



South Leverton Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the **Meeting of South Leverton Parish Council** held on the 22nd Nov 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
Cllr Dan Styring	Cllr Sam Chambers
Cllr Chris Buckland	

Also, Present

Ed Knox	Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
Ant Coultate	District Cllr
Will Wilson	Bassetlaw DC Lead Neighbourhood Planner (BDLNP)
Tom Gill	Bassetlaw DC NPP Officer
0 Members of the Public	

Queen Elizabeth II - Following the news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022, protocol and Section 243 of the Local Govt Act 1972 prevented the calling of a September meeting. A Book of Condolence was arranged at with the cooperation of the Village Hall committee at South Leverton Memorial Institute. A copy of the Proclamation of King Charles III was displayed in all the noticeboards in the parishes and a copy has been included as an appendix to this month's minutes.

51/22 To Approve Apologies for Absence
None.

52/22 To Record Declarations of Interest in any items to be discussed
None.

53/22 To Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting
After discussion, Cllr Chambers **Proposed**, Cllr Styring **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.

54/22 To Receive District & County Councillors Reports
Dist Cllr Coultate: Advised that the Speed Tube data reports from earlier this year can be obtained from the Highways Manager at the County Council. The Parish Council are invited to send representatives to attend the STEP Project meetings regards West Burton and the meetings regards the future of the Cottam Power Stn site. Cllr James Naish has now been appointed as the Leader of Bassetlaw District Council.

County Cllr Ogle: provided an update to the Council via email since the last meeting on the West Burton STEP Project and the Devolution Deal, which included:

- West Burton Site for Nuclear Fusion STEP: "STEP (Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production) is an ambitious Government Led programme to design and construct a prototype fusion power plant. The first example of its kind in the world.
Fusion power will provide a reliable and virtually limitless source of low carbon energy to meet expected increases in future energy demand.
Fusion power differs significantly from nuclear fission as it does not produce the same type of highly challenging wastes. The process is also safe. If any disturbance occurs, the plasma cools and within seconds the reaction stops. It's important to note that fusion energy will sit alongside renewable energy sources - such as wind and solar to create a diverse energy portfolio to serve the country's needs.
The process of building and operating the plant will be led by the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA). As a result, the UKAEA launched a nation-wide search to find a suitable site to build its new prototype STEP fusion power plant at the end of 2020.

A bid document for the West Burton A power station site was prepared by the County Council and its partners, due to the imminent closure of the coal fired power station. This is now expected to be after this winter, and will not affect the Fusion plans.

The West Burton bid focused on the site’s central location in the country and its close proximity to a wide range of complementary research and development and manufacturing facilities along with high-quality academic institutes. The West Burton site also provides a large amount of land which could be developed further to act as a wider campus for not only the fusion energy plant but training facilities and a range of complementary uses. The site has a direct rail connection and river access to enable people and goods to be moved to the site sustainably. The UKAEA made their final site recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy over the summer of 2022. The decision to select West Burton as the home of STEP was formally announced on 3rd October.

Benefits of STEP

The decision to make West Burton the home of STEP will bring massive long term economic benefits not only to the local area but to the region as a whole. This will be in the construction of the power plant, research and development activities and the supply chain as a whole. Training opportunities in high skilled areas will also be significantly boosted.

- The construction and operation of the fusion power plant will employ a significant number of people. Nuclear power plants (of a similar scale) employ between 500 to 100 people and during the construction process can swell to 3500 workers or more at the peak.
- Research into fusion energy shows it is creating 4000 jobs annually (direct employment and related activities)
- Supply chain – the UK already has a thriving private sector fusion industry and a significant proportion of this is in our region. The STEP project will reinforce and expand on this.
- The UKAEA are planning to build and invest in training facilities in the local area which will give local people the opportunity to gain training and, ultimately, highly skilled jobs.

Process Going Forward

Given the recent announcement, the timescales/process going forward is still being developed. However, it is important to note that the UKAEA are placing a great deal of importance on working with and consulting with the local communities.

