

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Community Committee** of Bingham Town Council held in The Old Court House, Church Street, Bingham, on **Tuesday, 8th March, 2016, at 7.15 p.m.**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor	R. Bird - Chairman
"	A. Harvey
"	Mrs. T. Kerry
"	Mrs. A. Langford
"	A. Shelton

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor	F. Purdue-Horan
1 Press	

**1.00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPTANCE:**

Apologies for Absence and Acceptance were received and accepted from Councillor Mrs. C. Williams.

**2.00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

**3.00 MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 19th January, 2016, having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

01 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising out of the Minutes held on the 19th January, 2016.

**4.00 MATTERS IN RESPECT OF CAPITAL PROGRAMME:**

01 Project to Improve the Market Place.

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**5.00 MATTERS RELATING TO PROMOTION ISSUES:**

01 Summer Fair – Update on Progress to Date

Planning for the Fair is underway and stall booking forms will be sent out next week.

02 Town Guide Working Group – Confirmation of Inaugural Meeting Date

This date has yet to be confirmed.

03 Christmas Fair Group – Confirmation of Inaugural Meeting Date

It was agreed to meet on the 5th April, 2016, at 6.00 p.m.

**6.00 MATTERS RELATING TO POLICING ISSUES:**

01 Police Priority Setting Group – Update on Meeting Held on the 21st January, 2016, and Confirmation of Next Meeting to be held on the 14th April, 2016, at The Old Court House

Refer to attached Minutes (Appendix 'A').

Councillor Bird confirmed he would chair the next Priority Setting Group meeting. Councillor Mrs. Langford expressed concerns that members of the public were not reporting crimes which would distort statistics. Agreed an article to go in Town News.

**7.00 MATTERS IN RESPECT OF CAPITAL PROGRAMME:**

Refer to Agenda Item 4.

**8.00 COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP MEETING - 8TH MARCH, 2016, AT 6.00 P.M. - UPDATE:**

The Chairman gave an update on the above meeting. (Refer to notes attached Appendix 'B').

**9.00 BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION:**

It was agreed to enter this competition.

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**10.00      SEVERN TRENT WATER'S ACTIONS IN RELATION TO THE RECENT BURST WATER MAINS PIPE:**

It was agreed that Councillors have a meeting with Nottinghamshire County Council and Severn Trent Water regarding their actions during the recent problem which resulted in loss of water for residents. Severn Trent Water had agreed to compensate those who had no water supply at all with £30.00, and the Clerk confirmed that Bingham Town Council had been notified of two £30.00 refunds in relation to The Old Court House and the Cemetery. Councillors expressed thanks to the Mayor, Yeung Sing and the Circle Eatery for their actions in providing and arranging distribution of water on the Sunday in question.

**11.00      NOTICE BOARD ON FORMER MOOT HOUSE SITE - UPDATE:**

The Clerk confirmed that the noticeboard was due to be resited on the edge of Wychwood Road grassed area.

**12.00      CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 01      Notification from Rushcliffe Borough Council of Arts & Crafts to be held on the Market Place on the 24th and 25th June, 26th and 27th August, and 4th and 5th November, 2016, was noted.
  
- 02      The Clerk confirmed that the lighting of the beacon for HM Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday was to take place at 7.30 p.m. (official confirmation had now been received) on Butt Field Sports Ground, and the Clerk to enquire if B.F.S.C. wanted to take advantage of the

As there was no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN.

Date.....

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Nottinghamshire Police</b> <b>Rushcliffe South (Northern Cluster) Priority Setting Meeting</b></p>
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▶ Chairpersons: PC Caroline Voce & Sally Charles ◀ Notes taken by Bob Clarke, Orston NHW
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**NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON**  
**21<sup>st</sup> January 2016 at Grange Hall, Radcliffe-on-Trent**

**Attendees;** PC Caroline Voce, PCSO Sally Charles, Sue Barker (Shelton NHW/PM), Glenda Pearce (Radcliffe), Heather Miller (Shelford PC), Julie Brown (Aslockton), Anne Crowley (Aslockton PC), Christine Lineker (Granby & Sutton), Margaret Goulder (Newton PC), Vivian Goulder (Newton–Notts PCC), RBC Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan (Bingham West), David Cartledge (Flintham PC), Anthony Gee (Radcliffe NHW), Bob Clarke (Orston NHW), Alan R Harvey (Saxondale PM), Rowan Bird (Bingham TC), Graham Leigh-Browne (Radcliffe PC)  
**Apologies:** PC Steve Mathias, Shirley Oates (Orston PC), Clare Williams (Bingham TC), Bev Bingham (Shelford Parish Council)

Due to an urgent police incident PC Steve Mathias was unable to attend the meeting at short notice. Therefore, PC Caroline Voce chaired the meeting with PCSO Sally Charles.

