



**LIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2014**

**PRESENT:** Guy Allen, Sid Bishop, Vince Jones, David Lomax, Liz Carmichael (Clerk)

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Gordon Wilson

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

David Lomax declared an interest in agenda item 10.2 as he is a member of the Village Hall Committee.

### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January were amended to include an action for the clerk to apply for a grant to get Liddington clump reshaped. Subject to this amendment the minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### Actions completed

Review flood risk management strategy

Action: All

#### Actions ongoing

Consider locations for trees

Action: All

Get advice on the process for obtaining evidence to prosecute dog fouling offenders

Action: clerk

Contact SBC about the scope of the maintenance work they do in the village

Action: clerk

Write to Chiseldon PC regarding donation towards Commonhead meeting

Action: clerk

Purchase and install fencing & posts for new path along B4192

Action: DL

Review Standing Orders & Financial Regulations prior to March meeting

Action: All

Distribute information about Special Expenses to everyone

Action: GW

The clerk advised the meeting that the North Wessex Downs AONB had sent an application form so that the Parish Council can apply for funding to get Liddington clump reshaped. It was noted that advice from an arborist will be required to specify the work needed to reshape the clump. The Parish Council will need to speak to Dennis Ford to obtain permission for access to the land and to alter the trees. Quotes for the work will also be required to complete the grant application.

Get advice from arborist on work required to reshape Liddington clump

Action: clerk

Get quotes to reshape Liddington clump

Action: clerk

Get permission for access & reshaping from landowner

Action: DL

### **5. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 5.1 Swindon's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – It was agreed that the strategy was too high level for the parish Council to submit any specific comments. The main issue in the village is the drains and the management or clearing of them.
- 5.2 Village Clean up – It was agreed that the village clean up would focus on the erecting the fence and clearing the roadside paths back to their proper width.

- 5.3 Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 - It was agreed that, subject to a review by Gordon Wilson, the Parish Council had no further comments to make on the local plan and it would not be sending a representative to the pre-hearing meeting.
- 5.4 Local Audit and Accountability Act – The Parish Council had no comments to make on the Local Audit and Accountability Act, Openness of Local Government Bodies Draft Regulations.
- 5.5 Standing Orders and Financial Regulations – It was agreed to carry this matter forward to the April meeting.
- 5.6 Internal Auditor – The Parish Council agreed that after about 10 years with the same accountancy firm, it was now time to appoint a new internal auditor.

Get 3 quotes for internal auditing services

Action: clerk

- 5.7 Best Kept Village Competition – It was agreed to enter Liddington in this year's Best Kept Village Competition.

Submit entry form for Best Kept Village competition

Action: clerk

## 6. PLANNING

- 6.1 The Parish Council had no objections to any of the following planning applications:

S/RES/13/1755 Reserved matters application for the erection of 56 dwellings including associated landscaping and infrastructure following outline planning permission S/10/0842

S/RES/13/1758 Reserved matters application for the erection of 17 dwellings including associated landscaping and infrastructure following outline planning permission S/10/0842

S/RES/13/1772 revised documents for reserved matters application for the provision of landscaping and open space following outline planning permission S/10/0842 at Commonhead

S/RES/14/0222 for the erection of 73 dwellings and associated landscaping and infrastructure, reserved matters from previous permission S/10/0842, at land parcel P1A, land at Commonhead to the South of Marlborough road (A4259) and adjoining the Great Western Hospital

- 6.2 Decisions – It was noted that no planning decisions have been received since the last meeting.

## 7. FINANCE

- 7.1 Account Summary – The Parish Council approved the cheque for £8, payable to the Wanborough Parochial Church Council, for the Lyden magazine subscription that was made between meetings.

- 7.2 The Parish Council approved payment of the following:

- clerk's remuneration for Jan-March 2014 £375.00
- administration costs £50.00

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE

- 8.1 It was agreed that the Parish Council would review Swindon Borough's draft library strategy at the next meeting. Residents will also be encouraged to respond to the consultation.

Read library strategy and come to next meeting with comments

Action: All

- 8.2 The clerk advised the Parish Council that Thamesdown Travel had responded stated that they hadn't received any reports of injuries to passengers at the new Village Inn stop. Their drivers normally lower the bus at this stop but because the pavement is quite low this still leaves a bit of a step on/off the bus compared to urban stop in Swindon where the Borough Council have installed raised kerbs. Added to this there are often cars parked nearby which can make it difficult for the bus to pull into the kerb. All of the buses can kneel their suspension and drivers would normally assess if a passenger is likely to need the entrance lowered; they wouldn't do it as a matter of course as all of the buses are low floor and have a relatively low step that can easily be negotiated by able-bodied passengers. Ideally Swindon Borough Council would install a raised kerb at the stop to reduce the step height on/off the bus, and parking restrictions to keep the stop clear; however with only 5 buses a day serving this point SBC may not see this as a priority.

It was noted Swindon Commercial Services (SCS) had written to say that, due to rising costs, they were increasing their pricing by 3% effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April. Consequently the cost for grounds maintenance for this year will be £774.21 plus VAT. The Parish Council agreed that it was happy with the service provided by SCS and would not be seeking an alternate supplier at this stage.

**9. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

9.1 There was no report as Andrew Bennett was not in attendance at the meeting.

**10. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

10.1 Playing Field – Sid Bishop advised the meeting that he had carried out his fortnightly safety inspections of the play equipment on 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February and that there were no issues.

10.2 Village Hall Committee – Nothing to report.

10.3 Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing to report.

10.4 Community Speedwatch – It was noted that two more potential volunteers are in the process of signing up to the scheme which brings the team numbers up to viable level to do the speed checks.

**11. PARISH MAGAZINE**

It was agreed that the following items should be put in the Parish magazine:

Details of tasks for the village clean up and display of plans for Jubilee Gardens and the new path alongside the B4192

Continued dog fouling in churchyard may lead to its closure Residents are encourage to respond to Swindon Borough's library consultation

**12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA**

It was noted that Cliff Thomas, who had previously been clerk to Liddington Parish Council, had passed away. It was agreed that the clerk should send a card to Cliff's wife and son.

Send condolence card to Mrs Thomas

Action: clerk

The meeting concluded at 8.55pm

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_