

Present – Alec Gordon National Trust - General Manager - Lincolnshire.
 Michael Coney Belton Village representative.
 Tony Hopwell Belton Parish Councillor

Meeting Minutes

Action

1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes – 4th September 2015.

1.1 The previous minutes were accepted unanimously.

2. Matters Arising.

2.1 Parking at the Old School.

Alec said the plans to improve the roadway into and through the Wood Yard by tarmacing the roadway and applying a spray tar and chipping surface finish should take from End of Feb and be completed by April. The possible road spur to the left inside from the entrance would be considered depending on funds availability.

AG

2.2 Parking in Main Street.

Tony Hopwell said that generally, parking in Main Street much improved. There was the odd NT visitor or volunteer car parked but Michael Coney said this was a benefit in slowing traffic.

2.3 Belton Crime Incidents - NHW.

November and December had been bad months for professional and opportunist crime. The NT Wood yard had been raided on 26th Nov by professionals with a 4x4 breaking through the back and removing a trailer and quad bikes etc. On 28th November at 11am whilst Contractors for Carillion were working towards the Witham Bridge, thieves had pulled up by their open back truck and in 30secs or less had grabbed approx £6,000 of equipment from the back, slung it into the back of the van and sped away. The van had a false number plate. In Dec the Gate House garden had been entered and tools and equipment stolen. On the night of the 20th/morning of 21st Dec the NT Wood Yard had again been broken into, this time through the main gates, for the theft of the remaining quad bike.

Alec said that he would be taking steps to seriously improve the security for the Wood Yard.

AG

All Belton residents should be vigilant and report any suspicious activity immediately

Belton Residents

2.4 Road Flooding Opposite the Community Orchard.

Tony said that the work was now scheduled on LCC Highways “Transport and Travel Briefing – winter 2015 and the road closure for this work, stated on the LCC road closure schedule for 2nd – 18th March 2016. Alternative route via A607.

It would appear that the wayleaves have been put in place and this long standing problem from before 2012 when LCC Highways said they would attend to it, may finally get fixed. All LCC Highways need to do it avoid going through the mains electrical cable recently installed in the pavement and now live from the Forge to the A607, for the BT Hi Speed Broadband cabinet.

2.5 Directions to the Church for Church Visitors.

Alec apologised that he had not managed to get to this long standing issue and would attend to it in 2016.

AG

2.6 Lane Surface – Washdyke Lane.

Tony revisited this minute again - that the remedial work following the contractor traffic refurbishing Appletree Cottage had not reinstated the lane to the original standard. This was discussed at some length. Tony tabled photographs showing that the top end of the Lane from halfway along Esther’s hedge up to Main Street was very sparsely gravelled and starting to develop pot holes. Tony said that he was informed that no remedial gravel had been applied to this length but gravel merely scraped from the centre strip. The lane from Sally’s downwards appeared in good condition but the top end was not satisfactory. Alec agreed that he would talk to residents and owners with a view to finding a way forward on this.

AG

2.7 Reactive Speed Signs – Main Street.

Tony advised the recent results from the above which are summarised below:-

Traffic flow – including buses - individual movements into Belton Village – Total from all 3 entries i.e. using Belton Main Street:-

Weekdays Total: - 2600 per day. Weekends Total: - 2000 per day

Peak Flow rate (Full Hour) individual movements 400 cars per hour (Morning rush). This is 80% of the vehicle movements into Grantham on the A607 in Manthorpe.

Excessive speed in two directions, from slip road from A607 Chandlers and then from 5 Gates lane direction down Barkston Heath Lane to the T junction at Main Street. In both cases over 70% of the traffic is entering the village in excess of 30mph at speeds of up to 75mph. The 85 percentile (which should be 30mph for speed limit conformance), is 40.0mph and 39.8mph for these directions respectively.

Alec found the volumes surprising. Michael confirmed that these were the figures that he had obtained from the Data collection on the speed sign over representative weeks in October/November.