**Restructure of meetings**

Caroline opened the meeting by announcing that she and Steve would no longer be available to attend the PSM meetings, this due to changes in the Force's structure. Instead PCSOs Sally Charles and David Wesson would be the police representatives at future meetings.

Concern was raised that this might devalue the importance of these meetings if a senior police representative was not present. Caroline said she was confident the PCSOs would step up to the mark and reminded the meeting that the meetings should be chaired from the floor, and not by the police. Chairing of the meetings by the police had been a compromise agreement following Bill Sylvester's resignation as no one had volunteered to replace him.

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### **Item1 - Local Crime Level and Trends**

Caroline advised a 4% drop in crime levels for Rushcliffe South over the same period last year. There had been no spikes or identifiable trends in the figures.

It was mentioned there had been a number of non-dwelling burglary thefts, Newton specifically. The use and efficacy of shed alarms was discussed. It was thought this should be included as a "priority".

Concern was raised at the riding of bicycles without adequate lighting. Caroline said that when appropriate the youths' parents were informed.

### **Item 2 - Recent Police Activity**

#### **i) Cannabis growing**

Locally the police have been very successful apprehending those responsible for cannabis growing and drug related issues in Bingham, East Bridgford, Barnstone and Shelford.

Cannabis growing in suburbs is soaring and Caroline asked that we inform residents to be on the lookout for clues, as local intelligence is critical to success in police raids.

For example:

- a. **Look out for people setting up shop** - ventilation equipment, lighting equipment, grow-bags and soil
- b. **Absence of tenants and their comings and goings at odd hours** - They won't be sociable neighbours
- c. **Smell** - Cannabis's odour is distinctively strong and sickly sweet
- d. **Covered-up windows** - pulled curtains or black-outs
- e. **Strong Lighting**
- f. **Condensation on windows**, or **unusual levels of heat** coming from a property
- g. **Used compost bags** dumped by rubbish bins

Report anything suspicious by calling 101.

#### **ii) Drug problem, Shelford**

Caroline confirmed police had continued to successfully target Shelford (priority from June meeting). There had been a round-the-clock problem there and a lot of good criminal intelligence had been obtained.

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### **Item 3 - Progress with priorities agreed at September meeting**

#### **1) Noisy motorbikes/off-riders**

Around the plunger area quad bikes are a continuing problem. Bikes are dropped off from horse-boxes. Not just youths but adults also.

This activity is often illegal, causes damage to footpaths and fences and with added problem of litter from bits falling off machines.

Some incidents reported to Nottingham some to Leicester. Shared intelligence needed to quantify problem.

Caroline stated there is a police “off-road team” to tackle “hot-spots”. Need to bid for this resource. Therefore, very important all incidents reported so full extent of problem clear. This reporting is very important for all rural crime.

It was mentioned there are still incidents of motor bikes causing problems in Bingham. The “Linear Path” and rugby field were quoted.

#### **2) Catalytic converters – No incidents since September meeting**

#### **3) Oil thefts – Again this has not been a problem**

#### **4) Speeding – an ongoing priority**

### **Item 4 - Priorities for the next three months**

1. **Off-road bikes and quad bikes** - Police to devise a strategy
2. **Non-dwelling Burglary** – outbuildings, sheds and garages
3. **Speeding** – including increased use of Community Speed Reduction Scheme initiative (i.e. new SpeedWatch)

### **Item 5 - A.O.B.**

#### **a. Community Speed Reduction Scheme Training**

There appears to be confusion as to whether or not the new Community Speed Reduction Scheme (CSRS) should replace or dovetail with SpeedWatch. A number of villages share a speed-gun but there is an annual cost for recalibrating this. The new CSRS equipment does not make the existing allocated speed-guns redundant.

Unfortunately the training for the CSRS at Granby didn't go ahead and training is essential before the equipment can be used and completion of a questionnaire is required each time it is borrowed for use. Caroline advised that Cotgrave were using the equipment once a week for a couple of hours and training is currently taking place at Bunny.