An initial public event will be taking place at West Burton power station on Thursday 6th October. However further public events will be taking place over the coming weeks at a variety of locations across Bassetlaw. The purpose of these events will enable the UKAEA to introduce themselves and provide information to local communities.

The UKAEA will still be required to undertake detailed site assessment work and the preparation of a full planning application as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project along with gaining all the necessary consents prior to any construction work taking place on the site.

- Expected future timescale

October 3rd 2022	Location of STEP site announced
2024	STEP concept design approved
2032	Detailed engineering design and all relevant permissions and consents to build the plant sought
2040	Fusion plant to begin operating

All questions from the public should be directed to communications@step.ukaea.uk

Devolution Deal for Nottinghamshire

The Devolution Deal for Nottinghamshire, the following report issued out by County recently: the Government confirmed that a £1.14 billion devolution deal is on offer for Nottinghamshire, Nottingham, Derby, and Derbyshire: £1.14 billion devolution deal for the East Midlands. More details about the deal are available on the website here: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/devolution-a-brighter-future-for-the-east-midlands :

Devolution: summary of the deal

The Government has confirmed that a £1.14 billion devolution deal is available for the East Midlands over the next 30 years. The deal covers Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, and Nottinghamshire. All four city and county council leaders have signed up to the deal.

The four councils will continue working together to develop details of the deal. Each council will take a report through their respective council meetings. There will also be a public consultation later this year to ensure that the voice of residents, businesses and partners is fully heard.

After the deal is confirmed there will be opportunities to build and enhance on it over time. There is a lot still to be agreed, and this is the beginning of the journey, not the end. We’re determined to build on this deal over time, as other

areas have done. The new mayoral combined county authority (MCCA) will be considered at future national government spending reviews.

Governance

- The two city and two county councils would be constituent authorities, who would each appoint two members to the combined authority – 8 members in total, plus the elected mayor.
- There would also be up to 8 non-constituent members, including up to 4 representatives from district and borough councils. The government requires the two city and two county councils and the mayor to have a majority on the governing group.
- The government expects emergency services, health, and business to be represented.
- The mayoral county combined authority (MCCA) could create committees which can include representatives from city, county, district, and borough councils, and other stakeholders.
- Audit and Scrutiny Committees will be set up.
- Some of the powers held by the MCCA and/or the mayor would be national government powers. Some would be powers already held by the city and county councils. There are no plans to give the MCCA/mayor any District or Borough Council powers.
- The four councils and other partners are working with the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to identify the best way to integrate the work of the LEP into the new combined authority.

Resources

- East Midlands Fund, including capital and revenue each year over a 30-year period.
- Capacity Funding in 2023-4 and 2024-5 to support the MCCA in early stages.
- Devolved Capital Funding in 2024/5 to support the building of new homes.
- Capacity funding to support the pipeline of housing sites.
- Further capital to support the delivery of shorter-term housing and net zero priorities.
- Capacity funding to support the preparation of Local Transport Plan.
- Responsible for devolved funding for projects within the Road Investment Strategy 2 (RIS2) and Levelling Up Fund (LUF) major capital programmes.
- Fully devolved Adult Education Budget.
- Power to borrow up to an agreed cap for non-transport functions.

New devolved functions and powers of the mayor and MCCA

- Designation of a Mayoral Development Area, with consent of relevant District and Borough Councils.
- Housing and land acquisition powers, housing supply, land development and regeneration, commercial space, and infrastructure, working closely with Homes England. Relevant District and Borough Council consent also needed where Homes England compulsory purchase powers are being exercised.
- Business rate supplement and option of a Council Tax precept to fund Mayoral functions are part of the framework, but no plans to use the precept as can be avoided by capacity funding.
- Power to draw up a local integrated transport plan and strategies, as well as bus franchising.
- Transport functions, including setting up and coordinating a Key Route Network, smart integrated ticketing, may run enhanced concessionary fares schemes.
- Work with national government and Great British Railways to ensure Integrated Rail Plan, including HS2, Midland Main Line electrification etc. maximise regeneration impacts.
- Economic development and regeneration.
- Adult education and skills. Supporting development of Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIP).
- Retrofit measures, clean heat coordination, and local energy plan, generating new jobs.
- Duty to take action to improve public health given to MCCA as well as constituent authorities.
- Work closely with Police and Crime Commissioners on public safety.
- Work with local partners on long-term governance model for fire and rescue services.
- Working with national government to explore initiatives to address homelessness, domestic abuse, community safety, social mobility, and support for young people.