On the speed, Tony said that the Parish Council would be asking LCC Highways for their suggestions on addressing the speeding issue particularly from the Chandlers end slip road. The dangerous junction with the Bridgewater House slip road from the A607 is a safety concern.

TH

2.8 Bonfires affecting Belton Village.

Tony brought up a complaint that NT bonfires in the Wood yard had enveloped a Washdyke Lane resident's property in smoke on 20th, 22nd, 27th and 29th October which were reported to have caused the resident distress and smell within the property, during the day and overnight, as the fire was left to burn out after working hours. The resident had contacted Alec direct who had agreed that the NT would not have bonfires in the Wood yard for the foreseeable future but could not guarantee they would never be further burning. The NT burning generally took place at the lakeside site.

Tony made the point that bonfires, by no means all of them NT fires, had been a source of distress and smell to a number of residents, particularly since 2014. Five village residents suffer severe breathing difficulties, one, using oxygen and such smoke pollution was a serious matter to them. Setting a bonfire which enveloped a person's property in smoke for some time or frequently, was at best, thoughtless or inconsiderate and could be totally anti social. Persons setting bonfires should take account of wind direction and have regard for their neighbours. Bonfires should never be left unattended and never be left to burn over night. Alec responded that the NT sought to be a responsible neighbour and that where fires were placed, staff were obliged to follow the requirements of the appropriate licence.

AG/Residents

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

This matter is carried over from previous meetings. The National Trust had said they would be planting as above. Michael has planted a hedge on his side of the road with a view to blocking the view of the road from Belton House. The hedge on the opposite side was thought to be a good thing to delineate the road width and discourage the widening of the road. Alec said that he had not had the opportunity to follow up on this matter but would do so.

AG

2.10 New Adventure Playground – Progress of Work.

Alec reported that work was practically finished. The new cafe/toilet block with its disabled toilets had power and drains connected. Most of the building had been taken over with the rest due to be so this week. The high Tower had been stabilised and was now open. A fence was being installed opposite Waterloo Cottages to shield the operation from those residents. A hedge was also being planted which when established should allow the removal of the fence without reducing the shielding. The train whistling was restricted as far as possible commensurate with operating requirements and the volume and frequency of the whistling from play equipment had been reduced in acoustic frequency and volume to attempt to reduce annoyance.

3. New Item

3.1 Belton Main Street Gritting/Salting in Extreme Winter Weather -Snow

Tony said that the Parish Council had, for the third time since 2010 approached LCC Highways using the traffic figures as in 2.7 above, to emphasise the case for Belton be included on the gritting route for this area which currently has Syston on that route. Highways had yet again refused the request. Alec said that the NT had similarly requested gritting on the last occasion with the same negative result. Basically it seems that Highways have no capacity or money to include Belton in addition to Syston.

Highways have circulated their programme "Self Help and Mutual Assistance in Time of Severe Weather – Snow." This requires a Snow Warden from the Village and they will then deliver a 1 tonne bag of salt but only if severe weather is forecast. The salt quality is suspect and Highways have not answered the question on this. Michael has very generously volunteered to be the Snow Warden for Belton, obtained a spreader and pre-packed salt bags and would use a quad bike for spreading. It seems if we want relief from dangerous road conditions we must do Highways job for them.

4. AOB.

4.1 Wood Yard Dovecote.

Alec reported that the work on this was finished with the building structure stabilised, a new roof on the rear and the scaffolding removed.

4.2 Complimentary Use of the Old School Meeting Room by the Parish Council.

Tony asked and Alec formally confirmed, that this concession was granted to the Parish Council for the purpose of Parish Council Meetings on a permanent basis.

5. Date and Time of Next Meeting.

This was set as Tuesday 15th March 2016 at 14.30hrs in the NT Managers Office..

The meeting concluded at 11.15 a.m.

A. Hopwell – 22nd December 2015

Ref: Belton house liaison/villagemins26.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>