Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th January 2019 in the Reg Neal Meeting Room, Parish Hall, Kings Drive, Leicester Forest East, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present:  
P. Linnett – Chairman  
R. Darlison  
P. Fox  
P. Kitchen – Vice-Chairman  
C. Lawrence

Mrs. S. L. Jones – Clerk to the Parish Council  
District Councillor D. Clements – Part of Meeting

19.01 To receive Apologies for Absence:  
Councillor L. Dracup, County Councillor L. Breckon, District Councillor S. Coar.

19.02 To receive the Letter of Resignation from the Clerk –  
The Chairman read out the Letter of Resignation received from the Clerk on 24/12/18. The Chairman said he wished that the Clerk was not resigning but that he would write to her to accept her letter of resignation. Councillor Fox said he was grateful to the Clerk for her work with the Parish Council and asked for this to be recorded. District Councillor Clements said the Clerk had played an integral part during his term of 18 years on the District Council.

19.03 To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with the Code of Conduct –  
The Chairman registered an interest in Item 12 of the Agenda.

Meeting reconvened.

19.04 To receive Reports from County/District Councillors:

District Councillor Clements reported on the following:
(a) Blaby District Council Budget for 2019/20 – this would be put before Cabinet on the 23rd February for ratification. The District Council faces a shortfall to balance the Budget but expects a rise of £5 per Band D Council Tax.
(b) DPD – the Inspector has now written their Report on the District Council’s DPD. The Inspector has confirmed that the development of land on the north-side of Hinckley Road, Kirby Muxloe can be included in the DPD and that land at Grange Farm, and Webb Close can also be included for development.

District Councillor Coar’s report was read out by the Chairman:

'Things seem to be ticking over quite nicely – we await a decision on the local DPD assuming BDC follows the Inspector’s recommendations, and I’m sure the PC will be kept updated on this subject.

The new Tesco store is coming together nicely and I have to say cosmetically the area is looking a lot better now, with the completed project clearing going to look a lot better than many of us had imagined.

I’m concerned that nothing seems to be moving on the Warren Lane surgery – the pressure on the surgery is currently too great and they need more doctors to cope with the influx of new patients.

Other than that we are all very busy at Blaby with budget meetings etc., trying to ensure that BDC continues to provide all the exemplary services to its customers that it does currently.

Figures seem to be balancing well and if there are to be any increases, they will be at an absolute minimum.
County Councillor L. Breckon Report was read out by the Chairman:

The main cycle of events at the moment are surrounding budgets, as is the case with all levels of Local Government.

Both Richard and myself have been attending all meetings as Divisional Members and have represented many Residents on matters that are County Related. A lot of what we do is signpost people to the right department, or sometimes, the right Council as there is still confusion surrounding who does what. We all do our best by ensuring the websites we use are up to date and correct. If you ever see a problem with the LCC website, please do report it, or make us aware so we can add value and report it for you.

The unitary debate carries on and is providing a useful insight in to how people view what is done already and how it could be done. County Council have ensured all views are being listened too. The work continues in formulating a final report which takes into account all stakeholders views and all the work that Scrutiny and all its various committees have generated.

This May sees the parish and district council holding its four yearly elections and we both wish those standing again all the very best and to those who will stand for the first time, an enjoyable election experience.

Finally, we would both like to put on record, our thanks to the professionalism of your Clerk for many years, Sue Jones, who is stepping down from her role later this year. It has been a pleasure dealing with such an efficient, committed and caring Clerk on behalf of Leicester Forest East. Sue, we both wish you all of the very best and know that you will be a hard act to follow.

19.05 To receive monthly report from Leicestershire Constabulary – Each Member had received a copy of the monthly report. Councillor Fox reported on the statistics he had pulled off the Police website regarding crimes etc., for November 2018.

19.06 To receive and resolve to accept Order Paper 01/19 – Proposed by Councillor Kitchen, Seconded by Councillor Darlison. Carried.

