



LIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on
Wednesday 2nd December 2015 at 7pm in Liddington Village Hall

Present: Councillors Allen, Bishop, Howes, Lomax, Wilson (Chair). Also in attendance, Val Curtis (Clerk).

1. GUEST SPEAKER

Kirsty Cole, Head of Finance and Change from Swindon Borough Council gave the Parish Council a presentation on the proposed 'Potential Transfer of Services to Parish Councils'. The purpose was to understand the context of what is being suggested. With the introduction of the Localism Act 2011, the new vision of 'Swindon – The Place' and the pressure on budgets until 2020, the emphasis is being put on local residents and parishioners to decide what, when and where attention should be paid to improve the local environment in terms of appearance and facilities, by transferring the responsibility to Parish Councils. SBC have calculated that the cost per household (band D equivalent) for the street cleaning and maintenance currently undertaken by the borough is £34 per year. This would mean an £8/9 increase in the Parish precept over the next four years as the additional cost to the parish would be supplemented at a rate of 100% the first year, 50% the second and 25% for the third year. However, there would be no reduction in council tax paid. SBC are about to undertake a Community Governance Review for the purpose of changing parish boundaries and creating new parishes. There is also the option of transferring assets which would not be applicable in Liddington as the Parish already owns the village hall. The Liddington Parish Councillors feel that with less than 2 months to set the precept for 2016/17, they have not been given sufficient time to consult with the parishioners and are therefore unable to respond to the proposal at this moment in time. An open meeting for all parishioners to attend will be held in early 2016.

2. APOLOGIES

Resolved: to approve Cllr Moore's reason for absence (holiday). **Resolved:** to approve Cllr Jones's reason for absence (business related). Ward Councillor Bennett sent his apologies.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Lomax declared an interest as Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall committee

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 4th of November 2015 were approved and signed as a true record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that The Play Inspection Company had been requested to undertake a full inspection of the play equipment.

Resolved: A reply had been received from Liz Smith-Gibbons, the Senior Conservation Officer at SBC stating that there is not a review currently programmed for any of the conservation areas within the borough due to current limited resources however that is not to say one will not happen in the future.

6. PUBLIC SESSION

As no members of the public were in attendance, the Parish Council continued with the meeting.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) **Application:** S/15/1933 (14th December 2015)

Location: 35 Purley Road, Liddington SN4 0HA

Proposal: Erection of two storey side and rear extensions

Status: Application Pending Consideration

Resolved that the following comment be submitted:

The Parish Council has reservations about this plan as there is no provision for off road parking

(b) **Application:** S/15/1914 (15th December 2015)

Location: Great Western Hospital, Marlborough Road, Swindon SN3 6BB

Proposal: Extension of existing staff car parking area, creating 401 no. additional spaces

Resolved that the following comment be submitted

The Parish Council is concerned that the plan does not include improvements to the access; both in and out including for emergency vehicles to reduce traffic build up.

It was noted that that application S/15/1228 – Parsonage Close, Medbourne Lane has gone to appeal.

8. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CODES AND PROTOCOLS

This item will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting in January. The Clerk was asked to request a short extension from Steve Jones

9. SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS CONSULTATION 2017-18

Cllr Allen to review the documents and comment for the Clerk to provide a response

10. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

There was no Ward Councillor's report as Councillor Bennett was unable to attend the meeting

11. VILLAGE MATTERS

(a) **To discuss the wooden fence on the playing field boundary** – to be included in the January meeting

(b) **To agree tasks for the Lengthsman to undertake this month** – no tasks were agreed. The Clerk to contact Lee Wells to confirm the progress made with the street furniture

(c) **To further determine if the Parish Council wishes to explore potential services transfers from the Borough Council** – See 1. Guest Speaker

12. FINANCE

(a) **Budget & Precept 2016 - 2017 – To consider the budget and precept for 2016 – 2017** – To be included in the January agenda to consider suggestion of staged increase in precept to cover Transfer of Services.

(b) **Members' Allowances – To consider paying members' allowances** – to be included in the January agenda

(c) **Invoices**

It was **resolved** to approve payment of the following

- Lee Wells (Allbuild) – Waste collection – July, August, September & October - £41.42
- Jane Howes – for purchase of spring bulbs - £19.99

13. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Bishop advised the meeting that he had carried out his safety checks on the play equipment on the 8th and 22nd November.

14. PARISH MAGAZINE

The Parish Council **resolved** to put the following item in the Parish Magazine

- Summary of the presentation by Kirsty Cole 'Potential Transfer of Services to Parish Councils'

- Vacancies on the Parish Council. Co-option to be considered at January meeting

15. CORRESPONDENCE

To meeting noted the following correspondence for information:

- SBC Members Bulletin Issues 791
- North Wessex Downs AONB Special E-Bulletin November 2015
- CPRE – Countryside Voice – Winter 2015
- CPRE – Board of Directors’ Report and Financial Statements & The Moonraker Newsletter
- Clerks and Councils Direct – November 2015

16. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE AGENDA

Cllr Lomax highlighted that the problem with the branches of a tree in Purley Road growing up into the electricity cables had not been resolved by SBC. The Clerk to chase for an update.

The Parish Council have received letters of resignation from Guy Allen and Jane Howes. These were accepted and sincere thanks and appreciation are extended to them both for their years of dedicated service as members of Liddington Parish Council. Both Guy and Jane have made valuable contributions to the village and the work of the Parish Council during their time as Councillors.

The meeting concluded at 9.55pm

Signed

Date.....