Frequently asked questions and answers

Q) What is devolution?

A) Devolution is the transfer of powers and funding from national government to local government.

Q) What sort of devolution deal are we looking at in the East Midlands?

A) We are looking at a devolution deal to set up a combined authority. If the deal is approved by central government, it would create a new East Midlands Mayoral Combined Authority. This is known as a 'level deal'. Level 1 and level 2 deals offer considerably fewer transfers of powers and budget from central government.

A combined authority is a legal body created through national legislation that enables a group of two or more councils to collaborate and take collective decisions across council boundaries.

A combined authority is more than an informal partnership or even a joint committee. It empowers member councils to be more ambitious in their joint working, taking advantage of powers and resources devolved to them from national government.

Q) Why are we doing this?

A) We are doing this:

- to address underfunding in the East Midlands
- to focus spending on local priorities
- to work together across services and use local knowledge to get better value for money
- to bring in new investment, better training, and job opportunities, and upgraded and more connected public transport to the area
- to be more self-sufficient and have more responsibility for the future of the local area
- so that more major decisions can be taken by locally elected politicians who better understand local issues, and can be held to account more easily
- Ultimately, the reason we are doing this is to make sure that services across the region are the best they can be, for the benefit of our residents.

Q) What would happen to existing local councils in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire? Will they be merged, so they no longer exist?

A) We are not talking about merging councils together. If the devolution deal is successful, all local councils in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire - including Nottingham City and Derby City – will continue to exist, as they do now.

Q) What powers would councils lose if they became part of a combined authority?

A) None. This is about central government devolving powers to the region, not individual councils giving up power to the region. Local councils will continue to make the decisions over local issues.

Q) What would happen to local council services?

A) There will be no immediate changes to local council services if the devolution deal is agreed. In the longer term, some services might be delivered on a regional rather than local basis, if this is deemed more efficient or better value for money.

Q) Why would more local decision making be better?

A) Local decision making tends to result in better local economic performance, as policies are tailored to the needs of specific areas.

Local leaders often know and understand the areas much better than politicians and civil servants based in the capital, and their knowledge and experience can deliver what is appropriate and what will work for their region, especially when they work with nearby public and private sector partners.

Q) Why do we need an elected regional mayor?

A) One of the conditions for a level 3 deal, which offers the most local powers and funding, is having an elected mayor. The role of an elected regional mayor would be to look at major issues which affect our whole area, a prominent, accountable person who can look at the big picture and give the region more of a voice.

A mayor with a clear and direct mandate, strong accountability, and the power to make change happen, could be a powerful driving force for the East Midlands.

If approved, the mayor would work together with leaders of local councils to create a strategy for the wider area. This is a critical role, and it is essential that this person should be democratically accountable.

Local councils would still be responsible for most public services, such as waste management, schools, recreational facilities, and so forth. The mayor would focus on wider issues that span across the area, like transport, regeneration, and employment.

Q) What powers are you asking for in the devolution bid?

A) We are focussing on key areas including transport and infrastructure, business growth, inward investment, strategic regeneration, employment, employment skills, supporting young people's journey into adulthood, and community safety.

We believe that these are areas the entire region would benefit from, in terms of greater investment and more decision making at a local level.

Q) Isn't this just adding another layer of bureaucracy?

A) This isn't about adding a layer of unnecessary bureaucracy but moving resources and decision-making powers which already exist from London to the East Midlands and making all of this democratically accountable to the people who live here.

