



LIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2015

PRESENT: Councillors Guy Allen, Sid Bishop, Jane Howes, David Lomax, Adrian Moore, Liz Carmichael (Clerk) and Andrew Bennett (Ward Councillor).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gordon Wilson and Vince Jones.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Lomax declared an interest in agenda item 10.2 as he is the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **resolved** that the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 7th January 2015 be agreed and signed as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Actions ongoing

Contact SBC about the scope of the maintenance work they do in the village	Action: clerk
Draft letter regarding Liddington clump including feedback from arboreal officer	Action: GW/DL

It was noted that the guidelines regarding event licenses are straightforward and are published on the Borough Council's website.

The Council noted that Martin Fry is the new Rights of Way officer for Swindon Borough Council.

The Council **resolved** to bring forward agenda item 9 'Ward Councillor report' and to place this item before 'Matters for consideration' on future agendas.

9. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

It might be possible for the Parish Council to apply the Local Authorities Highways Challenge Fund to obtain funding to pay for highways work. Cllr Bennett stated that he would find out more about it. Only 99.5% of properties in the borough will be served by the new broadband system which means that about 500 homes will be excluded. The broadband bid hasn't been completed so no further information on the area that will be covered is currently available. A Community grant of £1000 was given to the Liddington Village Hall committee. The Parish Council is unable to apply for grant funding but other community groups may submit applications after the end of the current financial year.

5. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 5.1 Day House Lane – Background: Liddington and Chiseldon Parish Councils organised a public meeting on 13th November 2013 to gain consensus, from the local communities most affected by the Commonhead development, on the future access needs for Day House Lane. The options considered for the lane were:

- (a) As is, with free access east & west onto spine road (fully linked to development)
- (b) As is, using level crossing or bridge, with no access onto the spine road and development
- (c) Closed, no through east-west access and no access to development and spine road
- (d) Closed to west, full access from east onto spine road (as proposed in development plan)

The spine road referred to is the main north-south road through the Commonhead development from Marlborough Road, A4259, in the north to the business centre at the southern end of the development, in parts running parallel to A419. At the meeting the opinion was firmly behind option (b) provided that there is no vehicular access from the new development. If this cannot be guaranteed then a full closure, as in option (c) is preferred. No one thought option (a) or (d) were acceptable options. The written petition results, which showed a very clear majority in favour of keeping Day House Lane open but with no access onto the spine road or Commonhead development, were presented at the Commonhead/Parish Liaison Committee meeting shortly afterwards.

It was noted that, going forward, Day House Lane will be a standing item on the agenda for the Commonhead/Parish Liaison Committee meeting. In the reply to the letter sent by Cllr Gordon Wilson, Swindon Borough Council has stated that the decision to close Day House Lane was made by the Planning Inspector and the Borough Council cannot do anything. It was noted that the Planning Inspector had stated that after Phase 3 of construction (employment development) the developers should consider closing Day House Lane and consequently the developers will not take any action until Phase 3. The meeting was reminded that at the public consultation held in November 2013, to discuss options for Day House Lane, residents did not reach a unanimous agreement on the solution. It was **resolved** that Cllr Moore write to Robert Buckland MP to ask for his help with sorting out issues with Day House Lane and it's proposed closure.

- 5.2 South Locality meeting – At the last Locality meeting there was a presentation from the Police and Crime Commissioner on how more money was needed. Wiltshire Police back office function is being merged with Avon and Somerset. There was also a good presentation from Trading Standards on rogue traders and distraction burglaries.

Ward Councillor Bennett left the meeting.

