



LIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on
Wednesday 4th November 2020 at 7pm via Zoom

Present: Councillors Bunney, Hill, Hyatt, Lomax, Moore, Wilson and Workman
Also present: Val Curtis (Clerk), Alison Waine, Two Members of the public

1. GUEST SPEAKER – ALISON WAINE – ANIMALS AND LICENSING OFFICER, SBC

Cllr Lomax introduced Alison, thanked her for joining the meeting and provided some background on the recreation field, explaining the current problems with the amount of dog poo not being picked up. He asked if she could provide some advice on how to encourage people to do the right thing.

Alison started by saying that the lockdown had meant that people had walked their dogs locally, rather than driving somewhere and the problem with excessive mess had increased everywhere. There had also been a boom in pet ownership with more people owning dogs than previously. Public Space Protection Order Legislation was in place over the entire Borough of Swindon on all public land, not privately owned, which meant that it was an offence to not clean up after your dog. The Rules were simple – if your dog fouls, you have a duty to pick it up as soon as possible and dispose of it appropriately. A second littering offence is committed if you then drop the bag on the floor.

A Public Space Protection Order needs proof that there is a problem and requires a public consultation. SBC received lots of complaints and the legislation was positively received during the consultation period. The Order lasts for three years. Courts are not happy for cases to be passed to them understandably; penalty notices are issued. Enforcement can be carried out by Council Officers, Police Officers and an Envirocrime Team, however people need to be caught in the act. Stickers, posters and chalk spray paint on footpaths do have an effect with the biggest impact being when an area is patrolled.

Cllr Wilson asked if cameras can be used, in the same way as dash cams. Alison confirmed that security cameras from private properties could, subject to the camera providing a good clear image. Cameras cannot be installed for the purpose of catching offenders due to legislation, which permits the use of cameras if the crime carries a 6-month imprisonment, which dog fouling does not.

Cllr Hyatt – an additional poo bag dispenser had been installed and both filled to make it easier for people to comply. Additional signs had also been purchased. Could Alison suggest anything else? Stickers of varying sizes that can be attached to anything that is not private property are available. Once lockdown is over if the problem still persists a patrol can be offered. Clerk to provide details for the stickers to be sent **Action - Clerk**

Cllr Workman asked if photographs can be used on social media and/or as evidence – Alison confirmed photographs of owners cannot be shared, but those of dogs can with the names and addresses of the owner. A letter that alleges an offence could be sent.

Cllr Lomax thanked Alison for attending the meeting and providing useful information and advice.

2. APOLOGIES

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 7th October 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

5. MATTERS ARISING

Letter to Badbury Park residents – as the Coordinator of the Residents Group was present Cllr Lomax invited him to speak. He explained that Badbury Park was split across two Parishes which was not good for the community. There

was a Management Company in place for the maintenance of the green opens spaces. However, approximately £120,000 was being paid to Central Swindon South Parish Council but no services were being provided or needed. A promise had been made by the Leader of Swindon Borough Council that once 800 houses were occupied, a Community Governance Review would be held with the aim of Badbury Park having it's own Parish Council. The required number of occupations had been achieved, but the request had been refused. A significant amount of support had been received from the Residents to pursue becoming an independent Parish.

Cllr Lomax asked for all Councillors to give him their views to enable a formal response to be agreed at the December meeting.

Sight Line from The Street – The sign from the Village Inn had been moved to a better position to allow a clear view of the traffic coming up Purley Road. A second sign had been left on the other side of the road, which blocked the view of cars coming from down the road. The Village Inn to be written to and told that just one sign was sufficient and to ensure that the sight line was not obstructed. **Action – Clerk**

Hedges/roadside along B4192 between Commonhead and the Village sign – actioned.

Tree on Spinney Close Green – SSEN had removed the branches closest to the power lines on Monday 2nd November. Grass cutting contractor had been asked to obtain a quote for a crown reduction from a tree surgeon.

Additional Litter bin – A complaint had been received too late to be added to the agenda – deferred to the December Meeting.

20mph speed limit zones – Responses had been sent to Stratton St Margaret Parish Council and Stanton Fitzwarren Parish Council. Stanton Fitzwarren PC had prepared a press release for the Swindon Advertiser and requested if Liddington PC could be named which had been agreed too by Cllr Lomax.

Community Speedwatch – Suspended due to Lockdown 2.

Closed Churchyard – Cllr Lomax had spoken to the Vicar, a former Parish Councillor and Cllr Wilson – The bank appeared to be the responsibility of SBC Highways Authority. A request to be made for a Highways Officer to meet on site to discuss Church Road and part of the B4192 and provide a definitive reply. Confirmation is needed regarding the payment made to the PCC from SBC due to the responsibility of the closed churchyard by statute and what the payment should cover. **Action - Clerk**

6. PUBLIC SESSION

One Member of the Public thanked the Parish Council for the suggestion of moving the defibrillator to an alternative suitable location. He confirmed his offer of financial support as previously spoken about still stood.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) To consider any planning applications:

The Meeting noted that no planning applications had been received

(b) The Meeting noted that the following decisions had been received:

S/HOU/20/0971 - 18 The Green, Liddington SN4 0HG - Erection of a double garage to side- Granted

S/HOU/20/0972 - 47 The Street, Liddington SN4 0HD - Erection of a first-floor extension, single storey rear extension, two storey front extensions and pitched roof to double garage – Granted

Cllr Moore commented and the Meeting noted that the conditions that had been requested in the response to the consultation had been included.

8. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

No Ward Councillor's report was given as Cllr Sumner was unable to attend the meeting.

