

# Notes from Meeting with National Trust – 23rd February 2015 at 2.00p.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 – 7th October 2014

1.1 The minutes were accepted.

### 2. Matters Arising.

#### 2.1 Parking at the Old School.

Michael Coney said that the Wood yard was much busier than it used to be with more traffic in and out and that the crushed limestone “hoggin” surface was now just grey mud which was being brought out onto the road by vehicles. People didn’t want to use the yard for parking because of the state of it and people doing so walked the grey mud into the Village Hall. The parking was not really fit for purpose. Ian Grafton said that the Trust accepted that the surface needed relaying and are committed to changing the surface into and down through the yard. However, being in a conservation area the Trust will have to liaise with SKDC Conservation officer on approval of an improved surface. The parking also needs review. That on LHS is not obvious as parking. Ian said that once the Trust year end work was finished these matters would be reviewed. I.G

#### 2.2 Visitor/Volunteer Parking in Main Street.

Michael Coney said that Lincs Highways/SKDC have accepted the double primrose no parking lines proposal, down both sides of Main St., from Towthorpe Farm entrance to just beyond the Old Forge with parking gaps outside the Village Hall and No1 and are putting this out for consultation. Ian Grafton said that the NT would be unlikely to support this proposal and that he wanted to be open and honest about this. Michael said that previously this had not been understood to be the case. Tony Hopwell said that the Village didn’t particularly want these measures either but the parking of Trust visitors was such a problem on occasions that there seemed no alternative. Michael said the Mother who parks regularly on the bend apex at the Forge and had done today was a case in point, forcing cars from the A607 out into the path of oncoming fast traffic. The solid parking right down main St., on occasions, leaving insufficient room from two vehicles to easily pass in the remaining road width, made it very difficult and potentially dangerous to progress through Main St. Tony Hopwell said that whilst road parking could not be prevented under current situation as an alternative to parking restrictions the Trust should consider checking walk in visitors at the Lodge Gate. This should remove the temptation to park in the road to walk in, avoiding paying and thus solve the problem. Ian said this was problematic.

Michael said the Parish Council would pursue the parking restrictions to conclusion. PC

#### 2.3 Belton Crime Incidents - NHW.

Nothing to report from the Village but Ian Grafton said that the Adventure Playground work site off the A607 had suffered 3 thefts. Tools had been stolen together with fuel but not from vehicles. Michael Coney said he suffered similarly from his fields and one had to endeavour to be constantly vigilant and gives thieves minimum opportunity.

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

Ian confirmed that LCC Highways had committed to the remedial drain work when their new Budget was in place from April. I.G

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

Ian said that David Fitzer had assured him that there would be a new sign to the Church installed ready for the new visitor season.

I.G

Michael should provide David with the image and Church details from the Parish Council web site for inclusion in the NT web site.

M.C

### **3. New Items.**

#### **3.1 Planning Application – 3/5 Washdyke Lane.**

Ian said the work was progressing well. Tony said the builders had rendered the lane surface to two muddy vehicle tracks and perhaps the Trust should re-gravel, on conclusion of the work. Michael said that this had been done by Western Power after their work but he understood from Sally Thompson that the matter was in hand. Ian to check.

I.G

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

Ian said this was progressing well with phase 1 due to open by the end of March for Easter and phase 2 in May. Tony Hopwell asked if the current Iron Gate through the road railings through to the water wheel building approach to the playground would be locked when the new access over the river walkway from the visitor reception centre was in place. This would discourage people parking in Main St to walk into the playground. Ian said if it were up to him the locking would be done but by then Alec Gordon would be back in charge so refer to him.

T.H

#### **3.3 Reactive Speed Sign – Main St.**

Ian said he loved the sign but hated the colour. Michael said this was the standard from Lincs Road Safety Partnership which couldn't be changed. Michael said that the sign was to be mounted in different locations in Belton and Manthorpe to maintain impact so it would not be a permanent fixture in one place. Michael said the sign was gathering useful data and the Belton traffic was heavy. The minimum vehicles from A607 up Main St., had been 500 with a max of 800 this week with 15-20% exceeding the speed limit. If the data was persuasive enough the police might be encouraged to use some speed camera enforcement.

#### **3.4 Bonfires Affecting Belton.**

Ian asked if matters had improved, as he had talked to the gardeners about this. They had to burn horse chestnut leaves because of fungus infection on them but he had pointed out that they should not have permanent bonfires and should be responsible neighbours when burning and take conditions and wind direction into account. Michael said that fires from the lake side in the park had improved but fires in the Wood Yard were still a problem. Due to the trees in that area the wind direction could be confusing. Ian said that he would follow up on Wood Yard burning and if any resident had a problem they should ring him to report this.

I.G

#### **3.5 NT Planting of Hedge along East side – 1<sup>st</sup> Field Length -5 Gates Lane**

Tony Hopwell said that some years ago the Trust had moved the fence along the LHS of the 5 gates lane from Barkston Heath Lane junction up to the first wood, further into the field. This gave the impression that there could be a widening of the road. When asked, the Trust had said that the fence had been moved back to allow space for a new hedge that they would be planting along the road edge. This has not happened. The question was, what is the situation and when is the new hedge scheduled to go in? Ian wasn't aware but would enquire and advise.

I.G

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

#### **4.1 Belton Horse Trials.**

Tony asked if the Horse Trial organisers would be granting complimentary Friday tickets to residents as they have for several years. Some of the older residents really appreciated this, used the retail opportunities and attended when they otherwise would not do so. Ian said he would enquire and advise by e-mail.

I.G

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

This was set as Mon 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 14.00hrs in the NT Managers Office. Alec Gordon should then be back in the General Managers role.

The meeting concluded at 2.40a.m.

A.Hopwell 24th February 2015

Ref: Belton house liaison/villagemins23.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>