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| LAMBLEY PARISH COUNCILMinutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held onTuesday 22 April 2025 at 6.30pmCommittee Room, Lambley Village HallDRAFT |

ACTIONS

Present: Parish Council Members: Cllrs. L Milbourn, K Stevenson, C Starr,

R Vincent, A Musson, J Gregory, J Loftus

Parish Clerk: Ewa Strumnik – minute taker

In attendance: Philip Cox, Church Warden - Holy Trinity Church, Jane Proctor, Rose Melvin.

30.04 Apologies

Cllrs. B Elliott, S Harraway, A Gee – Village Hall Committee

30.05 Declaration of Interest

None

30.06 Welcome and Introductions

None

**30.07 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th March 2025 & Matters Arising**

BESS has been passed through the GBC planning committee.

A copy of a letter sent from Michael Payne MP to the previous chair, was read out.

Cllr Starr commented on the play park report received following the inspection by Wicksteed. The report is not good reading. A lot of work is required, sooner rather than later. Rose reported that a meeting has been organised with the school PTA and there is a piece in the parish magazine. The first meeting will be held in May. The land belongs to NCC but the equipment belongs to the Parish who have responsibility for it. £400K was raised for the 2 parks in Calverton.

The cemetery light has been done.

The Path Retrievers group is going well and a lot of work has been done.

The complaint regarding the mowing of the primroses has been retracted.

Cllr Gregory has a new battery for the speed gun.

Cllr Gregory will go and see the metal worker living in the village and a contact at Princes regarding the sundial or Memory Tree for the Reed Pond, re: costs.

**30.08 Cllr H Greensmith updates**

Cllr Greensmith reported that she is working in the background re: BESS. In line with protocol, the BESS meetings were broadcast. Ian is considering speaking to the Chief Executive to voice his dissatisfaction. Cllr Harraway had raised some technical points which would have been useful if she had been able to speak at the meeting. The chair of the planning committee has the casting vote. A fire broke out recently at a BESS site in Scotland.

It is currently unknown whether GBC will ~~stay in~~ join with the City Council or will ~~move~~join with to the County ~~Counci~~ group. The decision will be made by Central Government. County Council elections are being held next week. There will be a year of working in tandem with the new authority with new elections in 2029. This will be happening across the country.

**30.09 Chair’s Report 2024 / 2025 Cllr Edwards**

This past year has been an interesting and sometimes difficult one, with some extremely sad events including the passing of Michael Morris (ex Chair of the Parish Council) and Annette Gunn, who had recently started working with the Parish Council. Both of these individuals were known and loved within the community and will be very sadly missed.

A memorial bench will be sited in the Green Space at the top of Mill Lane/Steeles Way in memory of Annette (thank you to all of those in the village who have raised funds to pay for this and to also give to charity). Mike’s family have advised us that Mike has bequeathed £5K towards village projects from his Will (how very generous and typical of Mike), and we will use some of this money towards a memorial of some kind (we are liaising with the family in this regard).

Reed Pond

Thank you so much to the committee who work at arm’s length from the Parish Council to look after this beautiful and tranquil area. The Reed Pond is now almost unrecognisable from a couple of years ago in that it is well loved and the wildlife clearly appreciate it since it is now teaming with new life and is a pleasure to sit in the beautiful scenery on one of the newly installed benches. The amount of work which the volunteers have done is clear to see. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Various fruit trees have been planted (thank you to Ian Kassell for donating these) and natural boundaries have been created and paid for through funds raised by various groups including the Village Show.

The village is a hive of volunteer activity much of which happens quietly in the background including meals for the elderly and vulnerable, the litter pickers, the Church Yard Gardeners, those who look after the planters, and the book exchange and the like. Some events are not so quiet, such as the Brass Band (thanks to Mark Goldby), the quizzes and Opera Dudes (thanks Julie Gregory et al). The Church (Jane and Francis) have done a great job of using the community space too to attract families and renewed interest through messy church, and of course themed “girls night in” events.

There have been some significant flood events this year, and the Flood Wardens have done an amazing job headed up by Lawrence Milbourn. We continue to press for funding for additional leaky dams in the

Dumbles, and to obtain the promised (then taken away), upgrade to the Severn Trent pump at the Park Lane/Main Street junction.

