

# Notes from Meeting with National Trust – 15th June 2015 at 2.00p.m

Present – Ian Grafton            National Trust – Interim General Manager - Lincolnshire.  
          Michael Coney         Belton Village representative.  
          Tony Hopwell         Belton Parish Councillor

## Meeting Minutes

Tony Hopwell opened the meeting by explaining that Michael Coney had recently retired from the Parish Council and was now attending these meeting purely as a Belton Village representative. These meetings were not Parish Council meetings in any event but a conduit for communication between Belton Villagers and Belton National Trust on matters concerning both parties. Ian Grafton was clear on this. The meeting then went ahead.

**Action**

### 1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes – 23rd February 2015

1.1 The minutes were accepted.

### 2. Matters Arising.

#### 2.1 Parking at the Old School.

Ian Grafton said that it was planned to improve the roadway into and through the Wood Yard by tarmac the roadway and applying a spray tar and chipping surface finish. If funds permitted the road way would go up behind the LH building and rejoin the incoming roadway at the front of the yard. The parking bays would remain as grass, over surface strengthening “Bod Pave” plastic mesh as this was required by the planning permission and conservation requirements. The work should take place in the next few months and certainly before the autumn.

I.G/AG

Tony Hopwell said that it appeared to him that the planning permission parking area immediately to the left inside the entrance had not been provided. There was some rubbish there and a tree which prevented the layout as the planning approval. Ian Grafton said he thought there was parking there but would review that.

I.G/A.G

Tony Hopwell said he understood there had been a specific request that there not be a sign to the Wood Yard parking, to the left of the entrance but that such a sign would be beneficial as the RH sign could not be seen by cars approaching from the east. Ian Grafton said he would check if there was an objection and if a sign could be considered on the left of the entrance.

I.G/A.G

Ian Grafton also advised that NT were suffering some rogue fly tipping in the Wood Yard. The odd pile of rubbish and old fridge etc were appearing. It was planned to fence off the end of the Wood Yard to restrict access to the storage area to prevent this.

#### 2.2 Parking in Main Street.

Ian Grafton advised that the NT had now made it a standing order to cone the Main Street for expected major visitor days. They also opened the Lion Gate to establish one way vehicle flow in and the out of Belton House Parking when the parking load was extreme. Tony and Michael said these measures were very welcome for the Village.

There still appeared to be problems with traffic queuing on the A607 back towards Grantham on heavy visitor days. Ian said the recent problem had been exacerbated due to the road works opposite Belton Woods Hotel. Michael said that he had been in the Belton House grounds on the first May Bank Holiday week end on the Sunday and had observed that the traffic still could not get into the car park fast enough even when there was no traffic coming back out of the car park. There had been a problem with cars stopping to talk to volunteers directing traffic and a problem of pedestrians having to cross the incoming traffic flow to get to the House. Ian said that visitor numbers had been exceptional during the Easter week end and first May Bank Holiday with visitor

numbers breaking records at 5,500 for a Saturday and over 7,500 for a Sunday. However matters had been improved and the situation would continue to be monitored.

The question of Visitors (mainly NT members) parking and walking in, had been addressed, with volunteers “clicking in” pedestrians at the foot of the drive on several occasions. All these measures appeared to have improved the Parking in Main Street. Tony said that visitors had been observed and heard to talk about, parking in Belton Garden Centre car park and walking into Belton House. Ian said it was up to the Garden centre to police its car parking.

### **2.3 Belton Crime Incidents - NHW.**

Nothing to report from the Village but see 2.1 above re fly tipping in the Wood Yard.

In view of the concern re “freedom of information act” by the NT, Tony was seeking approval from all Belton Village NHW members for the residents list of names, addresses and phone numbers to be supplied to the NT. One simple solution was not to supply the list to NT. Ian to investigate whether the NT required the list and advise.

I.G

### **2.4 Road Flooding Opposite the Community Orchard.**

Despite LCC Highways new budget being in place since April there had been no action by them on this issue so far. Ian and the Parish Council to follow up with LCC Highways. This matter was outstanding with LCC Highways since 2012.