9. FINANCE

Resolved: Cllr Wilson proposed approval of the standing order, recurring payment and to ratify the payment made between meetings. Cllr Bunney seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

(a) To approve payment of the following invoices:

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

- Adams & Watt – Annual grass cutting contract – November instalment - £518.57

(c) To approve the following Direct Debits:

(d) To approve payment of the following recurring payment

- Unlimited webhosting – (18/11/2020 – 17/12/2020) - £4.19

(e) To ratify payments made between meetings

- Zoom – Standard pro monthly (November) - £14.39

(f) To receive the monthly accounts reconciliation

Cllr Lomax reminded Members of future expenses still to be paid in financial year 2020/21.

10. VILLAGE MATTERS

- a) To consider the list of additional works provided by the Contractor during the annual review walkaround.

Resolved:

1. Crown lift of 10 trees in playing field – APPROVED
2. Remove broken stile – APPROVED
3. New gate at entrance to Footpath 21 – **NOT APPROVED** – complete removal requested, quote to be provided **Action - Clerk**
4. Reinforcing plate to stile from Warren's Field – APPROVED
5. Gate to rear of the Parsonage – **NOT APPROVED** – To be discussed further
6. Gate at Purley Road steps – APPROVED
7. New latch (completed) – APPROVED
8. Sorbus tree in Spinney Close – awaiting the quote from the tree surgeon
9. Stakes in Church Road triangle – **NOT APPROVED** – The Meeting felt that sarsen stones would be a preferable option. Cllr Workman offered to assist with collection **Action – Cllrs Lomax/Workman**
10. Crown lift of Birch Tree in Jubilee Gardens – APPROVED

Action – Clerk

The resident that had been maintaining the horse trough on The Street was not able to continue. A request for volunteer(s) to be included in the Lyden Magazine.

Action - Clerk

- b) To review and approve the quote provided for Grounds Maintenance Services in 2021/22

Resolved: Cllr Moore proposed to approve the quote for Grounds Maintenance Services 2021/22. Cllr Hyatt seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

Action - Clerk

- c) To consider a request from Plastic Free Swindon to display posters in areas where litter is a problem. Litter had been identified on the grass verges and was assumed to be from cars travelling through.

Resolved: Commuting traffic will not see the signs; the Meeting refused the request to display the posters.

11. DEFIBRILLATOR

- a) To receive an update on any progress made from the joint meeting with representatives from the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Hill confirmed that the meeting previously arranged had been temporarily suspended. The Village Hall Committee would be meeting on 30 November 2020 to come to a decision. Cllr Lomax asked for a written response to be provided.

Action – Cllr Hill

- b) Second Defibrillator - To consider the quote received for the connection of a power supply to the disused telephone box.

The Meeting agreed that the quote was expensive, although less than the previous one received from SSE Networks. Cllr Bunney to investigate the possibility of doing the work with Cllr Wilson and a certified electrician to complete the final sign off. A suggestion was made to look at siting the unit at The Village Inn. A question was asked about solar power being used. The Clerk confirmed that in initial discussions with Community Heartbeat Trust, they were of the opinion that the solar power generated was insufficient during extreme weather conditions and did not support it. The Clerk to ask if the technology had improved.

Action - Clerk

12. LORD JOEL JOFFE MEMORIAL

Renaming of the footpath – Cllr Workman confirmed that the owner of The Manor liked the idea, was happy with the concept and supported it. He would like to discuss the positioning of the sign as if it did encourage additional, unwanted attention he would like the right to relocate it. Cllrs Workman and Wilson to meet with him, Cllr Lomax to provide a photograph of what is a standard footpath sign.

Action - Cllrs Lomax/Workman/Wilson

A proposal for the design of the plaque to be displayed in the Village Hall had been received. Cllr Lomax to formally ask Cllr Hill to request the opinion of the Village Hall Committee.

Action – Cllrs Lomax/Hill

13. BADBURY PARK

To consider providing a response to the email received from Coate at Badbury Park Residents Working Group Coordinator. – Dealt with earlier in the Meeting. A formal response to be agreed at the December meeting.

14. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Allotments – Cllr Moore confirmed that the process was moving, albeit slowly. The report had been prepared by the Land Agent and submitted to the Diocese Finance Committee with a recommendation for approval. An issue still to be resolved over the VAT payable on the Diocese legal expenses was ongoing.

Playing Field – Cllr Bunney confirmed that he had carried out the fortnightly safety inspection on 18th & 30th October. There were no issues to report.

Town Fund – A meeting had been held on 30th October. The Government had announced the first seven towns that had received awards ranging from £21.9m - £39m. Swindon had not been included, hopeful that it will be in the next seven towns to be announced. Revised Heads of Terms had been discussed which covered Community Engagement and projects. More meetings have been scheduled in November and December.

Village Hall Committee – All activities have been cancelled due to the second lockdown, apart from tutoring as that is considered as education. Financial position is good.

15. PARISH MAGAZINE

The Meeting agreed to put the following into the Parish Magazine:

- Horse Trough in The Street
- Dog Fouling – major concern
- Speed data
- Thank you received from HM Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire

16. CORRESPONDENCE

The Meeting noted the following correspondence for information:

- Thank you card from HM Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire

17. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE AGENDA

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

New road signage for DHL due to it now being closed – SBC to be contacted

Blocked drains in Church Road – SBC to be contacted

Stream – Cllr Hyatt and a neighbour had cleared the stream

Footpaths – an inspection walk was required once lockdown was over

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed.....

Date.....