

Final Minutes of Meeting

Date: 21 September 2016

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: Clowne Methodist Hall

1. **Apologies** Mr Clarke, Dianne Spooner, David and Joyce Hindley, Margaret Hewitt, PCSO's.

Attendance was 26 people.

2. **PCSO** – were due to attend tonight but must be at an incident

As usual the message is any sightings or worries **RING 101 with any concerns. The community are the eyes and ears for the PCSO and the Police.**

E mails:

daniel.appleby.14286@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk

suzanne.fox.3834@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk

Two Speakers for tonight followed

3.Stanfree Valley Preservation Society-Melissa and Kathy

A powerpoint presentation was shown

The group were formed after they had found out about the proposal for 600 houses to be built at Low Road/Stnfree. Following on from Avant exhibition they decided to form Friends of Oxcroft group to be proactive – in order to raise awareness and resist the development proposals. The impact of the 600 houses on quality of life is significant. The pressure on services, existing resources doctors schools all of which are currently under pressure. Schools - by 2018 we will have no places available. Infrastructure and traffic impact concerns – the Angel/Boughton Lane junctions cannot cope at present. The impact on resources, lack of community integration and overcrowding concerns and crime impact. The impact on roads/traffic and pollution are significant with 2,000 more cars will lead to lower air quality and health impact.

The last BDC air survey was in 2013 – but not sure what the position is now. It needs more surveys to understand pollution levels. Major impact on flood risk ?

Imbalance in the landscape- and landscape visual impact. Currently Stanfree Farm and fields contribute to our quality of life. The impact on tourism – these houses don't provide permanent jobs. To lose the view / the valley quality would be a huge loss.

There is a huge range of biodiversity here. Clowne Wildlife Group walk is taking place on Saturday- concern over habitat loss and species impact.

Britain is one of the most bio-diversity limited countries already.

Our children won't know what nature looks like and sounds like soon!

We have development on housing projects already happening- all developments are haphazard and unfocussed. We have Markham Vale and Seymour Opencast area.

Buildings are not friendly to the natural environment and place extra burdens on our area.

The old Coalite site is still derelict and contaminated. Similar Wingerworth site was shut down in the 1990's and they have spent £173 Million remedying it. It has been made safe as a country park by 2006. What are the reasons why Coalite has not been remediated? Stanfree Farm has more farming potential and it would be a real loss.

Natural springs here mean it has good water supply. We may need more of our own food production in the future. We have much Heritage here to cherish and protect. Do

we need this many houses in our already bursting area. With the Ringer Villa proposals it would be 1,400 extra houses.

Cllr Anne Western said of a certain number of houses to provide school places- but Developers often seem to run out of money just at the crucial point. Bellway paid for Clowne classroom and Barlborough have no spaces.

Need to show this to Duncan McGregor Head of Planning Cttee. Bolsover decided that Clowne is one of the 4 growth areas. The Parish Council have objected to 8 major developments- and their comments have been acknowledged but then ignored by Bolsover DC- all planning applications have been passed.

Suggested the group talk to Planning Officers- who should be available for a conversation. The view is that this location is outside the village envelope.

It was noted that Planning is under a legal obligation to assist developers.

We live in a 21st century village with 19th century infrastructure. David Hewitt commented that developers are coming here because Bolsover DC have no Local Plan and no 5 year housing supply – and Council would have to pay fees if they refused a housing application and then failed at appeal. There is also the Govt Housing Bonus Scheme whereby Councils receive a bonus from every house completed from Government who give Councils the equivalent extra rate bonus contribution on top of the normal rates for a six year period.

There is a similar position at Ringer Villa where it has been ongoing and difficult to object to. The infrastructure of the village is down to Derbyshire CC and the last discussion about High Street was that there wasn't enough congestion to make a roundabout necessary. Roundabout surveys recently on site – and suggested up to six weeks before it will be started. But yesterday a lorry driver working on the current gas main replacements on Mansfield Rd said that they needed to get new boring equipment so the gas main holes were being filled in again until this arrived and so any planned roundabout works would be knocked back as a result.

Note that The Edge development was to provide the roundabout after 25 houses were occupied- a position achieved weeks ago. The Neighbourhood Plan is the only way to oppose planning and yet the Parish Council have refused to do a Neighbourhood Plan. This should have been done in 2013 but the Parish decided they would not do one. Karl Reid said that we need a Neighbourhod Pan in October 2014 and then nothing was done until the election occurred and then it was delayed. Evidence from elsewhere is that it would not have cost the Parish the amount that they have stated. There were grants available and they did not apply. The Parish Chairman brought up the issue before 2013 saying we are going to do a Neighbourhood Plan. Will it be discussed in future?

Clowne Association will help the Stanfree group as much as we can.

Note - Stanfree Valley group meet on Tuesday at Oxcroft Miners Welfare.

4. Budget Buddies –Richard Haigh

A powerpoint presentation was shown

This project is about making Bolsover communities' financial lives better.