Finances & Precept

The Parish Council has completed its budget forecasts for the 2025/26 year. A total spend of £36,901 for the year is required. Our projected income for the year from Cemetery Fees, Lengthsman Scheme and the like provides for £11,750 before the Parish Precept. The Precept is the amount which each household pays to the Parish Council within its Council Tax. The required spend less the income leaves a shortfall for the year to be raised through the precept of £25,151.

For the 2024/25 year each household (based on a band D) paid £37.01 within its council tax to the Parish Council for the year. After careful consideration it was agreed by the Parish Councillors that we should increase the precept paid from its current level of £37.01 per annum, to £39.79, an increase of £2.78 per equivalent household (7.5%). Based on the number of households in the village this will raise £20,116.07 towards the Parish Council budget. The balance needed for the year (required spend after projected income of £25,151) will mean that there is still a shortfall of £5,034,93 however the Parish Councillors agreed that this should be met from our Reserves which are currently c£17K.

Unlike larger councils, Parish Councils are not restricted by how much they can increase Council Tax, however unlike many other local Parish Councils, we could not justify a larger increase as we appreciate the cost of living has risen sharply for everyone.

We carefully monitor our expenditure to make every penny count, and will continue to do so since it is your money we are spending. We should still have around £12K in reserves after meeting the shortfall for emergencies and unexpected spend.

We are fortunate that there are various fund raising events throughout the year, which help to support village projects, and that as a result of these, we have some reserves.

The Parish Councillors (including myself) all work on a volunteer basis, with the only paid member of staff being the Parish Clerk who is contracted for an average of 5 hours per week. None of the Parish Councillors claim expenses and give many hours of their time for free.

Battery Energy Storage Site (BESS) – adjacent to Spring Lane

You will no doubt know that at the March 2025 meeting of the Gedling Borough Council Planning Committee, the application for the BESS was approved despite hundreds of letters expressing concerns and objections from residents. The Parish Council has strongly opposed this (as too had Burton Joyce Parish Council who is the statutory consultee since it comes within their boundary). The opposition group did all they could

to try to resist this from being approved, and they continue to look for ways to appeal/see what can be done to prevent this from being built in what most would agree is an inappropriate place for such a scheme when other alternative sites are available.

Visit from Michael Payne MP

As of last July we became part of the Gedling Constituency (previously Sherwood) and our MP became Michael Payne. Michael has been to various meetings in the village and at the end of March went for a walk round the village with some of the Parish Councillors. Various issues have been raised with Michael who has been good enough to write on our behalf to Severn Trent (re the upgrade of the pumping station to help with flooding); the BESS planning application which he also strongly opposed on it being inappropriate development in the green belt; and looking into CILS payments for us for building work done within our boundary.

Shared Use Agreement

Work is continuing to be carried out by the Parish Councillors and particularly the Village Hall Committee (a sub-committee of the PC), to agree a formalised shared use agreement with the school. The Hall, Committee Room, Multi Use Games area and other areas at the school/village hall are used by both the community and the school. Nottinghamshire County Council are also a party to the old version which is almost 30 years old, therefore out of date and not fit for purpose. Michael Payne has agreed to help since the County Council, whose Estates Teams need to facilitate this, have been unresponsive.

Traffic movements and parking

Speeding is still an issue in the village, as is parking, especially at school drop off and pick up times. Times for school start and end have now been staggered which has helped to some degree with parking issues.

We continue to work with Nottinghamshire Police who patrol from time to time, and speed watch will be carried out using our own speed gun periodically (we then write to the Police with the details of those who are speeding so they can write to those concerned).

Cemetery

We have budgeted for further tree clearance and trimming around the boundaries of the cemetery in this and the next financial year. This will ensure that existing graves are tidy and do not become overgrown or obscured. Once the works to the boundaries are completed, we will schedule regular maintenance and budget accordingly going forward.

Village Projects

The Children’s play park is coming to the end of its useful life and we are looking ahead to various grant opportunities to fund resurfacing and new

equipment. Rose Melvin has formed a committee to help with this (thanks Rose).

Village Magazine

Thank you to Julie Gregory and all those who help to put together the village magazine. It is a hive of information and ensures that everyone is kept up to date with what is going on. Although it appears as if by magic every month through our doors, I know it takes many hours each month to put together and to distribute.