- 5.3 Highways matters - The footpath alongside the B4192 from Church road towards the motorway bridge is considered hazardous due to all the tree debris and needs clearing. Trees around the village in areas such as Medbourne Lane, Purley and The Street all need attention. Drains in Medbourne Lane, The Street, Bell Lane and along the B4192 all need clearing as they are silted up with mud and tree debris. The Council **resolved** to report all highways matters to the Localities Lead for resolution as soon as possible.
- 5.4 Allotments – The Diocese Land Agent is meeting with the Church warden and other interested parties to discuss the village allotments. Cllr Howes will be attending the meeting. The allotments comprise 5 large plots that are generally not being used fully. There is some suggestion that the land should be divided into smaller plots. A concern was raised that parking at the allotments is limited and that smaller plots would mean more cars.
- 5.5 Risk Assessment
The Council reviewed the revised risk assessment and noted that the level of personal accident cover may need to be increased when the insurance policy is renewed. Investigation into how much personal accident cover other Parish Councils have is required (**Action clerk**).
- 5.6 Local Government (Electronic Communications) (England) Order 2015
The Council noted the Local Government (Electronic Communications) (England) Order 2015 that came into effect at the end of January; the relevant part being – *“This Order modifies provisions in Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972 (c.70) for the purpose of enabling and facilitating the use of electronic communications in the sending of summonses to members of both principal councils and parish councils in England to meetings of those authorities. Members only receive summonses electronically where they consent to it being transmitted by this method and they may at any time withdraw their consent”*

Councillors Guy Allen, Jane Howes, David Lomax and Adrian Moore all gave their consent for summonses to be received electronically.

The meeting was not suspended as no members of the public were present.

6. PLANNING

The Council noted the following planning applications:

Application: S/15/0101

Location: Great Western Hospital, Swindon

Proposal: Erection of a radiotherapy unit and associated works at Great Western Hospital

Application: S/14/2148/SASM

Location: Downcombe, Bell Lane, Liddington, Swindon, SN4 0HE

Proposal: Erection of 3 dormer windows to rear

Planning Decisions - It was noted that no consents or permissions have been granted since the last meeting.

7. FINANCE

- 7.1 The Account Summary was reviewed and approved by the Parish Council. It was **resolved** to review the account summary quarterly rather than monthly.
- 7.2 Tree Works - It was noted that only one tree was on Parish Council land and the others were the responsibility of Swindon Borough Council. The Council **resolved** to accept the quote for £100 to reduce the sycamore on the playing field by 30%.
- 7.3 Prize Money – The Council noted the receipt of £100 prize money from the Best Kept Village competition and **resolved** to spend the money on ornamental trees for the village.
- 7.4 Payments between meetings – The Council **resolved** to approve the payment between meetings of £10 to Wanborough Parochial Church Council for the clerk's copy of the Lyden magazine

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- 8.1 The Oil Buying Club, a venture that aims to help people in rural areas who heat their homes using heating oil to buy in bulk and thereby secure the best price for their heating oil, offered to give a presentation to the Parish Council. The Council **resolved** not to meet with the representative from the Oil Buying Club as the scheme was not relevant to Liddington.
- 8.2 The Council noted the following correspondence for information:
 - The Dragonfly (Wilts & Berks Canal Trust) Issue 135
 - SBC Members Bulletin Issues 745, 746, 747
 - North Wessex Downs AONB e-bulletin January 2015

10. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- 10.1 Playing Field Update – The Council noted that Cllr Bishop had carried out his fortnightly safety inspections of the play equipment on the 1st, 12th and 25th January and there were no issues to report.
- 10.2 Village Hall Update – The meeting noted that a new chairman of the Village Hall committee had been elected. The committee were pleased to have received the grant. The kitchen refurbishment is going ahead in August and is estimated to cost £10,000. More fundraising will be needed as the committee currently only has £5,000.
- 10.3 Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Update – There was no report as Cllr Jones was unable to attend the meeting.
- 10.4 Community Speedwatch Scheme Update – There was nothing to report.

11. PARISH MAGAZINE

The Council **resolved** to put the following items in its report for the Parish Magazine:

- Day House lane (Cllr Moore to draft something)

- If anyone wants space to grow their own there's availability for parishioners at Liddington Village allotments
- The £100 prize money from the CPRE Best Kept Village competition will be used to purchase ornamental trees

12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE AGENDA

To agree a date for the spring clean up
To consider creating a Neighbourhood Plan
To employ a Parish Lengthsman

The meeting concluded at 8.30pm

Signed : _____

Date : _____