacing on Treswell Road will be renewed in 22/23 as I can’t find any details for this.”* Update 24.03.2022 from the Highways Manager *“I have contacted the officer dealing with the renewal of the high friction surfacing and 30 marking on Treswell Road and this is to be carried out in April, although he is unable to provide a specific date.”* 17.05.2022 Cllrs confirmed the work was still outstanding. Clerk chased again on 7<sup>th</sup> July for an update. 12.07.2022 the Highways Manager advised: *“The high friction surfacing has not been carried out. Unfortunately, the funding for this type of work is now not available and no more replacements of this type of surfacing will be carried out in Nottinghamshire unless a carriageway resurfacing scheme is undertaken. However, as this has been promised previously, we will pay for this to be carried out this time, which isn’t normally the case. However, please be aware that this is an exceptional instance and isn’t something we can repeat elsewhere.”*
- **Interactive Speed Signs on Treswell Road and Retford Road** – Request these are moved to better locations on these roads: *“Church Street, South Leverton – The existing sign, installed in April 2011, is positioned on the west side of Church Street facing the oncoming traffic and due to the topography of the road is located at the first position where there is 100m of forward visibility to the sign. The sign could be located on the east side of the road approximately 100m from the 30mph signs (outside the electricity substation) and there is an adjacent lighting column for a power supply. However, it is considered there will be little benefit in moving the sign at Church Street in South Leverton and it may even be less effective due to moving to the opposite side of the road. Possibly the initial query was raised by the parish council as the sign was not activating correctly. We did arrange for the sign to be checked and it is now activating at approximately 100m distance. Therefore, this is now considered to be operating effectively. With regard to the Retford Road sign, I’m not aware there is an issue with this one, I’ll check its positioning when I’m next on site in that area”* Clerk Chased again 7<sup>th</sup> July to challenge the decision and requested that the Highways Manager phones the Chairman to discuss the matter further. On 12.07.2022 the Highways Manager made no further comment on the matter of relocating the speed signs. 19.07.2022 After discussion with County Cllr Ogle, the Council **resolved** to challenge the County Council regards the relocation of Treswell Road speed sign, the Council agreed that the opposite side of the road, outside the substation would be a more beneficial location for the sign, not due to 100m distance recognition, but due to the fact that it will alert drivers leaving the village.

At the March 2022 meeting County Cllr Ogle agreed to help escalate the above issues with the County Council. No response received following escalation. At the May 2022 meeting the Council **resolved 1)** to agree with the County Council that the speed limit on Station Road around the school should remain the same but wished to continue to pursue all the other items listed. **2)** The clerk to escalate the matter to the County Cllr, County Highways Manager and to the Local MP.

The Local MP replied on 19.05.2022 to sympathise, but to say it is not their remit to get involved with and the matter is for the County Council Highways Manager and for County Cllr Ogle to deal with.

- **Village Gateways**

The Clerk has submitted part 2 of the 50% funding request for the following items from Notts County Council Local Communities Fund (NCCIG):

Glasdon UK Ltd	£5,086.68
S Ashworth	£2,268.75
Sub-Total	£7,355.43
NCCCIG	-£3,677.71
Dist Cllrs Grant	-£250

**Total** **£3,677.72**

The Council will be notified later this summer on the outcome of the grant, if successful, the Clerk will apply for a further District Cllrs Grant of £300 and £500 from the County Councillors Grant scheme to reduce the cost to the Parish Council to £2,877.72

Clerk chased the Local Improvement Grant team on 7<sup>th</sup> July for an update on the outcome of funding who advised that the application goes before the County Council cabinet on 18th July, followed by a 5 working day cooling off period, the PC should hear by early August if 50% funding was successful.

- **Footpath No 31 walking north from Broad Lane, at the side of Catchwater Drain**

This issue has been reported several times to County Council. Walking through the first field from the road, you cannot proceed further because the style/kissing gate was removed by network rail. In June 2019 the Previous Footpaths Officer at County Council advised *"I have contacted Network Rail about South Leverton Footpath No31. This is the path that crosses the railway line (line no longer in use was for Cottam power Stn). I will give you a further update when I can."* No further update has been received. The kissing gates and styles were removed by Network rail several years ago who were doing repair works on the line, which is now redundant railway line. They never reinstated them, if you walk up to the edge of the line, you can go no further, a post points you north, there's no gate, no access. Some walkers who are brave have climbed onto and over the barbed wire fence and scrambled through the vegetation which is not acceptable form of access. Please investigate and arrange for the access styles/gates to be reinserted. On 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug 2021 the current Rights of Way Officer has advised *"Unfortunately this is still unresolved despite negotiations with Network Rail. My colleague at NCC RoW team, is dealing with NR and I understand he has spoken with the member of the public earlier in the year with an update. If any progress is made, I will let you know."*