Devolution is mainly about strengthening regional arrangements. If a combined authority deal was approved, it would come with new wide scale powers not currently available at a local level.

These new powers would be exercised across the whole region, with the consent of local councils in our area. This is because they would add value by addressing issues like transport that benefit from being planned on a wider geographical basis.

Q) If devolution is about getting access to more funding, why couldn't we have that in the first place?

A) The East Midlands has long been overlooked, in comparison to other areas like the West Midlands and Greater Manchester in terms of government investment. Public spending per person is lowest in the East Midlands at £12,113 – 10% below the UK average.

The government has made it clear through their Levelling Up White Paper that they believe more local decision-making leads to better outcomes for communities, and so the greatest benefits are attached to devolution deals which include more local accountability.

Q) Will this mean a rise in Council Tax? Haven't the four main councils involved in this asked for powers to raise money through more Council Tax in their bid?

A) In our bid to the government, we have asked for everything that is potentially on offer, as we don't want to rule anything out at this early stage. We have included the power to raise money through Council Tax because it might be used at some point in the future.

Cllr Ogle also advised at the meeting:

- The Devolution Deal Sign was officially signed off at the end of August for the Combined County Authority. Mayoral Elections are planned for May 2024 and the 8-week public consultation has now begun by the online survey which is available here: www.eastmidlandsdevolution.co.uk/have-your-say Paper copies of the survey, and copies in other formats and languages, can be requested by emailing eastmidlandsdevolution@ipsos.com or calling 0800 260 0536.
- More information about devolution and the proposals for our area can be found at www.eastmidlandsdevolution.co.uk

➤ Adjournment for 10 minute - Public Forum

None.

55/22 Finance:

Monthly Income & Expenditure

After discussion of the financial information circulated by email before the meeting, Cllr Beeston **Proposed**, Cllr Tomlinson **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
Holmes Groundcare	Burial Ground & Millennium Corner Grass Cuts Sep	£123.29
S.Ashworth Diggers	Burial Ground Remedial Works, Paths, Wall, Spoil Heap, etc	£986.00
HM Land Registry	Land Search for PC Potential Playground Location	£3.00
Ryman	Noticeboard Pins	£5.40
Vantage Global Ltd	Replacement Parish Footpaths Map	£46.80
Cllr Beeston	Expenses for Condolence Book V Hall QE II	£52.66
Toparia Summits Ltd	Burial Ground Essential Tree Surgery & Hedge Cutting	£828.00
Gallagher Insurance Ltd	Insurance Renewal 2022	£369.32
Glasdon UK Ltd	Village Gateway Signs	£5,668.45
RBLI	Poppy Wreath	£20.00
Total Payments		£8,813.55

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Unity Bank	Interest	£4.93
Lincolnshire Co-op Funerals	Memorial Stone Plot 2	£120.00
Bassetlaw District Council	2 nd ½ Concurrent Grant	£7.00

Bassetlaw District Council	2 nd ½ Cemetery Grant	£102.00
Bassetlaw District Council	2 nd ½ Street Cleaning Grant	£192.50
Bassetlaw District Council	2 nd ½ Precept	£8,013
HMRC	VAT Rebate 2021/22	£1,361.06
Total Receipts		<u>£9,800.49</u>
<u>Bank Balances</u>		
The Current Account Balance		<u>£9,538.79#</u>
The Deposit Account Balance		<u>£5,712.04</u>
	# £2,268.75 Ringfenced for Village Gateway's Project	

56/22 To Discuss an Offer from Bassetlaw District Council

The BDLNP explained that Bassetlaw has chosen 4 parishes in the district (including South Leverton) to be part of their pilot scheme to deliver a Neighbourhood profile & Neighbourhood priorities statement, this isn't a Neighbourhood Plan, but a pilot scheme which can potentially assist the development of one, eventually in the future.

