

Notes from Meeting with National Trust – 1st July 2014 at 10.00 a.m

Present – Emma Lockwood Acting National Trust – General Manager - Lincolnshire.
Michael Coney Belton Parish Councillor
Tony Hopwell Belton Parish Councillor

Meeting Minutes

Action

1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes – 1st July 2014

1.1 The minutes were accepted.

2. Matters Arising.

2.1 Parking at the Old School.

Parking still not available for use. The grass had not come on as well as had been expected. The area would be strimmed and more grass seed put down. It was hoped the parking would be operational in about two months provided the grass had fully established on the parking areas. It was commented that there was likely to be heavy street parking during the Belton Fete on 12th July.

2.2 Visitor/Volunteer Parking in Main Street.

NT has made an effort to encourage volunteers not to park in Main Street but to use the allocated parking in Belton House. Michael said that Main Street parking seemed to have been less over recent months except when there were events at the Village Hall. On Thursday 26th June, parking had occupied the whole of the north side of Main Street from top to bottom because of a Village Hall function.

Michael said he was having extreme difficulty in contacting LCC Highways on installing yellow line parking restrictions but would continue to pursue the matter.

M.C

2.3 Belton Crime Incidents - NHW.

Tony reported the burglary at Carpenters Cottage on 19th May which had been advised to the Village. Emma said that the NT was experiencing thefts from the Wood Yard. Two old Belfast sinks had been taken along with a number of roof tiles. The Trust was looking at installing CCTV to cover the yard. Michael said he suffered similar incidents of low level crime on his farm. It behoves everyone to be vigilant at all times, keep items secure if possible and report suspicious activity.

NT

Villagers

2.4 Road Flooding Opposite the Community Orchard.

The NT had finally had a meeting with LCC Highways, agreed an easement and drain route across the community orchard to the river. LCC Highways now had no money to proceed with the work in this financial year although they had said that it was one of their high priorities. NT had said that the flooding was undermining their wall and if it collapsed as a result LCC Highways would be liable. At present the work is unlikely before May 2015.

2.5 Directions to the Church for Church Visitors.

Emma said that she had seen this item for attention. She would provide a temporary laminated sign to the Church and a permanent sign as soon as possible.

E.L

Michael had the original sign from the Brownlow gate to the Church and would reinstate it as soon as possible.

M.C

Michael asked if NT visitors were spending less time in the gardens than previously as the Church donations had reduced over recent years. Emma said that the Gardens were busier than ever.

Tony said that there was perhaps a perception that the NT was responsible for the Church and visitors were reluctant to donate to the Church having paid to enter Belton House. He noted that a painting of the Church in Belton Shop referred to the Church as the “Church of St Peter and St Paul - Belton House.”

Michael said that with considerable expenditure imminent on the Church it was important to maximise donations. Emma suggested a meeting with Siobhan Scullion – Commercial Manager, to see if the profile of the Church as a separate entity could be highlighted in NT literature and on the web site. Emma to arrange a meeting.

E.L

2.6 Belton Horse Trials.

Tony asked how the new arrangements of undivided access had worked out. Emma said that visitors were happier particularly NT members who had complete access. Michael commented on some visitors going through the exit gate by the visitor centre to avoid paying and one person who ran across his farm field to get into the grounds.

2.7 NT Repair to Wall on Church Boundary.

Tony and Michael said what a superb job the NT Hardwick stone mason had done on this prompt repair and that they were very appreciative.

3. New Items.

3.1 Planning Application – 3/5 Washdyke Lane.

Tony said there was concern regarding the relocation of the rear entrance to the property, from the LHS to the RHS. The neighbour on that side felt this would result in the drive between the two properties being heavily used for access and parking as opposed to the present drive on the LHS. The four bedroom property 3/5 appeared to own no vehicle access, only granted access over the LH and RH drives. There were 2 garages on the LH drive, the nearest to 3/5 was understood to be owned by NT.

Listed building consent for the work had been sought which was all that was required as the alterations were confined to the existing building structure within its existing footprint. The matter of use of the drives was a matter between the NT and the neighbours on either side.

Emma to bring these matters to the attention of the NT surveyor in charge.

E.L

4. A.O.B.

4.1 Revised Adventure Playground.

Planning approval was anticipated shortly with work on the new South end commencing on 18th Aug. The existing North end would be reworked during the winter shutdown with the whole opening with the property in the Spring 2015.

4.2 The Resited Main Car Park.

This was planned to have 150 bays with all-weather surface, for visitors. This should alleviate the problem of visitors parking in Main Street to avoid the present muddy car park. October construction planned. Planning permission being sought.

NT

4.3 Old School Back Courtyard.

Michael commented that this needed tidying and repair. Emma said the NT was surveying this and proposing to improve.

NT

There had been a suggestion that there had been a fountain in the courtyard. Michael thought not as Leslie Bryan had built a fish pond but there had not been a fountain.

4.4 Old School Details on Parish Web Site.

Emma asked if this could be done. Michael to liaise with Deborah to achieve.

M.C/D.T

5. Date and Time of Next Meeting.

This was set as Tues 7th October 2014 at 14.0hrs.

The meeting concluded at 10.55a.m.

A.Hopwell 1st June 2014

Ref: Belton house liaison/villagemins21

Note: - Any resident wishing to have any item raised, please contact A.Hopwell or M.Coney on 578122 or 593952 respectively. These minutes are also available on the Parish Council Web Site <http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/beltonandmanthorpe>