I.G/PC

### **2.5 Directions to the Church for Church Visitors.**

Tony said there seemed to have been some misunderstanding on this and referred to several back minutes (Mins19 min 3.1 Nov 2013 and Mins20 min 2.5 March 2014). The NT had provided a very nice sign on the Church gates for which they were thanked but the minutes referred to, made it clear that what was requested was a direction sign of the style of the Old School Car Park, mounted at the start of the footpath to the Church. Ian said he would get on to this long outstanding issue.

I.G

### **2.6 Lane Surface – Washdyke Lane.**

Tony had been asked by a resident to advise that the remedial work following the contractor traffic refurbishing Appletree Cottage was not to a good standard. Ian said he understood that the surface had been reinstated to its previous condition. He would look at the Lane again.

I.G

### **2.7 Reactive Speed Signs – Main Street.**

The sign had been reported as slowing traffic in Belton and was judged a worthwhile purchase for the Parish Council. The sign was currently in Manthorpe collecting traffic data there.

### **2.8 Bonfires affecting Belton.**

A resident had noted a recent bonfire, apparently in the Woodyard, as being unpleasant. Ian said that he was not aware. Previous minutes asked anyone so affected to phone him.

Villagers

Ian and Michael both said that not all bonfires were National Trust. Gardens adjacent to the Ginnel may have had bonfires and there was evidence of a recent large bonfire on the small garden off the Ginnel. Identify bonfire location before complaining.

Villagers

### **2.9 NT Planting of Hedge along East side of Five Gates Lane.**

Item 3.5 on previous Minutes. Ian had thought this had been done but was unsure of the location of the hedge. Michael said the required position of the hedge was on the LHS of Five Gates Lane from its junction with Barkston Heath lane right up to the wood opposite the NT Pond in the Belton grounds. There was no hedge in place in this location. Ian to investigate and advise.

I.G

## **2.10 New Adventure Playground – Progress of Work.**

Ian said phase II should open end of June with the Kiosk and toilet block following on later. There was a delay in getting an easement from Belton Woods Hotel to bring power across the A607 and foul water out to drain.

## **3. New Items.**

### **3.1 Larkfleet Development – Manthorpe.**

Larkfleet planning application for their amended scheme was awaited. NT would oppose as previously.

### **3.2 Belton Adventure Playground – Complaints – Waterloo Cottages – Mrs R.Repton**

Tony tabled the briefing notes from Mrs Repton, previously advised. Ian responded that he was aware of these complaints. There was nothing at the Playground that was not approved by SKDC Planning. The plans had had to be amended many times due to objections from various bodies and other considerations and the NT could not have continuously updated Mrs Repton on these. She was able to follow the application on the SKDC planning portal and object at that stage if she saw fit.

The NT had addressed Mrs Repton's 4 main issues as far as possible. They were planting a hedge to screen the western extent of the playground from the Cottages. They would not install larch lap fencing, as being totally inappropriate. The playground bells had been removed and train whistle only used when necessary, approaching the level crossing. They did regularly maintain the culvert under the A607 and had removed a bicycle, jumpers and other detritus blocking it. They did this as a civic duty although they had no input into and thus no specific everyday responsibility for this drainage system although it ran under the adventure playground. A new separate drainage system was installed to deal with the needs of the Playground and took all output elsewhere to join the main drains.

Tony thanked Ian for this reply but said that the Parish Council would wish to write to Ali Keightly the freelance Playground Project Manager for a formal reply as Mrs Repton said she has had no clear response on these matters. Ian said that she could be contacted c/o Belton N.T.

T.H/PC

## **4. A.O.B.**

### **4.1 Church Service and Directions to.**

Michael said the Church would be holding an outreach service on 9<sup>th</sup> August at 3.30pm to which Belton NT visitors would be welcome. The service would be shown on a professional "A" board at the entrance path to the Church in Belton House grounds as Ian had been consulted on. The service would be Church Lite – Songs of Praise and it was hoped that some visitors might take the opportunity to attend. Ian said he had no problem with this.

## **5. Date and Time of Next Meeting.**

This was set as Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 at 14.00hrs in the NT Managers Office. Alec Gordon should then be back in the General Managers role.

The meeting concluded at 3.37p.m.

A.Hopwell 17th June 2015

Ref: Belton house liaison/villagemins24.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>