19.07 To receive and resolve that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19th December 2018 are a true record. Proposed by Councillor Fox, Seconded by Councillor Kitchen with an amendment to 18.185 para 2 sentence starting with Councillor Kitchen asked if there were any consultations…. Should read with Leicester City Council. Carried.

19.08 Matters arising from those Minutes:
(a) 18.192(h) MVAS – The Clerk reported that the results of the lighting column inspections have still not been received from LCC. The Clerk was asked to contact our two County Councillors to see if they could get the matter moving forward. Clerk to action.
(b) 18.192 – Metal detecting – The Clerk reported that she had arranged a meeting with the gentleman who had requested to carry out metal detecting in the parks.

19.09 To receive communication from 2Commune Admin relating to Parish Websites – Each Member had received a copy of the correspondence and discussed the matter of updating the front page of the website from a classic to modern format. Proposed by Councillor Lawrence, Seconded by Councillor Kitchen to update the front page. Carried.

19.10 To receive correspondence from LRALC regarding Election Fees for 2019 – Each Member had received a copy of the list of fees. Noted.

19.11 Parish Hall, front door security during use by hirers – The Clerk reported to Members that a young person had entered the hall when a hirer was using the hall as the door had been left unlocked/unattended. The Clerk also reported on another incident where a hirer left the door unlocked during use of the hall, despite instructions from Council to have the door locked for security purposes.
To receive correspondence from Blaby District Council relating to Council Tax Base Calculation 2019/20 – Each Member had received a copy of the correspondence.

To receive Minutes of the following Committee Meetings for noting purposes:
(a) Planning, Trees & Highways Committee Meetings on 12/12/18 and 09/01/19
(b) Parks, Hall & Events Committee Meetings on 12/12/18 and 09/01/19
(c) Neighbourhood Development Plan Committee Meeting held on 18/12/18
(d) Finance/Policies/LIFE Committee Meeting held on 8/1/19

To consider matters arising from the Finance/Policies/LIFE Committee meeting held on 08/01/19:
(a) To receive and resolve to accept the Finance/Policies/LIFE Committee recommendations for the 2019/20 Annual Budget and to resolve and accept the Finance/Policies/LIFE Committee recommendations to set the 2019/20 Annual Precept at £172,000.00 – Proposed by Councillor Fox, Seconded by Councillor Darlison. Carried.

Action List 2019:
(a) Appraisals – Premises Officer to take place in January.
(b) Internet Banking – Councillor Lawrence gave each member present a copy of the information she had regarding internet banking at NatWest, Lloyds and Unity Trust Banks. Councillor Lawrence explained that when she had looked at the three options Unity Trust appeared to be the best for Council’s needs. Councillor Darlison commented that he thought that it would be best to wait until a new Clerk was in post to go forward with internet banking. Members agreed and the Chairman thanked Councillor Lawrence for her help in this matter. Councillor Lawrence advised Members to look at the Unity Trust website to help them understand the process. Proposed by Councillor Fox, Seconded by Councillor Kitchen to go forward when a new Clerk is in post with internet banking with Unity Trust. Carried.
(c) Grievance/Disciplinary Policies – to be reviewed in January 2020.

To receive Delegates Reports:
(a) The Chairman reported that the Forest House Medical Practice had won the bid for a new surgery at New Lubbesthorpe. In light of this information the Clerk asked the Chairman if there were any plans to close a surgery within our parish. He confirmed there were no closures planned. In regard to the extension of the surgery on Warren Lane, the Chairman confirmed that a start date for the extension has not been decided.

To receive Clerk’s Report – None.

Councillors’ Forum:
(a) The Chairman said he would like to propose further litter picking/council surgeries for the new financial year.

Proposed for Closed Session – in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and the Local Government Act 1972 ss100 and 102, members of the public and press are likely to be excluded from the meeting at this point due to the confidential nature of the business – Proposed by the Chairman and Seconded by Councillor Fox. Carried.

Staffing matters addressed and Members updated on the present situation by the Chairman of the Staffing Committee.

Date of next meeting- 27th February 2019 @ 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.