



## LIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April March 2016 at 7pm in Liddington Village Hall**

**Present:** Councillors Bishop, Bunney, Hill (via video conference), Lomax, Moore, Wilson (Chair).

Also in attendance: Andrew Bennett (Ward Councillor) and Val Curtis (Clerk).

### Action

#### 1. GUEST SPEAKER

Robert Buckland QC, MP addressed the Council to answer three points raised to him in the invitation letter. 14 members of the public were in attendance due to safety concerns with the speed of traffic on the B4192. Unfortunately, an accident had occurred shortly before the meeting and a cyclist had been injured. Robert gave his full support to the residents in trying to obtain traffic calming measures.

GWH – there was concern around the CQC quality report although he noted that care & maternity were both rated as good. There were lots of amber warnings in other areas. Robert was meeting the CEO on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April and would be highlighting certain issues with her, such as mental health care. He feels that they have coped with this last winter well although there is still a problem with bed blocking. He is of the opinion that improving this would improve matters generally. There is a problem with the PFI payment that GWH are having to make and is supportive of a renegotiation of the loan which would relieve pressure and allow more patients to be treated, which in turn increases financial resources. He is in contact with GPs and encouraging more co-operative working. He is also aware of problems in some surgeries due to GPs retiring and being unable to fill vacancies.

Superfast Broadband – He is aware of issues in some rural areas of the borough with slow speeds. He has met with BDUK, Ed Vaizey and Cllr Mary Martin (SBC) and he believes that it is a genuine scheme. Robert views broadband as the fourth utility and it needs to be rolled out as soon as is practicable.

Transfer of Services – As a resident of Wroughton he has seen improvements in the area since the Parish took over. However, he understands that it is not feasible for smaller Parishes. It would be concerning if he felt that SBC did not have a plan to support smaller councils going forwards should they fall over.

There was a question and answer session when the following points were raised:  
Academisation of all schools – Robert thought that academies have worked well in some areas and he likes the model of several schools joining together, although he acknowledges the difficulty for some areas where so few schools are state run.

Traffic problem at GWH – There is pressure on parking meaning some people are parking in Eldene and Liden and walking through. He said that land is available and is in full support of additional parking

No smoking policy at GWH – Smokers congregate outside of the access which means walking through a cloud of smoke and cigarette debris can be found across the whole site. More needs to be done to control it, perhaps a designated smoking area.

Eastern Villages and improvements to J15 of M4. £100m had been secured through the Local Growth Fund. Latest information confirms that the work will be done before the

end of the decade. J15 is an important junction and the problems of rat running through the village will be addressed.

## **6. PUBLIC SESSION**

Due to the large number of residents present and Robert Buckland it was agreed to bring item 13. Speed of traffic using the B4192 forward.

## **13. SPEED OF TRAFFIC USING THE B4192**

Tessa Lanstein spoke on behalf of Helen Pancott who had distributed a flyer around the village. Children and the elderly were finding it difficult to cross the B4192 safely. Traffic coming from Aldbourne was driving too fast. Excess speed was also being used when turning right into The Street. The residents asked the Parish Council to help with getting the speed limit reduced and/or traffic calming measures being installed along with addressing the speed of traffic in The Street. Drivers coming down the hill into the village were unaware of the blind, staggered junction just over the summit. Residents were aware that chicanes had made a difference in Baydon, Pinehurst and Tadpole Lane, Blunsdon. The Parish Council confirmed that Suzanne Coles or one of the Traffic Team from SBC had been asked to attend but no-one was available due to the short notice given. They would be invited to attend a future meeting. The Council agreed that some form of physical obstruction was necessary.

It was proposed to arrange a meeting with Cllr Toby Elliott (SBC, Cabinet Member for Communities and Strategic Planning) and Highways officers to review possible improvements.

## **2. APOLOGIES**

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

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Lomax declared an interest as Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall committee. Cllr Hill declared an interest as she is now a member of the Village Hall committee.

## **4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolved:** Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 2nd March 2016 were approved and signed as a true record.

