



## LIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 at 7.00pm in Liddington Village Hall.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Bishop, Howes, Jones, Lomax, Moore, Wilson (Chair). Also in attendance Liz Carmichael (Clerk), Andrew Bennett (Ward Councillor) and 2 members of the public.

### Action

#### 1. PUBLIC SESSION

Kath and Gary Blue, the owners of The Lodge, 37 The Street, Liddington spoke about their planning application S/15/0230. It was noted that the building dates from c1860. They have found no records to indicate that 'The Lodge' has any association with the nearby Manor House. They reassured the meeting that they are not developers and have lived at the property for the past year before considering what alterations to make. The ground level will be reduced by 0.75m so that the new roofline is only negligibly different to the existing one. It was noted that some conifers will have to come down.

#### 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Allen and his reason for absence (working away from home) was accepted.

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Lomax declared an interest in agenda item 12(c) as he is the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee.

The Parish Council agreed to bring forward Planning Matter 6 (a).

#### 6. PLANNING MATTERS

##### (a) Application: S/15/0230

**Location:** The Lodge, 37 The Street, Liddington, SN4 0HD

**Proposal:** Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of 1 replacement dwelling, detached garage and construction of new vehicular access

**Status:** Application

It was **resolved** that Liddington Parish Council had no objections to the application and that the following comment should also be submitted: The Parish Council considers the proposed development to be in keeping with the rest of The Street and furthermore considers it to be an enhancement to the area.

**Clerk**

#### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 4th March 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record.

#### 5. MATTERS ARISING

**Councillor Training** - The training course with Stephen Taylor had to be postponed due to low numbers of attendees. It was agreed that it would be best to reschedule it for after the local elections and to ask Stephen Taylor to suggest an alternate date in June.

**Clerk**

## 6. PLANNING MATTERS

### (a) continued

**Application:** S/14/2148SASM

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

**Proposal:** Erection of 3 dormer windows to rear.

**Status:** Granted

**(b) Swindon Low Carbon Local Development Orders** – The Borough Council is creating a suite of Local Development Orders which would support the delivery of a low carbon Swindon. Key features of the proposed Local Development Orders include:

- permitting standalone micro-generation and local generation solar panels installations within the curtilage of non-domestic properties, subject to safeguards;
- extending the national permitted development size threshold for roof mounted micro-generation and local generation solar panels from 50kWp to 1MWp on non-domestic properties, subject to safeguards;
- permitting small building mounted and standalone micro-generation wind turbines at non-domestic properties, subject to safeguards
- 29 sites in the Borough where planning permission could be granted upfront for solar arrays and solar farms.

It was **resolved** to submit the following response to the proposed low carbon local development orders.

- 1) There were no specific concerns expressed for the micro-generation measures and district heating networks or to allow hydrogen fuel cell and electric car refuelling points at pre-identified sites. Their visual impact is considered to be minor compared to the significant advantages arising from the uptake of energy conservation methods.
- 2) For the solar array and solar farm proposals it was considered necessary that a full public consultation should take place in addition to those with the Parish Councils particularly as the LDO is far-reaching and covers a wide area of the Borough.
- 3) It is noted that an environmental impact assessment (EIA) has been undertaken for the solar farms to inform the scope of the LDO. Is this available for viewing and consideration as this may have influenced our later comments?
- 4) Liddington Parish Council broadly agrees with the comments of Wroughton PC, that these should not be exempt from the existing planning application process and each site should be assessed on its own merits. No sites should be placed on green field or rural sites particularly in green belt areas.
- 5) A former solar farm site must not set a precedent for full development should it be dismantled after the 25 year term otherwise it may be seen as a way to circumvent normal planning rules.
- 6) Brownfield sites must be the preferred option together with the use of roof tops on new industrial and commercial developments. It is a surprise that this has not been encouraged in recent town centre developments.
- 7) Of the 29 sites being considered for solar generation only one falls within the Parish of Liddington at the Great Western Hospital (GWH). A second, at Inlands Farm Wanborough (IFW), is considered sufficiently close as to have adverse visual and amenity impacts on Liddington and the AONB and seriously affect the natural setting of our neighbouring village of Wanborough.
- 8) Other sites e.g. Wroughton, Stanton Fitzwarren, are in areas either of high agricultural value, high landscape value, or both. Some of these sites impact on areas that should be kept free from development because of “urban sprawl” into the open countryside and the need to keep the built up area of the town of Swindon separate from surrounding villages. In other words “adverse cumulative visual impact concerns” to quote the consultation paper. They may also affect drainage and cause flooding on low lying sites. Sites on green field rural buffer land may give the visual effect of coalescence when sited close to villages e.g. IFW.

