

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

MINUTES

**7.30pm on 31st May 2023
Great Bowden Village Hall**

Present

Bob Hooper (Chairman)

Paul Claxton (Vice-Chairman)

Anna Bowes (Councillor)

1. Apologies & Attendance

Apologies from Councillor Jonathan Almond

Lindsey Wolstencroft (clerk)

Residents

Carolyn Ford

Lynn Mayer (New Open Spaces Warden)

Janet Wells

Peter Mitchell (Chairman of the NP Committee)

2. **Chairman's report for 22/23** – BH read the report of Adam Shepherd read at the last PC meeting. The report is annexed hereto. Clarified that the anonymous letter received by AS was not in fact from 'the residents of Great Bowden' as a whole. It is an unsigned letter from an anonymous person who has chosen not to come forward. Letters were anonymous and delivered to three out of six of the Parish Councillor's at their home addresses. JA, AS and AB received letters. JW said that she is very sad that people have felt the need to resign due to this one letter. CF said that vile or not it should still be in the public domain. JW and PM agree. AB reiterated that the letters are now in the public domain. The writer of the letters has not identified him/her/or themselves and has unfortunately decided not to attend this meeting. It was emphasised once again that it is most unfortunate that someone has chosen to write letters and in a rather cowardly

fashion has failed to identify themselves. This person (or people) is once again invited to make themselves known and to have a discussion with councillors.

3. The letters have been reported to the Police.
4. Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of the Parish approved.
5. District Councillors' reports will be available on the website along with the minutes.
6. Public Comments:
 - (i) Parking in the village (JW). Getting worse and worse and worse. JW has spoken to Laura our PCSO who has been sympathetic and said that she will try to bring it up at a higher level. Police can only step in if it is dangerous. JW believes that it is dangerous. JW cites the example of the memorial green where you have to go around the cars all the time. Could we have yellow lines? People are just parked all the way along there and they are incredibly dangerous. We need something more strong and positive doing. PC said that when Airfield planning was approved at about 1am in the market hall, they approved a plan for traffic calming in GB. It's there, mapped and very detailed but it then said that the money that was taken off the developers would not be released until the 500th house on Airfield farm was occupied. We have no official details as to the present number. JW said that it does not mean that this negates the Police stepping in to tell people that they are parked dangerously. JW said that she should not have to walk on the road. People are putting bollards on the public highway to protect their bit of parking and it is not theirs. Soon there will be an injury or an accident. CF said that in highways terms, when there is an accident that is serious, highways suddenly leap into action. PC has been told that until there is a serious accident, we don't have a problem. PC emphasised how frustrating this was. JW asks the PC to write to the Police to ask for a presence in the village to monitor these dangers. PC agrees to write a letter to the Police requesting the same. It was clarified that our PCSO does not have the power to issue a parking ticket. PC agrees to also write to the Police Commissioner.
 - (ii) CF – raised the issue of policy documents. We don't appear to have a biodiversity conservation and enhancement policy. The law says that you have to appropriately integrate into policies and activities that concept. That requires any public authority with functions relating to England to see what action it can take to further that objective. CF inviting us to review the policies. Confirmed that this will be done.
 - (iii) CF raised that the Chairman's reports do not appear to be online anymore and given that our schedule indicates minutes of council and committee meetings, should that be slightly broadened to include for example, the minutes of these meetings? Is there a case for being clearer where these minutes are on the website? PC confirmed that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish will be recorded on the website. CF highlighted the difficulty for the public in finding the minutes. CF wants to make the website more user friendly. PC emphasised that the Annual Meeting minutes are completely separate. Minutes from 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 need to be separated retrospectively. PC confirmed that the Chairman's reports should be in the minutes of the AGM. Agreed that this will be checked. PC and AB to review documents as per the auditor's recent report. Confirmed that we will be

looking to make the website more user-friendly with the use of hyperlinks etc. CF highlighted in the schedule of retained documents, should the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish be listed? Agreed that they are of historical value and are archive-worthy. CF raised the possibility of an electronic archive. PC said that anything before 2015 will be on a paper record. CF raises the issue of what happens to the Open Spaces reports and the Neighbourhood Plan reports. AB said that these should be annexed to the appropriate minutes. Agreed by all that it is relatively simple task to add as attachments to each set of minutes, the reports mentioned at the meeting/in the minutes. This will be done for every set of minutes/meeting so that the public can click on an attachment and view the reports at the same time. CF raises the issue of emails and Whatsapp messages and where these 'stand' in the arena of being disclosed into the public domain. This was simply raised. There is no official 'Great Bowden Parish Council' Whatsapp group. CF simply raised this out of interest, in connection with the schedule of retained documents.

- (iv) LM raised a question about the residents of Heathcote Grange who have a small representative group and are all very keen on biodiversity and sustainability. They would like this to be known by the PC, for example, a tree was cut down from Leicester Lane and wonder if a replacement is planted. Heathcote Grange will be asked by LM if anyone would like to join the PC. PC explained that the Parish Council is very keen to liaise with residents' committees. AB suggested that we set up a meeting with the residents' group at Heathcote Grange and will take LM's email address and sort this out asap.
- (v) PM conveys his apologies for the slight delay of the NP, due to his involvement in the Harborough Cinema. All agreed that the new cinema is a fantastic resource.

Meeting ends at 20.37pm