## **5. MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr Moore advised that arrangements for the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations were going well. With regards to providing commemorative mugs for the children from the village, it was impossible to identify how many children lived in the village accurately. It had also been difficult to identify reasonably priced mugs.

Cllr Lomax advised that the tree in Purley road had now been removed completely by SSC.

The Clerk distributed a spreadsheet with details of what historical documents regarding Liddington parish Council were held by Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre.

## **7. PLANNING MATTERS**

**(a) Application:** S/15/1958 - amended

**Location:** 6 The Street, Liddington

**Proposal:** Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2no. detached dwellings and associated works

**Resolved:** that the following comment be submitted

At its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016, Liddington Parish Council agreed that it would like the following additional comments to be made:

1. The Parish Council totally endorses the comments made by Dr Chinthapalli and other neighbours.
2. The submitted application and subsequent revised details do not give full details of what we understand is happening. This comment is based on information received from direct neighbours that have traded land with Mr Graham to enable him to increase the car parking.
3. The road is the main entrance into the village and a bus route.
4. The road is used for parking by visitors to the Church and Village Hall when the adjoining car park is full. Numerous vehicles park half way across the pavement making it difficult for prams, buggies, wheel chairs and mobility scooters to pass easily and on many occasions they have to go on to the road to pass them.

Our original recommendation that the applicant be advised that a new application for one house and with the access and parking arrangements properly set out might be considered favourably, still stands

#### **8. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT**

There was no Ward Councillor's report.

#### **9. VILLAGE MATTERS**

- (a) **To agree tasks for the Lengthsman to undertake this month** – no tasks were agreed.
- (b) **To further determine if the Parish Council wishes to explore potential services transfers from the Borough Council** – an interesting and informative meeting was held with two officers from SBC. The Council will now explore adopting some areas and work to transitioning completely in April 2017.

#### **10. FINANCE**

##### **(a) Invoices**

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

- Clerks Remuneration – February & March 2016 - £250.00
- Administration payment & mileage expenses – February & March 2016 - £43.90
- WALC Clerk's Training 23 March 2016 - £54.00
- Liddington Village Hall Invoice 016/8002 – Room hire 15 March - £3.00

##### **(b) Internal Auditor**

It was **resolved** not to appoint an internal auditor at this moment in time.

#### **11. CODE OF CONDUCT**

Cllr Moore proposed adopting Swindon Borough Council's Code of Conduct. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bunney and agreed unanimously.

**12. BUS PROVISION FOR VILLAGES & PARISHES**

After discussion it was **resolved** to agree the proposal in principle subject to proper consultation with possible users to discuss appropriate routes and timetable. Gary Sumner will be informed accordingly. Clerk

**14. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

It was agreed that Cllrs Wilson, Bunney and Hill will be the personnel committee to review the Clerk's contract and salary.

**15. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Cllr Bishop advised the meeting that he had carried out safety checks on the play equipment on 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March. He also advised that new arrangements would need to be made due to his retirement

**16. PARISH MAGAZINE**

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

- Robert Buckland's attendance at the meeting
- Traffic using the B4192
- Councillor Sid Bishop's retirement

**17. CORRESPONDENCE**

The meeting noted the following correspondence for information:

- Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Flood Mitigation & Land Drainage Technical Note for NEV

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

- Clerk to contact Gary Sumner, Chairman of Wanborough Junior Football Club, as there have been some complaints about studded football boot prints across some graves and to remind him about the annual contribution towards maintenance costs of the football pitch
- Cllr Lomax had received complaints about a van parked in Purley Road. He will provide details to Clerk to write to owner

Cllr Sid Bishop is retiring after 46 years' service as a Parish Councillor. The Chairman, Cllr Gordon Wilson, extended his and the Councillor's, both past and present, thanks and appreciation for his years of exemplary service to the Parish from 26<sup>th</sup> May 1970 to 5 May 2016. Cllr Wilson presented him with a commemorative plaque.

The meeting concluded at 10 pm

Signed ..... Date.....