



LIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on
Wednesday 6th May 2020 at 7pm via Zoom

Present: Councillors Bunney, Hill, Lomax, Moore and Wilson
Also in attendance: Ward Councillor Gary Sumner, Val Curtis (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received as all members of the Council were in attendance. The Meeting noted that Cllr Cripps had resigned

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Hill declared an interest as the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 4th March 2020 were agreed as a true record. Due to the social distancing guidelines, the agreed minutes will be signed at the next face to face meeting

4. MATTERS ARISING

B4192 – My Account still states, 'report raised in confirm'. Clerk to chase **Action - Clerk**

Wales & West Utilities – Employees currently furloughed. Reinstatement work still to be completed. £100 payment for extensive work and specialist seeds needed for Church Road triangle to be made imminently.

Benches – Cllr Bunney to complete refurbishment over the summer

Adams & Watt – invoice amended, now paid

Badbury Park – street names to be sent to Cllr Hill

Letter to residents halted due to Coronavirus social distancing guidelines. Letter will need amending and delivered once guidelines relaxed. **Action – Clerk**
Action – Cllr Lomax/Clerk

Defibrillator – no progress made. Cllr Bunney to contact the electrician. **Action – Cllr Bunney**

Speed sign – installed and working. Bushes need trimming as sign not clearly visible. **Action – Cllr Lomax**

5. PUBLIC SESSION

As no Members of the public had made representations, the Parish Council continued with the meeting.

6. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) To consider any planning applications:

Application: S/OUT/17/1990 (22nd May 2020)

Location: Great Stall East – Land south of the A420 – South Marston, Swindon

Proposal: Outline planning application (with means of access to the A420 not reserved) for up to 1,550 homes; education provision including a 10 form entry secondary school and a 3 form entry primary school with attendant sports pitches; a sports hub and open space; a park and ride; a local centre up to 1,000sqm including classes A1, A2, A3, A4, A5 and D1 uses; public open space/green infrastructure; new informal and formal recreation spaces, the formation of a new permanent access from the A420 and a temporary construction access from the A420.

Resolved: The Meeting agreed that the previous comments submitted in April 2019 still applied

(b) The meeting noted that no decisions had been made.

7. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

Wales & West Utilities – the reinstatement works in Wanborough, Liddington & Badbury were unsatisfactory.

Inlands Farm – 55 additional documents were available to view in the Planning Portal. Building had been re-designed with a 'green roof' and multi-coloured plastic to make it more appealing. The building was 15% laboratory/production with the remainder being a distribution area. The setting in relation to the AONB is as important as the AONB itself. Environmental impact provided more detail.

Lotmead – concerns over the access to Wanborough Road given to the first 200 house. An agreed mechanism was needed to control the second phase of the development not using Wanborough Road as access to turn left and right and create a rat run via Merlin Way.

Foxbridge North – due to be made public. The plans do not show a primary school.

Day House Lane – prohibition of motor vehicles to be published on 15th May. Swindon Borough Council to contact residents in Meadow Way and Badbury

M4 J15 – awaiting further details. Scheme fully funded. The Government contribution to the funding must be spent by April 2021.

Honda closing in July 2021 – hoping site to become available for further employment opportunities

Broadband – A meeting had been held on 24th April with Robert Buckland and BT Openreach to discuss fibre provision. Currently researching Wanborough exchange costing. Wanborough and Liddington villages to be included in study. 4G system was breaking down due to overloaded capacity on the masts; 5G equipment being added to Park South mast.

Cllr Sumner left the meeting at 8.10pm

8. FINANCE

Resolved: Cllr Wilson proposed to approve payment of the invoices, standing order and recurring payment. Cllr Bunney seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed.

(a) To approve payment of the following:

- Chairs Allowance - £75
- Came & Company – Local Council Scheme insurance - £671.13

(b) To approve payment of the following Standing Orders:

- Adams & Watt – Annual grass cutting contract – May instalment - £478.65

(c) To approve payment of the following recurring payment

- Unlimited webhosting – (18/05/2020 – 17/06/2020) - £4.19

(d) To receive the monthly accounts reconciliation – the Meeting noted that the first payment of the Precept and Council Tax Support Grant had been received.

