

Hawksworth Parish Meeting

28th March 2023 at 7.30pm

Chairman : Chris Bradwell (CB)

Parish Clerk : Neil Smith (NS)

Attendees: Paul Bramley, Steve & Sarah Hadfield, Celia Harris, Alistair Henderson, Nigel Maddison-Rowe, Robert & Pedella Monk, Pauline Smith, Greg & Pam Stevens, Colin Tomkins, Margrete von Schomberg.

Apologies: Gary & Elaine Cooke, Anne Dunn, Ron & Diane Edmonds, Paul & Vicki Hart, Doug & Lynn Ross, Les & Steph Shaw

Main reasons for the meeting:

- Conservation Area Review
- Social events for the year – Coronation is just over 5 weeks away
- Chair resignation/election
- Solar Farm Update

1. Conservation Area Review

Chris thanked everyone who came to Rushcliffe's presentation of their review of the Hawksworth Conservation Area last Wednesday and outlined the sequence of events leading to the meeting cancellation. Neil had notified the village of RBC consultation and of our planned subsequent meeting to discuss the village's response. Rushcliffe had posted a map to everyone concerned, clearly titled Draft Conservation Area Boundary. The day before our planned Parish Meeting to discuss the matter, I found that the plan that Rushcliffe had posted out was the old plan, not the new one. I concluded that it was likely that villagers would take more notice of the Rushcliffe 2 pages than the Full Conservation Document (27 pages) emailed from Neil – the correct plan was on p.27! Accordingly, some people would probably not attend because they had seen the plan which showed no changes. Therefore I cancelled the meeting (first time in my 20+ yrs!) - I felt I could not risk interested parties being misled and not attending... Finally, Neil received correct map yesterday afternoon emailed everyone.

Rushcliffe's stated purpose of a Conservation Area Character Appraisal:-

- To identify and record the special interest of the Conservation Area to ensure there is a public awareness and understanding of what is worthy of preservation
- To define and reassess current boundaries to accurately reflect what is now perceived to be of special interest
- To identify opportunities to safeguard and enhance the special interest of the Conservation Area

Chris started by identifying proposed changes on this latest plan from Rushcliffe:-

MAP This is still officially just a draft - the colours will ultimately resemble the current ones. The finished document (complete with recoloured map) will only become official when Rushcliffe have drawn their final conclusions – perhaps June to September time...

Some of the more significant changes to the document, carefully analysed for us by Anne Dunn:

- a) For the first time we have reference to Geoffrey's tree on the grass triangle at the top of Town St
- b) Summary of 4 key issues
 - i) Tympanum badly eroded
 - ii) Lilac Cottage falling into disrepair (also referred to in the SWOT analysis)
 - iii) Disease of trees becoming evident, especially the cherry trees along Town St and Main Rd to the south
 - iv) Quality of road surface declining – unsightly waste and potholes throughout the village causing considerable road noise
- c) Praise of the sensitively created brick buttresses to the church wall on Town St
- d) Key unlisted buildings – 2 additions: Ivy House Farm & Yew Tree Barn

At the consultation meeting with Rushcliffe last Wednesday evening, some villagers gave written feedback to Rushcliffe. This included the following:-

- a) Should Wayside Cottage be included in the Conservation Area?
- b) Should Lilac Cottage be named on the plan?
- c) Additional important views and vista have been identified. There has been active encouragement from Hawksworth on this subject as it strengthens our case against the proposed Solar Farm. It was suggested that backward views towards the village are just as important and again significant re the Solar Application.2.

Meeting Responses

- a) There are some inaccuracies in the map
Chris advised the meeting RBC had used a temporary base for the map as their system was being updated. Neil will collect the inaccuracies and notify RBC.
 - New view at Wayside Cottage should be through gate not Wayside garage !
 - House names missing or inaccurate : Lilac Cottage, Askews Cottage, Ivy House Farm,
- b) Open Spaces
Celia noted half of their garden is an open space, not bothered which way it goes, but makes sense to be all or nothing.
- c) Wayside Cottage
At the consultation a number of attendees questioned if Wayside should be included. Colin (resident of Wayside) was not present. He is not happy with being included including the map is out of date with wrong house footprint.
Neil advised how to respond, and subsequently gave Colin the information for contacting RBC.
- d) Paul Bramley (also representing the Harts and Shaws) has questioned why the conservation zone has been extended to the bottom of their gardens when other houses were not included. Chris relayed RBC response, being it made sense not to have a conservation boundary half way across a garden, and they had "tidied up" the boundary (See b above)
- e) Protected Views – some of arrows are missing from the map. Ensure these are reinstated.

Neil to send responses to RBC

2. Social Events for 2023

- a) Coronation day (5th May) is just 3 1/2 weeks away. We need to decide what we are going to do for the event. Nigel is booked for the Saturday. Colin and Chris have trialled the use of a projector and it appears feasible to screen the coronation in the church.

This will need either the wi-fi operating or James Counsell has kindly offered the use of a cable from Hawksworth Place.

Other ideas include:

- Street party on verge along Main Road (as per VE Day)
- Bunting
- Food and Beer etc in the church

Meeting to discuss Coronation – Monday 17th April – 7.30 in the church.

b) Robert & Pedella have kindly offered to host a Village Day. This was agreed for Saturday 6th August. Planning to commence after the Coronation

3. Solar Update

Neil updated the meeting on the Solar working group.

- Attending RBC Planning Committee for Gotham Solar Farm application
Thanks to all who attended – learned a lot, especially the importance of; the Solar Panel Demo (at back of room), large numbers attending (peacefully showing volume of objection), lobbying councillors before meeting
- Thankfully our Cllr Sarah Bailey has now objected, so we will at least go to planning committee
- The Independent Landscape Assessment has strongly supported our position against the application
- The Conservation Officer report has strong comments against the application that we can use.

We remain hopeful, but there is a lot of work to prepare for the RBC Planning Committee (likely to be in June). If we get success at the meeting RES have 9 months to appeal, or have 6 months to resubmit the application with amendments or create a new larger application which would be a National Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and go direct to government. If we lose at RBC Planning our options are to go to judicial review and/or campaign to get called in by the Secretary of State. Both options have low success rates and are very expensive.

Note: Subsequent to this meeting RBC Planners have refused Planning for the Solar Farm. Thankfully this is the end of the beginning. The options for res remain, although we are on firmer ground with the initial refusal.

4. WiFi update

The equipment has arrived. Neil and Steve to install and test when weather allows

5. Chair, and replacement

As announced at the January meeting, Chris confirmed he will be resigning at the AGM in May. After more than 20 years as Chair he feels it is time for someone else to have their turn. Chris feels he has had tremendous support all these years and hope the village will support whoever steps forward. The procedure:

- Those interested in applying should let Neil know by the 23rd April
- During the AGM a secret ballot will be held to select the future Chair
- Chris is happy to chair that meeting in full.

It is a very fulfilling position. You can become as involved as you wish but it is certainly for someone who loves this village!

Typically the Chair is involved in all Parish Matters, from church repair projects, planning applications through to community events such as Fun Days and Pub Nights. Not necessarily directly involved with all these, but as an overall supporter together with the Parish Clerk.

No experience is necessary (Chris had none). Impartiality and enthusiasm are key. The Parish Clerk is responsible for administrative and legal matters in the village.

So, if you love this village and feel you can help it, please let Neil know! Chris and Neil happy to discuss the opportunity with anyone interested.