Companies budget because they know it is important- it links with debt and gets a negative context.

But it is just a tool to help individuals and families help run their lives.

The project provides one-to-one mentoring and coaching provision helping people understand why budgeting is needed and how it can help them.

First they access a support system- eg food bank or credit support and these find people who haven't got a budget plan.

Currently 1-3% of people don't have a plan.

People pay 7 times as much if they are below the poverty line eg card metres cost 3 times as much as ordinary payment. Advisors help people to understand that

budgeting helps people to manage their finances and breaks the cycle of paying off borrowing etc.

2 Shires Credit covers the whole of Bolsover District.

2400% example of Pay Day Loans charges.

The project helps people on low wages. Bolsover looks good economically but the majority of people are on low wages and have to cope with daily costs.

Society is now more disparate and so parental/grandparent support is not there to help as much as it used to be.

Poverty Audit by Bolsover CVP – and a Poverty Conference have highlighted issues- it is about the working poor- with more demand for food parcels and out of schools kids who often don't get a hot meal daily.

Family support is often essential to help families.

Debt with high interest is a major issue in the District. Debt damages peoples' health and makes the cycle worse.

Welfare Reform – with Universal Credit is not being rolled out everywhere yet.

People will now be paid monthly rather than fortnightly and so people will need a budget as an essential to manage that process. Budget Buddies go round people helping them understand what budgeting is and how to manage.

People have to deal with the issue head-on and not just borrow to tide over each payment.

They explain to people why they need to budget.

Correct budgeting helps people deal with inevitable emergencies.

Often bad habits can be put right. They train people to manage- they recruit volunteers.

The Freedom Project is a good example where people with crisis point have underlying budget issues. Seek to break the cycle of debt and lack of budgeting management.

They are looking for volunteers able to help. There are lots of campaigns seeking recruitment. Skills passed on will help the community. People learn to budget/ Help others/ help the Community, and it will help ensure sustainable communities.

People often feel worthless if they cannot manage their finances,

Go on to Release on line – budgetbuddies.org.uk

And they will have a Facebook page.

They will have a Newsletter from October.

They will help people losing jobs.

Please ask for referral forms for the project.

Questions asked about

Why don't they teach budget management at school?

Why are borrowers allowed to promote loans at the excessively high interest rates?

Tony from Freedom Project noted that one of the biggest issues is getting people to admit that they have a problem- and only a small number will accept the help on offer.

This is often not just debt but an increase in mental health problems. Those excluded from school will tend to miss the message. Often now this is an issue of 3rd generations of families on social security and debt. That they have a Choice is the key message.

5. Southgate Colliery Memorial

Final Drafts of the Notice Board have been produced ready for the printers.

Graphic design has been done by Capital Refractories staff and Victory design are to produce the double sided sign in a steel frame for about £500. A dedication ceremony is planned for Sat 22 October with Dennis Skinner promising to do the honours and a buffet at Methodist Hall. Some 39 men and boys are recorded on the sign and with a memorial plaque. A relative of one of these is known and the History Society are seeking other family connections.

It is intended to prepare a book about the Colliery. Many people didn't even know that there was a colliery on this site. The rail and coal history built the village. The memorial site will be taken over by Clowne Parish Council- including watering the tubs.

It would cost over £550 to separately insure the memorial according to quote obtained from Buckingham Insurance.

They will add a plaque saying that this has been presented/ donated by the History Society to the Parish. The dedication event will be fully covered by press and hopefully TV publicity.

6. The Minutes of the previous meeting 20July 2016 were approved as correct.

Matters Arising:

6.1 Neighbourhood Plan

We cannot do a Neighbourhood Plan as a community – unless we get the backing of the Parish Council and so we can't do it. It would need 6-8 weeks consultation. We would need a bank account set up, Directors in place etc. and we would need to find the money to pay for it. It looks as though we are worse off than before the Parish made a decision.

We will carry on as a Community Association to seek to influence the emerging Bolsover Planning policies as they affect Clowne.

Parish Council Standing Orders don't allow them to revisit a decision once made for a six month period before they can re-open it.

LGA- Local Govt Association provide support and advice to all Councils.

Their advice from the web site is - the community don't need a Parish Council but the Parish Council need the community. It was suggested that a sub-committee of 6 people from Association members should be set in place to review the next Local Plan documents as soon as they are issued and seek an Association view and understanding and response.

Accepted – that we should set up such a sub Cttee and hands were raised who offered to contribute- see below.

It was felt that the Parish never wanted a Neighbourhood Plan. We have already submitted comments. It appears that the Council have stalled this process until there is no time left to do it. We have been to LGA and My Locale for support and funds were there to help. By comparison Bassetlaw have encouraged the development of Neighbourhood Plans.

This was put to Clowne Parish Council in June last year and informed the Parish that from knowledge of such plans already done elsewhere a Neighbourhood Plan would only cost £20,000 and against this some £18,000 of grant would be available. But the Parish decided separately and ignored this advice.