(e) To review updated Asset Register as at 31st March 2020 – updated due to purchase of speed sign

Resolved: the amended Asset Register was agreed and approved

(f) To review, agree and approve final budget for 2020/21 – Resolved: the Meeting agreed and approved the final budget for 2020/21

(g) To formally agree amounts to be identified as Earmarked reserves for 19/20, Projects and Contingency

Resolved: Cllr Moore proposed £3,000 to be identified as 'projects' and £10,000 to be allocated as general reserves. The VAT reclaim amount to be added to 'projects' on receipt. Cllr Lomax seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

9. LIMITED ASSURANCE REVIEW

It was **resolved** to approve and sign:

- (a) Annual Governance Statement 2019/20
- (b) Accounting Statements 2019/20
- (c) To certify itself exempt as the higher of Liddington Parish Council's gross income for the year or gross annual expenditure for the year, did not exceed £25,000
- (d) To confirm period of Public Rights and Publication of Annual Governance & Accountability Return (Exempt Authority). The meeting noted that the period of Public Rights would be from Thursday 30th July through to Friday 11th September 2020.

Action - Clerk

10. VILLAGE MATTERS

- (a) Complaint – Footpath at the junction of The Street/B4192 – debris from the trees, part of the verge around the bench not strimmed and requesting removal of bench.

The Village Spring Clean-up had been cancelled due to the social distancing guidelines introduced as part of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic when this would have been addressed. Any additional work that the Contractors are asked to do incurs extra costs which the Parish Council is loath to do. The bench serves a useful purpose to offer a break in the climb up the hill.

Action - Clerk

- (b) Spinney Close – Back Access Footpath - concerns had been raised about the inability to access the footpath at the back of the properties in Spinney Close due to the overgrown hedges. The majority of the houses were now in private ownership, however, only rights of access to each owner had been granted during the conveyancing process. Two properties remained as SBC owned and tenanted, with responsibility for the grounds maintenance. The Parish Council noted that responsibility had not been included during the Transfer of Services therefore the liability remained with the land owner which has been agreed by SBC.

Tree in Spinney Close Green – overhanging branches close to the power lines had been reported to SSE earlier in the year. This had been actioned to the required standard by SSE. SBC Tree team inspected the tree and stated no further work required. Resident unhappy and requests further work to be completed. Subsequently, the Parish Council has acquired the green from SBC via a lease agreement which includes responsibility for the trees. Cllrs Lomax, Moore and Wilson have inspected the trees and concur that no further work is required

Action - Clerk

- (c) Defibrillator – dealt with under Matters Arising

11. ALLOTMENT PROVISION

- (a) To ratify the decision made that the Parish Council approaches and negotiates with the Diocese of Bristol to take over the management and administration of the allotments

Resolved: Cllr Bunney proposed that the decision to approach the Diocese of Bristol to negotiate to take over the management and administration of the allotments was the right and proper thing to do for the benefit of the residents of Liddington. Cllr Hill seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

- (b) To consider the Heads of Terms

Resolved: The meeting agreed that Cllr Moore reviews, investigates and negotiates with the Land Agent for the Diocese.

- (c) To agree an implementation project plan.

Resolved: The meeting accepted Cllr Hill's offer to start initial discussions with the residents that are currently occupying a plot.

12. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Playing Field - Cllr Bunney confirmed that he had carried out the fortnightly safety inspection on the play equipment on 18th & 30th April. He had no usage to report as the area was closed due to the Guidelines issued by HM Government in response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Cllr Wilson reported that he had been selected as a Member of the Town Fund Board. Two meetings had taken place on 28th February and 27th March, with a further meeting planned for 7th May. Two sub groups had been formed: Strategic Vision & Objectives and Communications. Target date for completion of the project was end June, with the aim of making Swindon somewhere to go to. The Members consisted of Councillors, representatives from the Science museum, National Trust and English Heritage.

Community Speedwatch – Fiona Spillane had emailed a report stating that Angus Macpherson, the Police & crime Commissioner had suspended all volunteer activities due to the impact of Covid-19 on policing.

13. PARISH MAGAZINE

The meeting agreed to put the following in to the Parish Magazine:

- First Parish Council meeting using Zoom
- Thank you to the residents 'doing their bit'
- Vacancies

14. CORRESPONDENCE

The meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

15. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE AGENDA

To receive information on matters not covered elsewhere & to receive future agenda items

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed

Date.....