- 9) Proposals for the installations alongside the M4. A419 etc are vague and possibly untested elsewhere in the UK, thus requiring detailed assessment. Distraction effects on motorists must be avoided. These are probably best dealt with through the planning process.
- 10) The GWH site is very prominent and visible from the surrounding high land, Liddington, Wanborough, the Ridgeway and the AONB. Glare and prominence are the main concern together with disruption to hospital services during the construction phase and particularly anything resulting in short or long term loss of car parking (already very limited) causing traffic problems at Commonhead and on the A4259 Marlborough Rd. Although a 'brown field' site the construction of canopy type solar arrays in the car parks could be very disruptive.
- 11) The proposed IFW site is adjacent to the AONB and will give the effect of coalescence of Wanborough with Dorcan. It will also be very visible and dominant to the surrounding high land, the villages, GWH and the AONB. This is not considered a suitable site for such a large solar farm. In this context particular reference is made to the 'Report on the Examination into the Swindon Borough Local Plan' (2026) by the Inspector Mike Fox dated 5th February 2015, reference amendment MM24, page 13. This site is not considered appropriate to be included in the LDO but should go through the normal planning process.
- 12) Any development at IFW must not conflict or interfere with:
  - a. the proposed route of the Southern Connector Rd linking the NEV (Eastern Villages development) to Commonhead being a major access road for the development.
  - b. any other road improvements which may be needed in the future to improve traffic flow at Commonhead roundabout and the southeast access to Swindon from the M4 when both Badbury Park and the NEV come into full operation
  - c. the alternative protected route of the Wilts and Berks Canal.
  - d. The construction of the new Thames Water Axford Pipeline through this area

- (c) **Neighbourhood Plan** – It was noted that Mr Per-Axle Warensjo, a Wanborough Parish Councillor, may be prepared to attend a meeting to talk to Liddington Parish Council about creating a Neighbourhood Plan. **Clerk**

Cllr Wilson has an electronic copy of the document, Quick Guide to Neighbourhood Plans, which he received from Cllr Sumner (Wanborough Parish Council) about 2 years ago. It was agreed that this should be circulated to all Councillors. **Cllr Wilson**

Ward Cllr Bennett offered to find out what support the Borough Council can provide in terms of guidance and funding. **Cllr Bennett**

It was noted that a table could be set up beside the beer tent at the Village Fete to allow residents to put down any comments regarding local development.

## 7. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

The meeting noted that the Persimmon/Redrow involvement in the Commonhead Liaison Group meetings appears to be at an end and they may not be prepared to come back to the table. Persimmon/Redrow are concerned that the Parishes are taking the lead. A copy of the street naming and numbering for Badbury Park was given to Cllr Wilson.

Dorset's Chief Fire Officer, Darran Gunter, will also be Wiltshire's Chief Fire Officer in the soon-to-be-merged Wiltshire and Dorset service.

The report on the Medbourne lane new traffic signs, including costings, should be ready after Easter.

## 8. SUPERFAST BROADBAND

Funding is in place for Superfast Broadband but is insufficient for fibre optic. UK Broadband has been selected as the supplier and it should be in place by 2016. Not all premises will have it. Maps showing the areas covered are available on Swindon Borough Council's website and in the supporting information for the cabinet meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

## 9. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

- (a) **Spring Clean Up** – 17 people cleared undergrowth and bramble from the verge down from Jubilee Gardens. Litter picking and clearance of the footpath from church road to the crossing point was also undertaken.

