

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Tuesday 9th May 2023, 7.30pm at the Kilby C of E Primary School, Main Street, Kilby

Present: Cllr Andrew Collins (Chairman of the Parish Council)
Cllr Mark Pausey (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Gerry Tunnicliffe
Cllr Iain Jones
Cllr Lisa McLoughlin
Mrs Tina Cox, Clerk to Kilby Parish Council
1 Parishioner

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Adrian Clifford and Cllr Les Phillimore

2. Minutes of the previous meeting: RESOLVED - The minutes of the meeting 10th May 2022, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes: None

4. Chairman's Annual Report 2022/2023:

Welcome to this year's Annual Parish Meeting. Unlike the bi-monthly formal meetings of the Parish Council, which only include a short Parishioners' Forum slot on the agenda, this is an open meeting at which you may discuss village matters, ask questions or raise issues which you wish to be considered by the Council on a future agenda. You are encouraged to take part and your contributions are most welcome.

On the Planning front, the number of new planning applications in the village has decreased. An application to build a new four-bedroom house at the rear of 37 Main Street is currently awaiting a decision. An application to convert a small barn at 15 Main Street to ancillary living accommodation was approved. An application to build an additional large house at Halford Farm was withdrawn prior to determination, following adverse comments regarding access arrangements. An application for a new garden shed at 2 Main Street was approved, whilst another to retain a shed at 72 Main Street is under consideration. Construction continues on previously approved schemes for two houses at the rear of Broadway Farm, one of which is now complete, and remodelling of the bungalow at Halford Farm. However, another application to merge the two remote entrances to the farm buildings at the latter was withdrawn. A decision has yet to be made regarding the longstanding application for a proposed garage and workshop at Broadway Farm.

Further afield, a proposal by the owners of Wistow Hall to develop a 'solar farm' on open land between Wistow and Fleckney was formally submitted to Harborough Council, with this Council submitting comments, especially with regard to the environmental impact of the proposal. A decision is awaited. There is a proposal for a further 'solar farm' on land adjacent to Foston Road, between Foston and Countesthorpe. Surprisingly, Blaby Council ruled that a future planning application need not include an Environmental Impact Assessment, contrary to comments made by Kilby and Countesthorpe Parish Councils. Submission of the application is awaited. Regarding the proposed Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange, an application for a Development Consent Order for has been accepted for Examination by the Planning Inspectorate, which will enable further public consultation to take place. Nothing further has been heard regarding the proposed Whetstone Pastures Garden Village. Apparently, this is due to a long delay in consultation on the new Blaby District Local Plan. The County Council's proposal to replace the Districts with a unitary authority appears to have been quietly dropped, nothing further having been heard since I reported at last year's meeting.

Since the David Wilson development at Fleckney has been completed, the amount of heavy construction traffic through Kilby seems to have decreased. One-off deliveries to small development sites at Waterleys Farm, accessed via Fleckney Road, and Newton Harcourt continue, as well as to farms and Wistow Rural Centre. The closure of Welford Road in sections south of the Foston turn has resulted in a general increase in commuter traffic through Kilby and Newton Harcourt. However, traffic levels will only partially return to previous levels after re-opening, with the effect of residential developments in Fleckney and elsewhere being permanent. Bridge closures in connection with the Midland Mainline electrification may also be driving increased traffic levels. During site formation works for the business park at Wistow Road, Kibworth, Harborough Council were contacted regarding some HGV's not following the approved route via the A6. Work at this site is currently suspended, but will be monitored on re-commencement.

We have been advised that Main Street is to be re-surfaced by Leicestershire Highways within the next twelve months, but the exact timetable is un-known. Temporary markings on the roadway and pavements may be connected with this. It is hoped that this work will address the slippery surface at the corner of Main Street and Spinney Road. In case of damage to local roads, including potholes, this Council needs to be made aware and we will report to County Highways.

Speeding generally continues to be an issue and this has been further discussed with Leicestershire Police and County Highways. Grant finance has now been secured for two vehicle activated speed warning signs. These are portable and will be swapped periodically around the four posts which have already been installed. It is hoped they will be fitted and operational within the next two or three months.

Instances of fly tipping at the laybys on Spinney Road continue to fall. However, illegal dumping still occurs in field gateways and on verges – parishioners are urged to report instances to the Parish Council or direct to Blaby DC.

Here in the village, the playing field and playground remain well-used. Following the installation of two new benches last year, a further bench now needs replacement or its timber slats replaced. Following comments from parishioners regarding its removal, the 'arbour' has been re-inspected. It is felt it can be repaired and refurbished and a parishioner has kindly offered his labour f.o.c. to replace the roof structure. Councillor Pausey continues to seek lottery or other funding for continuing improvements, with the 'wish list' including new rubber surfacing and replacement of worn-out equipment.

Finally, I would like to offer thanks to Councillor colleagues for their continued service to the Parish Council, with special thanks due to Councillor Pausey for his efforts in keeping the park and playground up to scratch as well as his offer to install and maintain the new speed signs. Also, to Tina Cox, Council Clerk, who continues to ably support the work of the Council and who can always be contacted by parishioners wishing to raise matters of concern.

Andy Collins

Chairman Kilby Parish Council

5. Parishioners time:

- a) Simon Hope, a resident in the village has offered to help with cleaning up and doing some maintenance on the castle. Cllr Pausey thanked him and said he would be in touch.

Meeting closed: 7.55pm