Resignation

This will be my last Report as Chair, since elections will take place at the April 2025 meeting. I have resigned both as Chair, and as a Parish Councillor to take up a role as Chair for the East Midlands for the Federation of Small Businesses, something very close to my heart (and also a voluntary role).

It has been a pleasure to work with all of the Parish Councillors, Volunteers and members of the community who have made my 10 years or so on the Parish Council fulfilling and enjoyable. I have learned so much and I feel privileged to live in such a warm and supportive environment.

31.00 Village Maintenance

The cemetery light is up and running. A quote has been received from Rick to replace the posts at the play park. Clerk to ask Tim for another quote. Rick has painted the railings.

A village resident has complained about the Plumb grave, the pots on either side are encroaching on the neighbouring grave. Cllr Stevenson to check.

The footpaths around the village are bad. Helen Spencer has seen the paths but so far she has not responded.

Clerk to chase Helen re: ordered stile. There is another stile behind Church Street which requires repair – Clerk to report this.

The village walk with Michael Payne showed his support and interest in the community. He confirmed he would help with the grill on Park Lane.

Tim cut the grass on the green space over 2 days. It was suggested that perhaps he should cut the cemetery grass last.

MP said that he would write to Mike Avery.

31.01 Finance

Clerk presented 7 invoices for payment totalling £3440.11.

~~The clerk presented 7 invoices totalling~~. Chair asked if the Clerk would consider working 6 hours per week instead of 5. Clerk agreed to this starting in May 2025. Cllr Vincent to send the 2025-2026 budget to the Clerk.

31.02 Planning Applications

An application for a small extension on a property on Mill Lane has been received, an application was previously refused.

CLERK

Cllr Stevenson

CLERK

CLERK

Cllr Vincent

31.03 Shared Used Agreement

Simon Hemsall, a Chartered Surveyor has been contracted by NCC to give his suggestions on a number of /county issues. He came to see Cllr Milbourn who gave him a copy of an email from Mick Cooper. He looked at the energy consumption in January and an invoice. After analysing the energy used it was clear to see that the Parish are paying far too much, i.e. in January it should have been 2%, not 24%. Simon will arrange a meeting with the Head. It is appreciated that the school budget is tight but if the Parish Council pulled out of the Village Hall, the school would be responsible for the whole bill. It was proposed that if nothing is heard in one months’ time, the Parish would instruct the Village Hall Committee to reduce the contribution to 15%. Chair to contact Simon for a progress report and he will report back at the next Parish meeting, if no progress has been made the contribution will be reduced.

A better agreement is needed for the MUGA. Mick Conroy’s responsibilities will need to be looked at – Chair to speak to him.

31.04 Flooding

Nothing to report.

31.05 Road Safety

A Beat meeting has been arranged for 12 May. Cllr Gregory will test the speed gun. The signs are up regarding the road closure. Clerk to contact VIA regarding the overgrown shrubs opposite the Woodlark.

**31.06 Elections**

There was no external interest in the Parish Council vacancy and no councillor was able to take up the role of Chair. The Vice-Chair, Cllr Milbourn is prepared to stand as Chair for the next 12 months. Richard Vincent is stepping up to Vice-Chair and Jane Proctor ~~voted~~was cop-opted in.

31.07 Correspondence

None received.

**31.08 Any Other Business**

Any money left over after the purchase of the bench for Annette will go to the Teenage Cancer Research and Cancer Research. A large slab will be laid for the bench to sit on at the top of Mill Lane. Cllr Loftus will look at where this will be positioned.

Cllr Stevenson reported that Matt Hearn has done a good job cutting back the boundary shrubs and trees at the cemetery, the whole area has now been done. The bare areas under where shrubs have been cut back will regenerate.

Kids have set fire to Richard Copley’s tree on Monkey Island in the Dumbles and another near the first bridge. Wildlife cameras were suggested. Cllr Gregory to put a piece in the Parish magazine.

Philip reported that there is to be a new vicar. There will be a Salvation Army concert on 5 December (to go in the magazine).

Cllr Starr asked the Clerk to follow up the report re: the bridge on Church Street / Main Street.

The committee agreed that the parish indemnity insurance will cover Mrs Milbourn’s charity stall at the Village Show.

Clerk to send the play park report to Jane Proctor.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm

**Date of next meeting: Monday 19 May 2025, 6.30pm**

CLERK

CLERK