

**Bonsall Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Bonsall Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.30pm at Bonsall Village Hall.**

**Chair of the Council:** Cllr Mark Harris

Clerk: Tony Payne 27 High St Bonsall DE4 2A Telephone: 01629 822311 email: bonsallclerk@gmail.com

Minute No	Item	Action
04/04/1	<p><b>Present</b> Cllrs Harris, Barry, Grover, and Pountain. Mr T Payne (Clerk/RFO), County Cllr Ratcliffe and DDDC Cllrs Purdy and Pawley, and 7 members of the public.</p>	
04/04/2	<p><b>Apologies for Absence:</b> apologies received from Cllr Addis.</p>	
04/04/3	<p><b>Variation to the Order of Business:</b> None.</p>	
04/04/4	<p><b>Declaration of Interests:</b> None</p>	
04/04/5	<p><b>Public Speaking</b> <b>Closure of the Via Gellia at Cromford:</b> At the end of the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March County Councillor Irene Ratcliffe and District Councillors Garry Purdy and Joyce Pawley had agreed to arrange an urgent meeting involving District and County officers and Councillors, to see if anything could be done to manage the works in a different way, or at a different time, so as to have less impact, to involve the project management company in that, and to report back to the Parish Council.</p> <p>County Councillor Irene Ratcliffe (with the Clerk) updated the meeting on the key developments since as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>May/June closure rejected:</b> On 30<sup>th</sup> March the County Council Strategic Director Economy Transport and Community Mike Ashworth had taken the executive decision to not allow the closure from 8<sup>th</sup> May to 26<sup>th</sup> June. He had asked the contractors to submit a revised working arrangement that significantly reduced the time that may be needed for the closure, and asked them to resubmit for a potential shorter closure in September.</li> <li>• <b>This followed from a meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March</b> involving the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David Symonds and Associates, Jonathan Symonds (by phone)</li> <li>Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Councillor Irene Ratcliffe</li> <li>Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC) Councillor Joyce Pawley</li> <li>DDDC Head of Regulatory Services Tim Braund</li> <li>DCC Economy Transport and Communities Julian Gould</li> <li>DCC Highways Structural team Robert Spencer</li> <li>DCC Highways Senior Project Engineer David Connell</li> <li>Bonsall PC Councillor Phil Addis</li> <li>Bonsall PC Clerk Tony Payne</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Block wall stability:</b> at that meeting new information had emerged. Symonds' project manager had stated that the current block wall was risk assessed as structurally sound at present, but that the design method meant that this is only short-term (3-5 years) and it will need to be rebuilt during that timeframe; (the new structure would have 100-120 year design life) The Highway structural team had endorsed that assessment.</li> <li>• <b>Planning permission extension:</b> DDDC had said that they were open to an application to vary the current planning permission for the work, which is currently time limited to 19 July 2017, and would look flexibly at that.</li> </ul>	