The Parish Council was concerned that a list of village maintenance tasks that had been agreed with the Borough Council over a year ago still hadn't been actioned.

- (b) **Playing Field Grass Cutting Contract** – The Parish Council **resolved** to accept the quote from Swindon Borough Council Commercial Services for cutting the grass on the playing field and that SBC should be asked to cut the grass during the week leading up to the summer fete. **Clerk**
- (c) **Landscaping Project** – It was noted that there is £403.09 left in the budget for this project. Cllr Lomax offered to build a simple bench seat for the new path. It was **resolved** to accept Cllr Lomax's offer to build a bench seat and to pay him any expenses incurred. **Cllr Lomax**

It was **resolved** that grass seed with wild flower mix should be purchased. **Cllr Lomax**

The Parish Council **resolved** to continue for another 10 minutes.

## 10. HIGHWAYS

- (a) **Medbourne Lane** – The clerk along with Paul Woollard and Julie Furneal from SBC, and resident Kim Swift, visited the site of the recent traffic incident on Medbourne Lane to discuss options for making the road safer for pedestrians, horses and riders and cyclists. The options agreed were i) to install horse warning signs ii) to monitor the speed of traffic in order to justify setting a speed limit of 30mph for the entire section of the lane from the B4192 to just before the motorway bridge. A request for Localities funding for the horse signs has already been submitted by the clerk and these are expected to be in place within the next 6 weeks. Unfortunately due to holiday the speed survey will not be organised until after 6<sup>th</sup> April.

It was **resolved** that Swindon Borough Council be asked to supply a copy of the proposal for Medbourne lane for review by the Parish Council. **Clerk**

The request to consider supporting the proposed speed reduction and to consider applying for Localities funding to implement a revised speed limit was not discussed.

- (b) **Footpath alongside B4192** – To receive an update on the status of the footpath and to agree next actions.

## 11. OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS

It was **resolved** to pay Swindon Borough Council invoice 241437172 Grounds Maintenance charge Oct 2014 – Mar 2015 £464.53.

It was **resolved** to ratify the payment between meetings of Mark Reynolds' invoice for £180.00 for cutting the playing field hedge.

## 12. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2015

This agenda item was not considered and no consents obtained.

## 13. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- (a) **Borough / Parish Liaison Group** – Cllrs Wilson and Moore attended the meeting but Persimmon/Redrow did not attend and didn't notify anyone in advance that they would not be attending. It was felt that, due to the non-attendance of the developers, the Parish Council representatives had wasted their time attending the meeting.

- (b) **Playing Field** – Safety checks were carried out on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March, and there were no issues to report.
- (c) **Village Hall** – Funding for the new kitchen is £2,500 short of the required amount.
- (d) **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme** – Nothing to report.
- (e) **Community Speed Watch** – Sufficient people to carry out speed checks have now been trained, however a start date for the scheme is yet to be agreed.

**14. PARISH MAGAZINE**

It was **resolved** to put the following items in the Parish Magazine:

**Clerk**

- i) Thank you to residents for help with village clean up
- ii) Thank you to the Village Inn for the bacon sandwiches and drinks for the cleanup volunteers
- iii) A site meeting was held to discuss traffic issues with Medbourne lane and improvements are being investigated
- iv) The LDOs have been objected to

**15. CORRESPONDENCE**

The meeting noted the following correspondence for information:

- SBC Members Bulletin Issues 752, 753, 754, 755

**16. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE AGENDA**

It was noted that a stile on the footpath along Medbourne lane is blocked.

A locked building along Medbourne lane has been broken into and equipment stolen. It was suggested that the Community Beat Officer should be invited to a future meeting to discuss these frequent and unsolved crimes.

A vehicle parked in Purley for the past 6 weeks has been reported and a notice placed on it. It is expected to be removed.

The meeting concluded at 9.20pm

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

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