



LIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on

Wednesday 6th January 2016 at 7pm in Liddington Village Hall

Present: Councillors Bishop, Bunney, Hill, Jones, Lomax, Moore, Wilson (Chair). Also in attendance Andrew Bennett (Ward Councillor) and Val Curtis (Clerk).

Action

1. GUEST SPEAKER

The Wilts and Berks Canal Trust gave a presentation about the proposed reconstruction of the canal that was originally built in the late 18th Century and subsequently formally abandoned in 1914. The original route ran from Semington, through Swindon and on to Abingdon. The presentation provided details of the strategic plan to rebuild and re-open the route to connect Wichelstowe to Acorn Bridge. The canal is a protected route, however slight changes can and may need to be made to accommodate subsequent differences in the landscape, for example roads and buildings. Nine locks are being proposed to achieve the rise in height between the A420 and the A419. They confirmed that there were challenges ahead in consulting with the landowners and the developers of the NEV. The Parish Councillors were enthusiastic of the plan and welcomed the ideas shared and look forward to hearing about the progress of the project.

2. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS (2 VACANCIES)

Councillor Moore proposed that Clive Bunney and Sarah Hill be co-opted onto the Parish Council. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Bishop and agreed unanimously. Councillors Bunney and Hill signed their respective acceptance of office forms.

3. APOLOGIES

No apologies received as all members of the Council were in attendance

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 2nd December 2015 were approved and signed as a true record.

6. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Wilson advised the meeting that he had compiled an email response to Kirsty Cole, requesting more detailed information about the potential transfer of services.

Cllr Lomax advised that the problem with the branches of a tree in Purley Road growing into the electricity cables had still not been resolved.

Contact SSE and ask for email confirmation of action undertaken

Clerk

7. PUBLIC SESSION

Two members of the public were in attendance regarding the planning application S/15/1958

8. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Application: S/15/1958 (8th January 2016)

Location: 6 The Street, Liddington SN4 0HD

Proposal: Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2 detached dwellings

Status: Application Pending Consideration

Resolved that the following comment be submitted:

Clerk

This application in its present form be refused for the following reasons

1. The application is for two substantial houses squeezed into a cramped site. Careful study of paragraphs 6.20 to 6.32 of the statement with the application reveals amenity problems for neighbouring properties, especially no. 4 The Street and 'Ravenshaw'. It is clear from the printed document and the plans that, in places, the proposed new houses would be very near to the existing dwellings and their curtilages and there is potential interference with light and overlooking.
2. With two large houses replacing one modest property, there is bound to be an increase in vehicles using the access, which is narrow and steep. This lane leads into the village street which is not wide and is the main bus route, used by children to catch the bus to school. There is no pavement on this side of the street and the opposite side is usually occupied by parked cars, particularly at night and there is no street lighting. The comment in the supporting statement that visibility is 'good' is incorrect.
3. The application provides for two parking spaces for each house and a shared space for visitors. In reality, further parking in the street is likely to occur.
4. The site is in both the AoNB and the Conservation Area. The appearance of the proposed houses is therefore important. It seems that the two big houses proposed will stand out much more prominently against the rising ground.

(b) Application: S/15/1228 – Parsonage Close, Medbourne Lane

Establish the current status of the appeal reported at Dec 15 meeting

Clerk

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

The Parish Council have no comments to make

10. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor Bennett notified the Parish Council that he would not be seeking re-election in the May Elections and that the Chairman of Wanborough Parish Council, Cllr Gary Sumner, would be standing as the candidate to replace him.

11. VILLAGE MATTERS

- (a) To discuss the wooden fence on the playing field boundary** – to be included in the February meeting
- (b) To discuss the findings of The Play Inspection Company's report.** Some minor repairs had been undertaken to remedy some of the issues raised in the report. Further items will be considered in the Spring. The item will be included in the February meeting. Clerk
- (c) To agree tasks for the Lengthsman to undertake this month** – no tasks were necessary.
- (d) To further determine if the Parish Council wishes to explore potential services transfers from the Borough Council –**

Resolved: After further discussion it was agreed that Cllr Wilson would request further information from Kirsty Cole

Wilson

12. FINANCE

- (a) Budget & Precept 2016 - 2017 – To consider the budget and precept for 2016 – 2017**

Following the potential transfer of services and the reduction in the Council Tax Support Grant payable, it was agreed that an increase in the precept was justifiable.

Resolved: that the precept be set at £6,700, which together with the Council Tax Support Grant of £657 will make the total income for 2016-17 £7,357

Clerk

- (b) Members' Allowances – To consider paying members' allowances** – to be included in the February agenda. A decision will be made by the April meeting

(c) Invoices

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

- The Play Inspection Company- annual inspection of play equipment - £75.00

13. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Bishop advised the meeting that he had carried out his safety checks on the play equipment on the 6th and 20th December 2015.

14. PARISH MAGAZINE

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

- Summary of the presentation by The Wilts and Berks Canal Trust
- Access made by developers into Day House Lane that has been raised with SBC
- Fly Tippers and Streetsmart's telephone number

15. CORRESPONDENCE

To meeting noted the following correspondence for information:

- Allbuild – Lee Wells advised that there would be a small increase in cost of 25p per dog bin emptied.
- Grant request had been received from Victim Support – to be included in February's agenda

16. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE AGENDA

Cllr Wilson mentioned that he had been contacted by residents concerned by the amount of fly tipping occurring. All incidences should be reported to Streetsmart on telephone number 445501 who will remove items.

Cllr Wilson also stated that there had been an 'unlawful' access constructed in Day House Lane which he had raised with SBC who will take action

Cllr Moore stated that several groups in the village were planning on celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday on June 11th and asked if the Parish Council could get involved. This will be discussed in more detail in February's agenda.

The meeting concluded at 9.40 pm

Signed

Date.....