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- **The Project Manager stated that plant and contractor** were booked for the May-June dates, the plant was difficult to secure, and that deferment would have additional cost for the client insurance company.
- **Timing of works:** the works would have to be deferred to September/early October 2017 due to other road closures in the area, and the need for work to be done in good weather. There was a slot available in September due to other County Council works in the Via Gellia having been booked for that time which could be reorganised.
- **Road Closure Order:** DCC had not yet made or advertised the road closure order. The notice of order was issued 14th March 2017, and had now been withdrawn.
- **Traffic Management Permit:** DCC had not yet granted a Traffic Management Permit for the work;
- **Single lane access:** there had been discussion about the possibility of leaving one lane open for traffic light control. Because of the width of the plant used for drilling this would not be possible whilst this was on site, which could be from 2 to 4 weeks depending on how the work progressed.
- **One way traffic:** Traffic light control might be possible once drilling had finished and this would be looked at; it was pointed out that there was limited road length on Water Lane for north bound traffic to queue at any lights before it would block the junction with Cromford Hill, and that a better option might be to make the Via Gellia one way northwards.
- **HGV access:** even if it was possible to use traffic lights at any stage of the works, it might not be able to accommodate HGV's due to limited road width with plant on site.
- **Risk assessment:** Councillor Ratcliffe said that it had been important that there was no risk to road users' residents and the public if the work was deferred, and that this had been established to be the case.
- **Compensation claims:** the project manager had been asked about potential legal claims; he had stated his view that such claims in first instance should be directed to the property owners who would have to refer them to their insurers. The project manager had again been asked to attend a parish council meeting to explain the works and deal with the claims issue.
- **Business support:** Councillor Ratcliffe said that in the meantime they would be working with the District Council to seek to help businesses such as the Woodside cafe, and the County Council would be looking at any new traffic management plan that the contractors put forward to minimise impact.
- **Balance of interests:** Councillor Pawley stated how she had felt that the commercial interests of the companies involved were not taking into account the interests of those affected by the works, and that those most affected had not been consulted by the company until the process was well advanced;
- **Weekend working:** questions were asked as to whether the contractors would be working weekends. It was understood that on the current timetable they would work Saturdays, and alternate full weekends. If the time available for doing the work was reduced by the County Council then the contractor may have to look to resource the contract accordingly, and this would be shown in any new Traffic Management Plan.
- **Ball Eye quarry:** concern was expressed that whenever the works took place Ball Eye Quarry would not be accessible for trucks due to location and turning issues: it had been suggested that it would have to be closed for the duration of the work;
- **Night-time working:** it was asked why the work could not be carried out at night as originally envisaged in the planning application? Councillor Ratcliffe said that this had been discussed by District and County officers but the extent of works now required meant that this was not possible on grounds of noise nuisance to local residents.
- **Need for the work:** it was pointed out that the work was not as urgent as

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	<p>businesses and residents had been first led to believe. Councillor Ratcliffe accepted that, but said that this had been based on information given at the time. The need for the work at all was questioned; why could the existing structure not be retained and stone clad? Councillor Ratcliffe said that the 3-5 year life of the current structure had been agreed by DCC's own engineers; it was based on an outdated design method and was not sustainable. If the existing structure was kept it would still have to be tied into the rock in order to be secure, which would involve the same, or more (and longer), work than the new replacement design.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Design method:</b> Councillor Pawley pointed out that the District Council was legally obliged to apply current design criteria when assessing the planning application. Councillors Purdy and Ratcliffe said that they would try to obtain further details of the engineering assessment.</li> <li>• <b>Planning application:</b> questions were asked about the planning process for extension of the current planning permission which currently required the work to be completed by July 2017. Would it go to planning committee? Councillor Purdy said that he would find the answer to that but pointed out that if it did go to committee that could cause delay. He said he would keep a close eye on the process and report back.</li> </ul> <p><b>What will happen next?</b> There was discussion on the next process. It was agreed that this was likely to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the company would need to submit a planning application for extension to the District Council;</li> <li>• the company would then have to prepare a Traffic Management Plan, which would be assessed by the County Council before any Traffic Management Permit was issued. The County Council would aim to minimise disruption caused and take into account the representations that had been made.</li> </ul> <p>The public meeting session closed after an hour, with thanks being given by members of the public for the work of the County Councillor Irene Ratcliffe and District Councillors Garry Purdy and Joyce Pawley.</p>	
04/04//6	<b>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: Approved</b> The Chair signed the minutes of the meeting held on 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2017.	Clerk
04/04//7	<b>Chair's Announcements:</b> none	
04/04//8	<p><b>VILLAGE MATTERS</b></p> <p><b>Via Gellia Closure:</b> after discussion the Parish Council then agreed their own response to the situation. It was resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• welcome the deferral and expected reduced duration of the closure;</li> <li>• ask the District and County Councils to provide early notification when planning and traffic management permit applications were received so that comments could be submitted;</li> <li>• ask that any traffic management plan explored as far as possible the use of traffic lights on the road (including if possible access to HGV's and if necessary with one way access);</li> <li>• thank County Councillor Irene Ratcliffe and District Councillors Garry Purdy and Joyce Pawley for their support.</li> </ul>	
04/04/09	<b>Date of next meeting: Tuesday 18th April 2017 at 7.30pm</b>	