The Neighbourhood profile & Neighbourhood priorities statement doesn't require a steering group, all that is required is for the PC to accept Bassetlaw's offer for the pilot scheme, then Bassetlaw DC would set up an online digital platform (which they own and manage) and would be used to store all data relating to the Neighbourhood profile & Neighbourhood priorities statement, it would be publicly accessible so that anyone can access the information directly. They would also appoint a consultant to manage/run the creation of the Neighbourhood profile & priorities statement alongside the Planners at BDC.

The consultant and Planners would be the day-to-day point of contact for anyone, rather than the Parish Council, the consultant could (with the Neighbourhood Planning teams support where necessary) undertake all liaison/interaction/questions from the public. The Consultant would be paid for, together with all associated costs of the Neighbourhood profile & Neighbourhood priorities statement, by Bassetlaw Council directly (who have secured their own central Govt funding), there wouldn't be need for a 'call for sites' for land allocation for housing as the housing requirements for the parish has reduced and been met by the new homes on Retford Road.

The consultant would then arrange to book the village hall and hold any open event(s) as necessary, where anyone can attend and give their views, and the consultant would ask those attending their views and priorities for the future of the parish. Then the Consultant and/or Planners will liaise with local people directly, by either further open events as necessary at the hall, email, letters in the post or phone calls to either a designated phone number/address/email address and/or via the online digital platform.

The consultant would work with the data gathered from local people and Bassetlaw Neighbourhood Planning team to deliver the Neighbourhood profile & Neighbourhood priorities statement. Once completed, the people and parish council, can then be approached by the consultant and the Neighbourhood Plan team to ask, do you want stop there? or do you want to progress this further to proceed to make a full Neighbourhood Plan.

After discussion, Cllr Hardie **Proposed**, Cllr Hoyle **Seconded** and the Council unanimously **resolved** to accept the offer of South Leverton Civil Parish being part of the Bassetlaw District Council pilot scheme. The BDLNP will now progress to set up the online portal, and appoint their consultant to begin the process.

If the public have any questions about how this process will work, or would like a copy of the briefing note about the pilot scheme, they should contact Bassetlaw Council directly and rather than the Parish Council:

Bassetlaw DC Lead Neighbourhood Planner
 Neighbourhood Planning
 Bassetlaw District Council
 Queen's Buildings
 Potter Street
 Worksop
 Nottinghamshire
 S80 2AH
 E: neighbourhoodplanning@bassetlaw.gov.uk
 T: 01909 533 495

57/22 To Progress Work at the Burial Ground

A 2nd bonfire pile which built up has been burned since the summer, ready for seeding the patch in the Spring.

However, someone has started putting waste there again, approximately a wheelbarrow full. Cllr Hardie advised that he has also removed 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.

After discussion, the Council **resolved** that the Village Lengthsman and Litter Picker be asked to take away the small pile of rubbish. All that remains now to be done is to plant a few more Yew bushes and, in the Spring, grass seed the urn and former path areas again.

58/22 To Progress the Possibility of a Parish Council Playground

Since the last meeting, the Clerk contacted HM Land Registry to ascertain the owner of the former Cricket Pitch land, it is not someone in Treeton but a local resident in the Parish. After discussion, Cllr Tomlinson **agreed** to visit the owner before the next meeting to see if they are willing to lease a small section of the field.

59/22 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 1st 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."* 24.09.2022 the Highways Manager advised: *"As per my previous email Meeting House Lane and Cottam Road are still under review along with a number of similar requests in Notts."*
- **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."* 24.09.2022 the Highways Manager advised: *"As per my previous email Meeting House Lane and Cottam Road are still under review along with a number of similar requests in Notts."*
- **White Lining refreshment** on Retford Road, Church Street, and Treswell Road: 03.11.2022 the Highways Manager advised: *"I understand the white lining for South Leverton has now been completed" – Item Closed.*

