

November

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6th NOVEMBER 2013

PRESENT: Guy Allen, Sid Bishop, Vince Jones, David Lomax, Gordon Wilson (Chairman), Liz Carmichael (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

Andrew Bennett (Ward Councillor)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

David Lomax declared an interest in agenda item 10.2 as he is a member of the Village Hall Committee.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October were approved and signed as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Actions completed

Report the issue of trees obscuring the vehicle activated sign and overgrown hedges to StreetSmart Action: SC

Discuss with Bob Saunders what can be done regarding the issue of drivers mistaking the pedestrian lights on the A419 slip road for traffic lights controlling the flow of traffic onto the roundabout. Action: SC

Investigate whether the start of the 40mph section could be moved further up the hill. Action: SC

Obtain further advice/guidance from ACRE & WALC regarding the VAT issue Action: clerk/GW

Actions ongoing

Consider locations for trees Action: All

Arrange Neighbourhood Watch handover from Jonathan Miller Action: VJ

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

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

*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*

The clerk advised the meeting that Suzanne Coles had responded to some of the highways issues. There have been only 2 injury accidents on the slip road from the A419 and neither were related to the signals for the pedestrian crossing.

Furthermore the crossing is within a 40mph speed limit, has extensive zig zag markings to indicate a pedestrian crossing, there is skid resistant surfacing on the approach, advance warning signs, detection loops and street lighting. In addition the roundabout has full give way markings, surface triangles and a give way sign. Consequently, this location would not be a priority site for the introduction of further road safety measures at this time. Swindon Borough Council reviews all reported injury accidents annually, so should the injury accident record at this location increase, it could be identified as a priority site for road safety improvements in the future.

It was noted that Suzanne felt that the 40mph gateway is suitably positioned and therefore could not justify the Parish Council's request to relocate the start of the 40mph limit from SBC's Traffic Management and Minor Safety Improvements budget. This could be raised as a possible Locality scheme for funding from the 2013/2014 Highways Improvement fund, subject to the outcome of the necessary statutory consultation. If the relocation of the sign could be covered by StreetSmart hours, the cost would be approximately £1,500 for the advertising of the proposed traffic regulation order amendments.

The traffic speed survey results from after the implementation of the traffic calming measures shows that the volume of traffic travelling at or below the posted speed limit has increased considerably. There hasn't been a speed survey since 2011. Suzanne has stated that the launch of a Community Speedwatch scheme would offer the ideal opportunity to collate additional speed data and to obtain an understanding of current traffic patterns against which further action may be considered if appropriate.

The Parish Council is awaiting a response from Suzanne Coles to the following issues: the possibility of keep clear markings around the Commonhead roundabout and the replacement village gateway sign.

The clerk advised the meeting that ACRE had reviewed the Lease and Trust Deed for Liddington Village Hall and had confirmed that it's a standard document than runs along the lines of ACRE's own Model.

The simple explanation of the document, responsibilities & relationships is as follows:

- ♦ The land and building is owned by Blenheim Settled Estates and their successor
- ♦ It is leased to the Parish Council for fifty years at a peppercorn rent from 1988. The PC is a corporate body and is therefore able to sign a legal document such as a lease.
- ♦ The Parish Council are appointed as the Custodian Trustees under Schedule (Clause 3)
- ♦ The Schedule (Clause 2) states that the hall charity shall be managed by a 'committee of management'
- ♦ Clauses 4 to 19 of the Schedule set out how the committee should be appointed and the hall run and managed.
- ♦ Clause 13 of the Schedule states what the management committee is responsible for and makes it clear that this includes the covenants in Clause 3 of the Deed

The role of a Custodian Trustee is to hold the legal title but they have no responsibilities for the day to day management of the hall, its fabric or its finances. The Parish Council can of course give grants to the hall to assist with its upkeep for the community as well as using the precept. The Parish Council can only reclaim the VAT on purchases for the village hall that are considered gifts. The replacement roof for the village hall would not fall into this category.

David Lomax, as he is the Parish Council's representative on the management committee is a trustee of the hall charity and is on the village hall committee in that capacity.

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

5. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 *Commonhead Development Meeting* – The Parish Council noted that leaflets for the public meeting on 13 November to discuss the Commonhead development and the future access needs for Dayhouse lane were being distributed around the area as far as the eastern part of Chiseldon. Feedback from residents will be reported back at the Liaison group meetings.

Send details of meeting leaflet to Guy Allen Action: GW

Place copy of leaflet on website Action: GA

5.2 *Rural Broadband* – Robert Buckland has offered to meet the rural parishes (Liddington, Chiseldon, Bishopstone, and Wanborough) on 28 November. It was agreed that residents should be asked to gather data on the speed of their broadband connection.