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Availability is not a problem and the person controlling the allocation is Howard Shinn. The PCSOs will deliver the equipment to villages. Sally Charles is happy to organise this. If training is required then this can be facilitated through PCSOs Sally Charles or David Wesson.

**Item 6 - Date of the Next Meeting**

**The next meeting is scheduled to take place at the Bingham Town Hall on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7pm.**

**Notes End.**

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<b>DATE AND TIME OF MEETING:</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 6pm</b>
<b>NATURE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>Inaugural Communications Working Group Meeting</b>
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	<b>Councillors R.Bird, A.R.Harvey, F.Purdue-Horan, A.Shelton, A.Langford, T.Kerry</b>
<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:</b>	<b>None</b>

		<b>TO BE ACTIONED BY</b>
1.	Chairman RB opened the meeting and presented a Communication discussion document (refer to attached document).	
2.	<p><b>Communications with the public:</b> Members were asked to consider “What do they want to communicate?”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noticeboards</b> – Clerk updated members on locations. Nottingham Road bus shelter near Linear Walk, Bowland Road (to be resited to edge of Wychwood Road greenspace, Grantham Road nr. bus shelter adjacent Wallenfels play area, Co-op corner and a covered noticeboard attached to end of Eaton Place. Notices are also placed in Library. Agreed to obtain quotes for 2 additional noticeboards to be located on Butt Field and top Tythby Road (Mill Hill area green space).</li> <li>• <b>Town News</b> – an article to go in confirming how to obtain BTC information ie. website, noticeboards, Town News, Office, Library etc. Frequency to remain every other month but to investigate reverting to monthly.</li> <li>• <b>Newspaper</b> – agreed Newark Advertiser attend most meetings and due to Bingham Advertiser members felt there was adequate coverage of BTC news.</li> <li>• <b>Facebook etc.</b> – agreed not necessary but publicise where and how to obtain BTC information.</li> <li>• <b>Conversations with the public</b> – agreed Councillors should be aware of how they communicate with members of the public to ensure no comebacks.</li> <li>• <b>Access to meetings</b> – agreed this was adequate as the meetings were publicized and members of the public catered for.</li> <li>• <b>Website</b> – agreed automatic newsfeed to be removed so information on right hand side only shows news directly related to Bingham. Website to be reviewed in future.</li> </ul>	

3.	Suggestion was made that a screen could be sited in Library to advertise BTC events. (Peter Gore CEO “Inspire”)	
4.	<b>Communications between ourselves</b> – generally felt that this was satisfactory due to emails, smartphones, etc.	
5.	The meeting closed at 6.55pm	
6.	Date of next meeting to fall after Community Led Plan had been published and meeting to be 6pm immediately prior to Community Committee.	

## Communication. Discussion document.

### 1) Communication with the public of Bingham

During the elections the most common comment I had from the public was that they did not know what was going on due to lack of communication. Whether this is a justified comment or not it still raises the issue that our communication with the public of Bingham needs to be looked at.

At present we have a number of communication routes with the public:

1. Notice boards in Bingham that are used to show details of meeting.
2. A newsletter which goes out with the Buttercross magazine every two months.
3. The newspapers such as the Bingham Advertiser who send a reporter to all meeting.
4. Some of our information gets to Facebook or Streetwise but none officially.
5. Spoken conversations with public when out and about.
6. Access for the public to attend our scheduled meetings.
7. Town Council web site.

Is this satisfactory?

How can we improve this? Would a regular surgery be appropriate?

If the perceived view of the public is that we are not communicating enough how can we make them aware of the methods we use?

Do we need to identify other ways of getting information to the public? What are these?

Is there a case to have a distribution system within each street? Would it be possible to identify a person in each street/area who would agree to deliver documents to a small number of houses? This could link to the Community Plan group.

### 2) Communication between ourselves.

At present we have the traditional methods of communication between ourselves:

- Spoken word
- E-mail via town council server or our own systems
- Telephone
- Written documents such as agenda and minutes

Are these sufficient to cover all needs?

Can we identify improvements to make communication more effective?

Do we need regular meetings to discuss our primary concerns and actions or are these all communicated within existing meetings?

Are there any other issues with communication we should consider? Rowan Bird July 2015