

Notes from Meeting with National Trust – 7th October 2014 at 10.00a.m

Present – Ian Grafton National Trust – Interim 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.
- 1.2 Ian commented on item 2.5 where visitors numbers were thought to have increased, the gardeners had advised that they had in fact decreased in the gardens.

2. Matters Arising.

2.1 Parking at the Old School.

The Parking in the Wood yard, for the Old School Village Hall was now fully operational as the grass had grown through the plastic ground reinforcement grid. There was now no excuse for Old School users not to park in the Wood yard as designated. Ian would insure that users were always advised.

I.G

2.2 Visitor/Volunteer Parking in Main Street.

The Village and indeed NT concern over this was explained to Ian. However, efforts by NT to have Volunteers Park in their new designated parking area in Belton House grounds appear to have been largely successful. In summer there is a problem with the occasional Mother bringing children the adventure playground, parking on Main Street. One in particular parked right on the apex of the bend outside the Old Forge and directly opposite Belton House entrance. This was extremely dangerous from traffic and bus movements. Ian suggested that Villagers/Parish Councillors might deploy warning notices on the windscreens of offending vehicles. Michael had already done this on occasions but the practice could be extended.

MC

Tony said that he had noted that the NT annual property guide, in the case of Lacock Abbey in Wiltshire, specified “No Parking in the Village” and perhaps a similar statement could be made for Belton. Ian said that the 2015 book had already gone to press and they were limited to a word count. He doubted whether a statement would have much effect.

The proposed parking remedy of heritage double yellow line parking restriction being applied was explained. Michael is having extreme difficulty in working with LCC Highways who fail to acknowledge or respond to any contact on this matter but will continue to pursue this.

M.C

2.3 Belton Crime Incidents - NHW.

Nothing new to report.

2.4 Road Flooding Opposite the Community Orchard.

Ian was made aware of this matter that was now with LCC Highways to rebuild the drain under the road and into the river Witham but this had to wait for their 2015 budget finance. Michael said that wall frost damage was likely but Alec had made it clear that LCC Highways would then be liable.

2.5 Directions to the Church for Church Visitors.

Ian had noted Emma’s commitment to provide signage and would progress this.

I.G

Ian said that although Sioban Scullion was extremely busy and couldn’t manage a meeting at the moment, information on the Church could be included on the NT Belton House web site if Michael would provide an hd image of the Church on a memory stick and some appropriate literature. Michael said he would do this.

M.C

Michael had still to reinstate the original Church gate signage.

M.C

3. New Items.

3.1 Planning Application – 3/5 Washdyke Lane.

Tony commented that the Village had objected to the planning application, locating the central heating gas tank, above ground but this had been approved. The comment had been that tenants paying the considerable rental would not appreciate such a tank in their rear garden.

3.2 Size of New Adventure Playground.

Tony said he had concerns about the size of the new playground and noted from the planning that there were 18 new attractions and only 7 existing, refurbished. This may make the playground even more attractive leading to more Main Street parking. It also appeared that the first gate on the right through the railings and the path round to the playground would still be kept in place. People would therefore still be able to park in Main Street and get to the playground without going via the Visitor Centre and paying. Ian said they would have to monitor the situation.

I.G

3.3 Street Parking – Antiques Road Show.

Tony said that he wished to formally record that this had been totally unacceptable and chaotic due to NT overlooking arranging police coning of Main Street. Ian said this was admitted and it should be a standing order for large events and should never happen again.

I.G

3.4 Reactive Speed Signs – Main Street.

Michael explained that the Belton and Manthorpe Parish Council had applied for a movable reactive speed sign with digital data recording, to be shared between Belton and Manthorpe. The sign would be operated by the Council and changed between mounting points in Belton and Manthorpe. In Belton, the Main Street, approach down Barkston Heath Lane and from Chandlers into Belton would be covered from post mountings. This was a Council initiative to address some concerns over speeding in the Village and would be progressed over future months.

M.C.

4. A.O.B.

None.

5. Date and Time of Next Meeting.

This was set as Wed 4th February 2015 at 14.00hrs in the NT Managers Office.

The meeting concluded at 10.55a.m.

A.Hopwell 7th October 2014

Ref: Belton house liaison/villagemins22.doc

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>