

# December

*MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2013*

*PRESENT: Sid Bishop, Vince Jones, David Lomax, Gordon Wilson (Chairman), Liz Carmichael (Clerk), Andrew Bennett (Ward Councillor)*

*1. APOLOGIES*

*Guy Allen*

*2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST*

*David Lomax declared an interest in agenda item 11.2 as he is a member of the Village Hall Committee.*

*3. GUEST SPEAKER INSPECTOR SAUNDERS, WILTSHIRE CONSTABULARY*

*The Parish Council welcomed Inspector Saunders (East and South Swindon Sector Head) and PC Rory Draper. Inspector Saunders responded to the key concerns of the Parish Council which included the fatal accident and road traffic speed. It was noted that of the three collisions that had occurred in the last year only one was due to excessive speed; and the other due were as a result of driver error. Inspector Saunders advised the meeting that the collision investigators will always share their findings with Swindon Borough Council (SBC) and no issues with the road have been found, therefore no further action is required by SBC. The Neighbourhood Policing Team comprising of PC Rory Draper and two PCSOs has to cover Wroughton, Chiseldon, Badbury and the Ridgeway villages consequently traffic speed checks are only done occasionally. However, the Community Speedwatch scheme is effective at lowering the speed of traffic. If Liddington has insufficient volunteers to operate the scheme (recommended minimum is 6), the village could possibly join forces with other nearby villages and run joint schemes. It was noted in the last 6 months there have been 4 recorded crimes in Liddington. Inspector Saunders advised the meeting that in addition to crime and disorder, the team focus on the priorities in the community. For the Ridgeway villages this is speeding. There was a discussion regarding speed activated signs and the Parish Council was advised*

that these have limited impact. Inspector Saunders suggested that, if the Parish Council wishes to install a sign on a temporary basis, it should contact SBC. Andrew Bennett joined the meeting.

#### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th November were approved and signed as a true record.

#### 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

##### Actions completed

Write to HMRC about the error in reclaiming the VAT for the village hall roof  
Action: clerk

Send details of meeting leaflet to Guy Allen Action: GW

Place copy of leaflet on website Action: GA

Speak to Wendy about working jointly with Basil's wife to care for trough Action:  
VJ

Investigate whether the pedestrian crossing can be made more visible to motorists  
Action: SC

Create Community Speedwatch poster for display in the Village Inn Action: GA

Complete the NALC Council Tax Support Funding Survey Action: clerk

Write to Thamesdown Travel regarding how the revised timetable was implemented  
Action: clerk

Send email from website asking residents to gather data on their broadband speed  
Action: GA

Complete the Special Expenses form on behalf of the Parish Council Action: clerk

##### Actions ongoing

Consider locations for trees Action: All

Arrange Neighbourhood Watch handover from Jonathan Miller Action: VJ

Ask around to see if anyone knows who planted the extra trees on Liddington hill  
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 Mandy Cavesh, Parsonage Yard, and get her feedback on Swindon Stargazers request Action: clerk

It was noted that no-one has responded to the Community Speedwatch poster that Guy Allen placed in the Village Inn.

The clerk advised the meeting that Suzanne Coles had stated that the number of pedestrians crossing the road is not sufficient to warrant more than the existing uncontrolled crossing and its location was deemed the best available given local conditions. Visibility issues on the northern side are caused in part by private property and in part by vegetation. Whilst the Parish Council cannot resolve the issue relating to private property, it may be able to arrange additional vegetation clearance through the Locality allocated StreetSmart hours. With regard to the 40mph signs, if the Locality agree to provide funding to move the signs then it is unlikely that the Parish Council would have to make a financial contribution towards costs. If this is not a scheme that the Locality agree to provide funding for then the only option at this stage is for the Parish Council to fund the project. Vince Jones advised the meeting that Wendy and her neighbour had agreed to look after the trough between them.

It was noted that Simon Coombes had planted some trees on Liddington Clump many years ago in memory of his mother.

Gordon Wilson advised the meeting that Chiseldon Parish Council had offered to contribute to the costs of the public meeting to discuss options for Dayhouse lane.

Send breakdown of costs for Commonhead meeting to the clerk Action: GW

Write to Chiseldon PC regarding donation towards Commonhead meeting Action: clerk

## 6. FINANCE

6.1 Account Summary – The account summary was reviewed. It was noted that the forecast is that hall £60 had been transferred from the audit budget to the hall hire budget as agreed at the previous meeting.

6.2 Budget for 2014 and Reserves – Due to time constraints the Parish Council agreed that this agenda item be postponed until the January meeting.

## 7. PLANNING

7.1 The Parish Council discussed the outline planning application S/OUT/13/1555 for development on land at South Marston and Rowborough, north of the

A420, Swindon. Traffic into Commonhead was a concern. It was agreed that a response be sent highlighting the fact that the Parish Council hadn't seen a workable transport strategy and was therefore unable to determine the impact on the area south of the A420.

7.2 Planning Applications - There were no planning applications to consider.

7.3 Decisions - No planning decisions have been received since the last meeting.

## 8. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

8.1 County of Wiltshire Carol Service - The invitation to the carol service on 10th December in Malmesbury Abbey was noted. No-one was able to attend the service.

8.2 Rural Broadband - Notes from the meeting between Robert Buckland and the rural parishes (Liddington, Chiseldon, Bishopstone, and Wanborough) on 28 November have been distributed by Gordon Wilson. This matter will be discussed further at the January meeting.

8.3 Tree Maintenance on Liddington Clump - It was agreed that this agenda item should be carried forward to another meeting.

8.4 Playing Field Hedges and Trees - The Parish Council accepted the quote of £260 for cutting all the hedges and for tidying the trees so that people can walk under them and agreed to engage Mark Reynolds to carry out the work.

8.5 Church Road Sign - It was agreed that this agenda item should be carried forward to another meeting and be added to the discussion on projects for 2014.

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 The following correspondence for action was discussed:

Swindon Borough Council formal consultation of Primary, Infant to Junior Admissions Arrangements and Secondary Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme and Education Transport Policy for 2015-16 (Deadline 17th January 2014)

9.2 The Parish Council noted the following correspondence for information:

Briefing from NALC Chairman ref. Council Tax Benefit Support Grant  
CPRE Field Work Winter 2013 and Countryside Voice Winter 2013

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service Public Safety Plan 2013/14 - 2016/17

Community First Annual Review 2012-2013

## 10. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

10.1 Andrew Bennett advised the meeting that the Rural Economy Grant Scheme may be a possible source of funding for improving the broadband. A list of prices for

jobs from StreetSmart/Swindon Commercial Services was given to the chairman. The Parish Council should contact Tracey Scott about forms for StreetSmart and Highways hours. It was noted that the deadline for submitting requests for StreetSmart/Highways hours is mid January. The Parish Council agreed to discuss this further at the January meeting.

Andrew Bennett left the meeting.

#### 11. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

11.1 Playing Field - Sid Bishop advised the meeting that he had carried out his fortnightly safety inspections of the play equipment on 6th and 20th November and that there were no issues.

11.2 Village Hall Committee - Nothing to report.

11.3 Neighbourhood Watch - Nothing to report.

11.4 Community Speedwatch - Nothing to report.

11.5 Jeffries Land Trust - Nothing to report.

#### 12 PARISH MAGAZINE

There was no Parish Council report for the Lyden magazine as there is no January edition.

#### 13 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA

None.

The meeting concluded at 9.30pm