

**MINUTES OF THE FINNINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL,
FINNINGLEY, ON TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2019 AT 7PM**

PRESENT: Cllrs R Johnson (Chairman), W Bedford, R Castle, J Clarke, J Hill and J Kong

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ward Councillors Steve and Jane Cox
50+ members of the public were also present

The Chairman advised the members of the public present that the Parish Council had been asked by a broadcaster if they could film tonight's proceedings and read out the following extract from Standing Orders:

The right to record, film and broadcast meetings of the council is established under the Openness of Local Government Regulations 2014. Persons wishing to record the council meeting should:

- a) *Not be disruptive in doing so, disruptive behaviour will be defined as any behaviour that distracts from the proper conduct of business;*
- b) *Not ask for statements or discussions to be repeated for the purpose of the recording;*
- c) *Not, at the meeting, add their own commentary to the recording;*
- d) *Get the necessary permissions to film other than members of the council present at the meeting.*

Where the press or public have been excluded from a meeting or part of a meeting based on the confidential nature of the business, recording of that meeting or part of the meeting is not permitted.

Members of the public questioned if they would get an opportunity to speak during the meeting and the Chairman advised that this would be at his discretion and with the agreement of the Parish Council.

The Chairman explained that an Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting was held 08/10 to consider the request that the Parish Council give credibility to a written petition (or petitions) submitted by residents regarding peafowl in the village and this had been agreed subject to the concerns noted. The Chairman also gave a brief overview of the history and action taken to date.

A member of the public spoke about the two written petitions in favour of retaining the current level of peafowl in the village and read out the figures below:-

Petition One

In favour of "no reduction" in the peafowl population – Finningley residents 222 and Blaxton residents 47

Petition Two

In favour of "leaving the peacocks alone" – Finningley Residents 264 and Blaxton residents 61

A lengthy discussion took place and several members of the public raised questions and expressed strong views in favour of keeping the peafowl.

One member of the public raised concerns regarding the number of near misses on the A614 caused by the peafowl.

A member of the public raised concern regarding dog fouling on the Playing Field and the Chairman advised that Mr. Roy Hattersley along with volunteers clear the Playing Fields every morning. The Chairman noted that the instances of dog fouling on the Playing Field has reduced and thanked the responsible dog owners in the village for picking up after their dogs.

A member of the public raised concern regarding parking around the Post Office and it was noted that this area comes under the remit of Blaxton Parish Council.

1. TO AGREE ITEMS TO WHICH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS SHOULD BE EXCLUDED UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETING) ACT 1960 - None

2. TO RECEIVE/ACCEPT APOLOGIES – All members present

3. DECLARATIONS OF OTHER INTERESTS AND ANY UPDATES TO EXISTING MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr R Johnson declared hospitality to the value of £22 (cost of the meal provided) as he was invited to attend the Doncaster Town Cricket Club annual awards ceremony as secretary of the Playing Fields Association (PFA). The PFA Chairman (who didn't attend) and Treasurer (who did attend) were also invited. Both attendees assisted with the prizegiving.

4. POLICING ISSUES

The Chairman advised that on a number of occasions the Parish Council has raised concern that the police reports provided do not reflect the incidents/criminal activity that has occurred in the village and it was noted that the Parish Council will continue to question this.

Cllr W Bedford reported that as part of Doorstep Crime Awareness Week Trading Standards officers had attended the Tuesday Club (15/10) to give advice to residents.

5. REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLORS/DMBC REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr W Bedford spoke to Ward Councillor Steve Cox about a review of the Conservation Area and Cllr Cox agreed to follow this up with DMBC.

Cllr J Cox advised that the DMBC Climate Change Commission will be consulting with Parish Councils on tackling climate change in the borough.

6. TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES RAISED UNDER PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members agreed that the only item raised under public participation was on the agenda (Item 10).

7. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 17.09.19

RESOLVED the minutes be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

8. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD 08.10.19

RESOLVED the minutes be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

9. MATTERS ARISING FROM ABOVE MEETING FOR INFORMATION/NOTING – None Raised

10. DISCUSSION ON ESTRADA REPORT

Review of report

The Chairman read out the following summary:-

The report is the start point. We commissioned it, on behalf of residents, in order to get more information about the peafowl population in the village. To summarise the main points:

- Population established as 22 in total (8 peacocks, 7 peahens, 7 juveniles).
- The males are territorial and currently centred in an area around the pond / village green, Manor Farm Court and Ashley Court.
- Females and juveniles "wander", they are observed in a wider area extending down Lindley Road, towards Bawtry Road, Chapel Lane, and the lower parts of Old Bawtry Road.
- No peafowl were recorded in the Blenheim Drive area of Old Bawtry Road, Lower Pastures, or Gatesbridge Park.
- In the view of the Ecologist, the numbers are sustainable in a village of our size and character; in fact the current number of 22 is below the carrying capacity of the village.
- As the population increases, which is stated as likely but not predicted, then the population will spread to areas that do not currently see them.
- Of the 54 people who contacted the Ecologist during the survey, 37 were in favour of keeping the peafowl, 13 were against, and 4 neutral (neither for nor against) but suggesting that population monitoring or a reduction in numbers may be appropriate.