On 8<sup>th</sup> Sept the Countryside Access Team Manager advised *"Thank you Councillor Ogle for the email regarding FP31. Discussions are taking place with Network Rail and we hope to be in a position shortly to open the path across the former Power Station Railway line. I will be back in touch."*

On 1<sup>st</sup> December the Countryside Access Team Manager advised *"I'm meeting Network Rail on 13th December 2021. We will be looking at what needs to be done to open the crossing for pedestrians, and their Level Crossing Manager will also be undertaking a risk assessment. There will be a requirement to provide gates but we'll be in a better position after the meeting to assess what needs to be done by Network Rail to open up the path safely across the railway line."*

On 22<sup>nd</sup> December the Countryside Access Team Manager advised *"Network Rail were very positive about opening up the crossing. Two gates will be required and some steps to get up the embankment on either side of the crossing. Network Rail will also be putting decking down, to prevent trip hazards over the track and also to ensure no trip hazards on the vegetation growing up from the railway ballast. The Level Crossing Manager is arranging the work with colleagues and they recognise the need to get it open and available without further delay."*

At the January 2022 meeting, Cllr Hoyle advised that Network Rail vans were parked recently by the roadside near the area affected, the Clerk agreed to chase the Countryside Access Team Manager to see if work has started by Network Rail.

On 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 the Countryside Access Team Manager advised *"Thanks for letting me know about the activity, good to hear. I'm aware that NR have started pulling designs together for signage, gates, steps, vegetation clearance and decking. Rest assured they know the importance of getting the path open asap but also with NR they will ensure that this is done correctly and safely, and within the specifications of their Level Crossing Regulations 1997. I will make enquiries with them regarding their timescales for the physical works."*

The Clerk Chased the matter with the Countryside Access Team Manager & Countryside Access mailbox in February to be told by another member of staff that the Countryside Access Team Manager was on holiday and would reply in due course, they never replied and the Clerk chased again in March, no reply.

At the March 2022 meeting County Cllr Ogle suggested that the Clerk escalates the matter to Notts County Cllr Richard Butler, who replies on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022 as follows:

*"The County Council is in regular contact with Network Rail over the crossing. They are fully aware of their obligations to open the footpath across the railway line and to do this as soon as practicable. As you will be aware Officers have been on site with Network Rail and clarified the alignment and the requirements from the Highway Authority. Despite the delay, Network Rail are progressing with the opening of the crossing but they have to follow statutory procedures through the Office for Rail and Road.*

*I am informed that NR have produced a Scope of Works to provide surfacing, gates, steps and signs on the approaches to the crossing and they also have to provide decking over the railway tracks to ensure there are no trip hazards. Officers are also aware that they have had discussions with an adjacent landowner over the alignment of the crossing with regards to issues with the installation of steps and the decking on that side. All parties apologise for the delay but procedures and risk assessments have to be followed and the path should be open and available and be safe to use shortly."*

The Clerk chased Cllr Butler again on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2022 but received no reply. On 3<sup>rd</sup> May the Clerk chased County Cllr Ogle to help escalate the issue again. At the May 2022 meeting the Council **resolved** that the Clerk to continue to escalate the matter via the County Cllr and to also send the matter in as a complaint to Network Rail directly. Clerk complained to Network Rail Customer Services and also sent the complaint in writing to Network Rail complaints Dept on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020, no response at all was received, Clerk contacted the Ombudsman above Network Rail to be told that we must wait 40 working days before they can get involved. The 40 working days passed so the Clerk sent the complaint to the Ombudsman. On 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022 the Ombudsman stated that the nature of this complaint was outside their remit and they cannot help. The Clerk also emailed the Rights of Way Officer again about the matter on 11<sup>th</sup> July who has advised: *"I'd been in contact with Network Rail at a higher level and I note from my inbox, disappointingly there's no response. I will follow that up again now and also start the enforcement process with colleagues in Legal Services."*

- **Mobile Speed-watch Training:** Cllr Tomlinson advised several people have registered with PC Mitchell for the training programme and a request has also gone in for the Police to come out and undertake some speed checks, as yet no response to either the training or speed checks has been received.

49/22 To Approve a Staffing Matter

After discussion, Cllr Hoyle, **Proposed**, Cllr Tomlinson **Seconded** and the Council unanimously resolved that the Clerk will be enrolled into the Notts LGPS Pension Scheme with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> Sep 2022. **Action**, Chairman and Clerk to complete and submit the forms to Notts LGPS.

50/22 Closure of the Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 7:00pm.