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 2022, although he is unable to provide a specific date."* 17.05.2022 Cllrs confirmed the work was still outstanding. Clerk chased again on 7th 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."* Update 16.09.2022 from the Highways Manager *"The HFS renewal work is due to be carried out w/c 16 January 2023."*
- **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 7th 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. Update 16.09.2022 from the Highways Manager – **ITEM CLOSED** *I have consulted with my colleague, Steve Marston, Design Manager – Major Projects and Improvements, and we both visited Treswell Road/Church Street where the existing interactive sign is located. One of the issues with relocating the sign on the opposite side of the carriageway is that vehicles travelling south towards Treswell would obscure the vehicles travelling into South Leverton so it would not register vehicles coming into the village, whereas the current position only registers vehicles travelling into South Leverton. Also, road users are accustomed to signs being on the near side of the carriageway and such positioning is general practice. Therefore, the current position of the interactive is considered to be the most effective.”*

- **Village Gateways**

Following the receipt of the grant money from the County & District Council’s, the gateway signs have now been ordered, built and delivered to Ashworth Diggers, ready for installation. Cllr Beeston to contact Ashworth Diggers to advise the exact locations for installation, which was agreed with the Highways Manager at the County Council.

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

ITEM CLOSED – The footpath access was completed in November 2022.

- **Mobile Speed-watch Training:**

Cllr Tomlinson advised several people registered with local Police for the training programme, however, PC Mitchell has been off ill sometime and unable to move the Speedwatch training forward. PC John Dale has now advised that the Police have now changed their polices and no longer loan a Police speedgun and that local communities or Council’s to use. Any local groups wishing to undertake Speedwatch and the associated training must now purchase their own speedgun for approximately £500. After discussion, the Council **resolved** that the Clerk will look into and apply for any grants that there may be, failing this, the Council will look to fund the purchase of a speedgun in 2023.

60/22 To Discuss Potential Village Events throughout the year

Cllr Tomlinson advised the Christmas Trees will be delivered on Fri 2nd December with a view to erect and decorate them on Saturday 3rd December.

61/22 To pass a resolution to sign up to the civility and respect pledge & adopt the new Dignity at Work Policy

NALC, SLCC and One Voice Wales request that all Parish Councils consider signing up to the Civility and Respect Pledge demonstrating a commitment to standing up to poor behaviour across our sector. Even Councils who currently abide by the principles of Civility and Respect, it may not always be the case, you don’t know who might join the Council in the future and try to use bullying and harassment to achieve their goals – having considered this now and put in place the recommended policies and procedures, Councils are well prepared to nip such behaviours in the bud.

Council’s signing the pledge must update their policies and procedures by adopting the NALC Dignity and Work Policy. It is approved for use by both SLCC and NALC and focuses on challenging all inappropriate behaviour, rather than just bullying and harassment, having a zero-tolerance approach and the aim of dealing with concerns before they escalate. There is no place for bullying, harassment, and intimidation within our sector and signing up to the Civility and Respect Pledge is one of the ways a council can demonstrate that it is committed to standing up to poor behaviour across our sector, and to demonstrating positive changes which support civil and respectful conduct.

By signing the Pledge, the council is agreeing that it will treat councillors, clerks, employees, and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles, and that it:

- has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff
- has signed up to the Code of Conduct for councillors
- has good governance arrangements in place including staff contracts and a Dignity at Work policy
- will seek professional help at early stages should civility and respect issues arise
- will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens
- will continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model / champion council e.g., via Local Council Award Scheme
- supports the continued lobbying for change in legislation to support the civility and respect, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.

After discussion Cllr Hardie **Proposed**, Cllr Chambers **Seconded** and the Council **resolved** to sign the pledge and adopt the Dignity at Work Policy with immediate effect. A signed copy is included as an Appendix to these minutes.

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the following agenda item was closed the members of the public due so that the Council can discuss information which is relating to an individual for example

Contracts of employment, salaries, financial or personal business affairs of the individual. Minutes of the decisions made under this item will be open to the public.

62/22 To note Contractual National Cost of Living Pay Rises for staff members

After discussion, the Council **noted** the contents of the private & confidential appendix report detailing the contractual pay rises applicable from 1st Apr 2022.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 7:30pm.