Following the last meeting, aside from asking permission to publish the report on our website, the Council asked the Ecologist two further questions (shown below with the responses):

1. At present it would appear that the gene mix is reasonable but if the Parish Council choose option 9.2 "do nothing" could this lead to future problems with regards inbreeding?

As we don't know the history of the peafowl and whether they are from a different genetic pool this one is a little difficult to answer. If the existing population is not genetically related then in reality any negative effects from inbreeding are unlikely to occur. If they are genetically related, for example all males and females are from the same brood then any impacts from genetic inbreeding would be visible sooner.

2. 8.4.3 states that the current population of 22 individuals is below the carrying capacity of the village, what maximum number would you consider to be acceptable?

The habitat within the village is capable of supporting at least double the existing population based on the resources available within the wider village such a water sources, food sources and roost sites. Whether such an increase would be acceptable to the residents would be another matter?

Summary of correspondence received from residents

The Chairman advised that following the first Finningley Folk post urging people to contact the Parish Council we received +99 responses via various channels (Cllr J Hill, Chairman and clerk); all were eventually directed to the clerk.

On analysis there were multiple submissions by single individuals via the various channels and the actual number was 47 submissions (43 for and 4 against).

The clerk has acknowledged all the responses received, summarised the comments and circulated to members before the meeting.

The petitions received at the meeting also showed overwhelming support for keeping the peafowl in the village at their current level.

The Chairman read out the Parish Councils declared position as stated in the October 2014 and March 2019 newsletters as listed below:-

October 2014

"At the September Parish Council meeting we were presented with another petition in support of the peacocks, to add to the one presented in June. Both meetings were attended by a number of residents seeking reassurance that the peacocks will remain as part of our village life.

The Parish Council explained on both occasions that it is not responsible for, and neither does it have any jurisdiction over the peacocks. However, we do carry a responsibility to represent the views and opinions of residents. It is clear that there are more residents in favour of the peacocks remaining in the village than want them removed. Your Parish Council will therefore make those views known to the appropriate people should there be any attempt to remove peacocks from the village."

March 2019

"Our position is clear. We will do nothing unless there are a significant number of residents who feel that their number should be reduced or they should be removed. If that was the case, we would ensure that, under the Local Authority duty set out in the Animal Welfare Act 2006, any removal and relocation met with appropriate standards."

The Chairman also reiterated that the Parish Council has never had any intention to cull the peafowl.

Discussion & decision on any possible action

The Parish Council had a lengthy discussion regarding the present peafowl population, the possible potential future increase in numbers and the options put forward in the Estrada report.

Cllr W Bedford expressed concern that the number of complaints received by the Parish Council will increase as the peafowl population increase.

Cllr J Kong reiterated that the Parish Council have always maintained that they are not responsible for the peafowl and would do nothing unless a significant number of residents demonstrated that they should be reduced/removed so she was struggling to see how the Parish Council could change their position in light of the very strong feelings that have been demonstrated in favour of keeping the peafowl.

Councillor J Hill proposed that the Parish Council “do nothing” (option 9.2) and this was seconded by Councillor R Castle. A vote was taken and with a majority vote (4 votes for and 1 against) it was resolved to take no action.

RESOLVED to adopt the “do nothing” option (Option 9.2) as outlined in the Estrada Report received on 16th September 2019.

The Parish Council had a further lengthy discussion with regards to managing the peafowl population in the future and at what point the Parish Councils decision would be reconsidered.

Councillor J Hill proposed that the Parish Council should not reconsider this matter again for two years and after that time only if they receive a petition from a minimum of 15% of the total households in the village (approximately 112 households) asking that the peafowl population should be reviewed. This was seconded by Councillor J Kong and unanimously agreed.

It was also added that if such a request was made, the Parish Council would most likely commission another survey to establish the facts and options prior to considering at a meeting.

RESOLVED not to consider the matter of peafowl in the village for 2 years from the date of the meeting and thereafter only on receipt of a petition from a minimum of 15% of households in the village requesting a review.

RESOLVED following such a petition, to consider, as a first option, a survey and report similar to that conducted in 2019.

11. PARISH COUNCIL SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE UPDATE

Following the resolution at the Extra-Ordinary meeting held on 8th October 2019 to establish a Social Media presence, it was agreed to hold an informal meeting to discuss the future administration of the Parish Council social media site; details to be formally agreed at a future Parish Council meeting.

CLLRs R CASTLE & J KONG

12. DISCUSS SPEEDING CONCERNS/ENFORCEMENT

The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had received complaints about speeding on the A614 through the village and on Old Bawtry Road. It had contacted the police on a number of occasions to request that speed monitoring is carried out but so far, no response had been received. It would continue to work with Ward Councillors and SY Police to try and resolve resident’s concerns.

13. REPORT ON YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE PARK CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (15/10)

Cllr R Castle gave an overview of the meeting held on 15/10 as this was noted.

It was also noted that the Parish Council have previously raised concerns regarding traffic management and the relocation of the bus stop on Hurst Lane but no feedback has been received on this.