The Parish are supposed to represent the views of Parishioners but in Clowne this doesn't happen.

A view was put- Why are we bothering to pressure Councils when nobody takes any notice.? All Neighbourhood Plan discussion with the Parish has failed.

Note

New Bolsover Local Plan – Association Cttee/Forum

These people volunteered to be the Association group looking at this:

Eric Blackwell, Dave Hewitt, Simon Nissenbaum, Paul Mangle, Steven Raison,
Allan Bailey, Greg Lindley.

Greg to contact BDC Planning about Plan consultation.

6.2 Clowne in Bloom Update- Greg Lindley

Bolsover Council have rejected the Adventure Play element of the Tesco grant funded work on Linear Park. Their letter issued at the beginning of September says that they do not want adventure play equipment on Linear Park. This came as a shock, as they had given us a landowner approval form in May that stated that they were working with CIB on adventure play on Linear? We have written to BDC asking if Chief Exec will

review this decision – but obviously need to protect both CIB and the Association. So all work/spend commitment on the grant element of CIB work has stopped until this is resolved. If we have to repay the initial grant of £9,000 then this would leave Clowne Association account with just around £400 remaining.

We have moved the play train from the sculptors yard into storage this last week waiting a decision on what to do?

We feel that our local Councillors have done us no help at all in this. Obviously four of the Parish Council are also BDC local Councillors and it was a meeting with these four held by Deputy Leader at BDC who turned this down following officers advice.. We have officers saying it's a Councillor decision and Councillors saying its an Officer decision !

A Freedom of Information request has been submitted to BDC seeking information about the original Cabinet decision that approved the May landowner approval as well as the Local Members approval decision of 7 September, to understand what has happened.

Greg commented that he felt it was his fault for something that he had failed to do. The Association said – not so. But, it's difficult to understand and a long exchange of e mails etc has been submitted to Chief Exec at Bolsover asking him to review this. A part-specification covering the play train and other initial work was submitted to BDC on 30 June and spoke with them on 5 July, once funds received, and said this part-specification was a test of the approval process. But, it was not until 23 August (just two days before the scheduled train installation date) that BDC said to halt, as a local member decision was needed.

They gave us a landowner approval form on 10 May, and a site licence to do work (subject to approval) and gave us a key to the gate for the July activity day and other site preparation work.

Bolsover DC have said that they want grot spots to disappear.

Clowne Together expressed their support for CIB and the work on Linear Park. This is our park as much as it is Bolsover Council's.

A Legal Challenge route was suggested as available to us.

Clowne Association Committee are at risk as a consequence as we are not a limited liability organisation.

We have had local companies offering support- OCL have done work already on scraping the area of old line in preparation and Clowne Landscape have offered to help on a week-end.

Brian Betts noted that he had sent a letter to the Parish Council asking them to support CIB, for discussion at the next Parish meeting?

It was noted that there are other examples of wood play equipment in the District- the new playspace at The Edge for instance has large wood items.

People commented that the local Councillors have failed the wishes of the general public and you can't help but question whether this is a case of discrimination against the Association for standing up for issues against/ questioning the local Councillors?

7. Other Items

7.1 Linear Park Wildlife Family Event 30 October- from 10 am activities and cutting back trees/shrubs near the pathway.

7.2 CSR- Corporate Social Responsibility event- Richard Haigh is attending this and will represent us.

7.3 EMIB East Midlands in Bloom-Judging day was on 7 July and the awards event was on 14 Sept in Mansfield – Anne and Brenda attended. CIB received a Bronze Award and the Heritage School Eco Garden received a special Judges Award for their activities, which we showed to the judges as part of the 7 July day. We will write and congratulate Heritage School and write to the Parish and Bolsover Councils asking about next year, including the judges comments /scoring page.

7.4 Well Dressing 2016 this was very successful – raising £260 on contributions and everyone who donated is Thanked. The display included 15 small boards done by young people from all 3 schools plus Salvation Army and the Linear day in July.

7.5 Greenway DCC are seeking Letters of Support to accompany grant application and planning application.-CIB and the Association will supply letters of support.

7.6 Gala 10 September- a successful day with a CIB/Clowne Association stall- Also David and Joyce Hindley from the Union of Churches stall contributions donated £93 to Clowne in Bloom and our Thanks to them.

7.7 Clowne Tennis Club Trustees- discussion is underway about new facilities for tennis in North Derbyshire with Creswell Parish.

7.8 Clowne Together Fun Day is on Saturday 24 Sept at The Travellers pub

8. Next Meeting - for 2016.

Committee dates two weeks prior to main meetings

Committee.

2 November

Main Meeting

23 Nov and AGM

The 23 November 16 **will also be the Annual General Meeting** - any nominations for Cttee places please in advance.

Tea/Coffee and Raffle raised £38.40 and everyone was thanked for their contributions.