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

Action: GA

5.3 *Trough* – It was noted that Wendy has offered to take care of the trough as it's located outside her house. The Parish Council agreed that it would provide funds for any plants. It was suggested that Wendy may wish to work jointly with Basil Archer's wife.

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

Action: VJ

5.4 *Tree Maintenance on Liddington Clump* – The meeting noted that a concern had been raised that the clump of trees on Liddington Hill was losing its distinctive shape and need some maintenance to reshape it. It was agreed that, before anyone could be instructed to carry out any maintenance, the Parish Council should try to determine who planted the extra trees.

Ask around to see if anyone knows who planted the extra trees on Liddington hill

Action: All

5.5 *January Meeting* – The Parish Council agreed to change the date of the next meeting from 1st January 2014 to 8th January 2014.

5.6 *Swindon Stargazers* – The Parish Council discussed the request from Swindon Stargazers to use the playing field for watching the night sky. It was noted that vehicular access to the playing field is via a private road; however pedestrians can easily walk through the churchyard. Vince Jones advised the meeting that vehicular access would be needed to transport some of the large, heavy telescopes.

Write to Mandy Cavesh, Parsonage Yard, and get her feedback on Swindon Stargazers request Action: clerk

5.7 *NALC Council Tax Support Funding Survey – The meeting agreed that the clerk should complete the survey on behalf of Liddington Parish Council.*

Complete the NALC Council Tax Support Funding Survey

Action: clerk

5.8 *Wilts and Berks Canal Trust – The Parish Council agreed to take out association membership of the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust at a cost of £25.00.*

5.9 *Highways Matters – The Parish Council noted that residents had been missing buses as a revised timetable had not been placed at the bus stops. There was no information on Thamesdown Travel's website until 1 or 2 days before the new timetable came into effect. It was felt that the changes should have been widely publicised to users of the bus service and notification of the revised timetable placed at the bus stop.*

Write to Thamesdown Travel with the Parish Council's concerns regarding how the revised timetable was implemented Action: clerk

6. *PLANNING*

6.1 *Planning Applications – There were no planning applications to consider.*

6.2 *Decisions – No planning decisions have been received since the last meeting.*

7. *FINANCE*

7.1 *Account Summary and Budget Report – The account summary was reviewed and it was noted that the forecast is that hall hire will go over budget. The clerk advised the meeting that the budgeted figure for auditing included both the internal and external auditors' charges, however this year there was no cost for the external audit. The clerk recommended that £60 be transferred from the audit budget to the hall hire budget. The Parish Council approved the proposed budget adjustment.*

7.2 *Reserves – The Parish Council agreed to provisionally allocate £15,000 from reserves for the purpose for replacing the playground equipment.*

7.3 *Draft budget – Due to time constraints it was agreed to discuss reserves and next year's budget jointly at the December meeting.*

8. *CORRESPONDENCE*

8.1 *The following correspondence for action was discussed:*

- ♦ *Swindon Borough Council, Parish Council Special Expenses form*

Complete the Special Expenses form on behalf of the Parish Council

Action: clerk

8.2 *The Parish Council noted the following correspondence for information:*

- ♦ *Email from Thamesdown Travel regarding bus services through Liddington*

Write to Thamesdown Travel about the lack of advertising of the changes to the bus service *Action: clerk*

9. *WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT*

9.1 *There was no Ward Councillor's report as Andrew Bennett was unable to attend the meeting.*

10. *COUNCILLORS' REPORTS*

10.1 *Playing Field - Sid Bishop advised the meeting that he had carried out his fortnightly safety inspections of the play equipment on 2nd, 16th and 30th October and that there were no issues.*

10.2 *Village Hall Committee - David Lomax advised the meeting that the Safari Supper fundraising event did not happen.*

10.3 *Neighbourhood Watch - Nothing to report.*

10.4 *Community Speedwatch - It was noted that the last training session is on 30th November.*

10.5 *Jeffries Land Trust - Nothing to report.*

11 *PARISH MAGAZINE*

It was agreed that the following items be put in the Lyden magazine:

- *Parish Council corresponding with Thamesdown Travel regarding the revised timetable*

- *Ask residents to gather data on their broadband speed*

- *Next meeting is 8th January 2014*

12 *ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA*

Cuts in rural services such as the green waste collection and library service

Hedge and tree cutting on the playing field

Church road sign

Bus shelter issue

The meeting concluded at 9.35pm