14. VILLAGE ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS

See Item 15

15. ISSUES RELATING TO JOINT PLAYING FIELD (Items 14 & 15 dealt with together)

The Chairman advised that the Officer Decision Record (ODR) has been sent out and is awaiting approval. This is necessary to approve the release of funds for the various projects.

The Chairman also spoke briefly about the Playing Fields and Village Enhancement Projects. He advised that, as previously approved by Council, the architect had been instructed to organise the necessary topological surveys and produce drawings for seating at Blenheim Drive & Chapel Lane and for walkway improvements around the pond.

When available the drawings will be presented to the Parish Council for review and approval prior to the commencement of the tendering process.

16. ISSUES RELATING TO VILLAGE HALL

Village Hall Management Committee Report

Cllr W Bedford reported that the Village Hall Committee AGM will be held on Monday 21st October.

Update on Replacement of Village Hall Noticeboards

The Chairman reiterated that DMBC had granted listed building consent for replacement of the existing Parish Council noticeboard and the addition of a second noticeboard for the display of Village Hall notices.

It was noted that the noticeboards have been ordered and will be delivered within the next few weeks.

17. POND ISSUES

Correspondence from Anglian Water Services – Revised Improvement Notice

The Chairman advised that Anglian Water had served an improvement notice on the Parish Council as both the hose union tap and the storage tank with a float operated valve are installed underground. Both the tap and the tank should be relocated above the ground. The water supply is currently turned off to these fittings.

The Parish Council discussed the action required and it was proposed by Cllr R Castle, seconded by Cllr J Clarke and unanimously agreed to request that Anglian Water remove the meter. **CLERK**

Once the meter has been removed the Chairman suggested that he would organise volunteers to remove the hose union tap and the storage tank. **CHAIRMAN**

18. ALLOTMENTS PROVISION

It was noted that the land has been sprayed off and the perimeter hedge will now be cut back to comply with the approved Management Plan and to deter larger birds from nesting.

19. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Pre-Approved BIB transactions – For Information Only

£ 1560.00	Estrada (Ecology Report)	BIB.500
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£ 359.94	J Leighton-Eshelby (October Salary and Mileage)	BIB.501
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£ 84.00	HMRC (PAYE)	BIB.502
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To approve BIB transactions

£ 240.00	Gillies Landscapes (Grass cutting, shrubs/flowerbed maintenance & holly hedge cutting)	BIB.503
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£ 131.47	DMBC (Dog bin emptying)	BIB.504
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£ 15.52	DMBC (Litter bin emptying)	BIB.505
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External Auditor Report

Receipt of certified Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2019 from PKF Littlejohn was noted

20. PLANNING ISSUES

a) Planning Applications Received

19/02193/FUL – Erection of two storey extension to the side and rear to replace the existing garage and a porch to the front at 17 Silver Birch Grove, Finningley Comment Only

1) Dispensing with the garage in favour of a play room at the same time as limiting the outside parking area with the extension will result in on road or worse on pavement parking.

2) The proximity of the proposed extension to the neighbouring property

3) The proposed extension is not in keeping with the surrounding properties

b) Planning Concerns – None raised

c) NCC Draft Minerals Plan Collective Response - Update

The Chairman spoke about the joint Ward response that was put together with Branton, Blaxton and Auckley Parish Councils and Ward Councillors. The response had now been submitted to Nottinghamshire County Council.

21. HIGHWAY ISSUES

Update on Definitive Map Modification Order Application – No further update
Cllr W Bedford reported that he was not aware of any objections being submitted.

Cllr Bedford advised that he has contacted Highways with regards to the “Lego Bricks” on Old Bawtry Road but has not received a response. It was also noted that the new road surface will deteriorate if vehicular traffic does not use the road.

22. UPDATE ON ISSUES RELATING TO NORTH EAST BASSETLAW COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP –

No further update
It was agreed that this item will be taken off future agenda’s until further notice.

23. WEBSITE ISSUES

Parish Council Website
Cllr W Bedford noted that the Parish Council need to review the website content in order to improve communication with residents and Cllr J Kong volunteered to do this.

24. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE CORRESPONDENCE

Woodlands Trust – Trees for Communities
It was noted that Cllr W Bedford has passed this on to the Village Hall Committee for consideration at their forthcoming AGM.

Review of the delivery of National Neighbourhood Watch Strategy
It was agreed that members would respond directly if they wish to do so.

25. STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman read out the following statement:

“With regret, I have to advise members that with immediate effect I will stand down as Chairman of the Council. I do not feel that I am the right person to lead the Council in this “electronic/digital age”.

I will remain as a Councillor and will assist my successor in any way I can.

I would like to thank members past and present for their support during the past 6+years, the village is fortunate to have such a hard-working and dedicated group of Councillors. I would also like to thank Julie, our clerk, for her unwavering support and excellent advice during my time as Chair.

Convention is that the next meeting will be opened with the Vice Chairman in the chair, the first item on the agenda will be the election of a new Chairman.”

Members expressed their sincere thanks to Cllr Johnson for all his hard work during his 6+ years as Chairman.

26. TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 19th November 2019 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Chairman: