



**LIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014**

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

### **1. APOLOGIES**

None

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> December were approved and signed as a true record.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### Actions completed

Write to Mandy Caplish, Parsonage Yard, and get her feedback on Swindon Stargazers request

Action: clerk

Arrange Neighbourhood Watch handover from Jonathan Miller

Action: VJ

#### Actions ongoing

Consider locations for trees

Action: All

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

Send breakdown of costs for Commonhead meeting to the clerk

Action: GW

Write to Chiseldon PC regarding donation towards Commonhead meeting

Action: clerk

It was noted that Vince Jones hasn't been able to get a handover from Jonathan Miller but is getting Neighbourhood Watch information. It was agreed that the scheme needs to be relaunched and that something should be put in the Lyden magazine.

The clump of trees on Liddington hill was discussed. It was agreed that the clerk should contact the North Wessex Downs AONB to let them know that Liddington clump, a defining feature in the landscape and AONB, has lost its iconic shape when observed by eastbound traffic on the M4.

Write to AONB about Liddington clump

Action: clerk

It was noted that HMRC had replied to the clerk's letter and that requested that the VAT for the village hall roof be repaid to them.

The clerk advised the meeting that she had meet with Mandy and John Caplish to discuss the use of the playing field by Swindon Stargazers. They had no objections provided that vehicle movements were kept to a minimum, no vehicles are parked on the lane, and someone knocked on the door to notify them that they'll be on the playing field. It was agreed that use of the playing field on an evening by Swindon Stargazers should initially be on a trial basis.

## **5. FINANCE**

- 5.1 Account Summary – The account summary was reviewed and approved. It was agreed that £3,000 from reserves should be allocated to redeveloping the Jubilee Gardens and that £10,000 should be set aside for the refurbishment of the playground equipment.
- 5.2 Budget and Precept – The draft budget for 2014 – 2015 was reviewed. The Parish Council decided to reduce the budget for 'Projects' by £500 to £1500, to also reduce the budget for 'Parish Plan' activities from £1000 to £500 and to allocate £2000 to a new budget category of 'Grants'. This increases the estimated expenditure by £1000 to £8354.

The clerk advised the meeting that at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December the Borough Council's Cabinet agreed that they were minded to passport at least 50% of the Council Tax Support (CTS) grant to the parishes but have not made a final decision. The latest situation is that the Leader of the Council has confirmed that his group now proposes to passport the full level of CTS grant to parishes in 2014-2015. This is expected to be endorsed by the Borough's Cabinet at its next meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014. This will be paid in two instalments in April and September along with the precept. This funding is available for the Parish Council to either reduce its precept for 2014-2015 and therefore pass it on to residents as a reduction in Council Tax bills, or to provide additional services than to those funded through the precept. As the Borough Council doesn't meet until February to endorse the proposal to passport 100% of the CTS grant to the parishes and the precept forms need to be returned by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014, the Parish Council agreed to set a precept of £6,400 to be reduced by any CTS grant.

## **6. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 6.1 Projects for 2014 – It was agreed to carry forward this item to another meeting.
- 6.2 StreetSmart – It was agreed that the Parish Council would request some StreetSmart/Highways hours to carry out the following: clear the drains and kerbs, cut back the footpaths along the B4192 to full width, to cut back any overhanging trees, and cut the verge and road edges. It is estimated that this work will require 2 men for one week.
- 6.3 Rural Broadband – Gordon Wilson advised the meeting that he had reviewed the infrastructure plan for land at Commonhead and it showed OEF and Virgin cabling being installed. He has obtained some contacts and will be speaking to them about fibre optics.
- 6.4 Rural Services – The Parish Council noted that now anyone wanting a wheelie bin for green waste had to pay for this service. It was agreed that the reduction in rural services would be monitored.
- 6.5 Bus Shelter - It was agreed that this agenda item should be carried forward to another meeting.
- 6.6 Liddington Clump – This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- 6.7 Council Codes and Protocols – No changes were proposed to Swindon Borough Council's codes and protocols.

## **7. PLANNING**

- 7.1 Planning Applications – The Parish Council considered the following planning applications and had no comments:
- S/EIA/13/1770 Environmental Impact Assessment for a proposed development at Lotmead Farm, Wanborough (deadline 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014)
  - S/RES/13/1755 Reserved matters application for the erection of 56 dwellings including associated landscaping & infrastructure following outline planning permission S/10/0842
  - S/RES/13/1758 Reserved matters application for the erection of 17 dwellings including associated landscaping & infrastructure following outline planning permission S/10/0842. Parcel R4 land at Commonhead to the south of Marlborough road (A4259) and adjoining Great Western Hospital, Swindon
  - S/RES/13/1772 Reserved matters application for the provision of landscaping & open space following outline planning permission S/10/0842. Land at Commonhead to the south of Marlborough road (A4259) and adjoining Great Western Hospital, Swindon
- 7.3 Decisions – It was noted that planning application S/13/0950EDS had gone to appeal following its refusal.

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 8.1 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 17<sup>th</sup> January 2014)
- 8.2 The Parish Council noted the following correspondence for information:
- Proposed Admissions Arrangements 2015-16 for the following primary schools : Peatmoor, Shaw Ridge, Westlea & Millbrook (Deadline 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014)

## **9. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

- 9.1 There was no Ward Councillor's report as Andrew Bennett wasn't present at 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 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December and that there were no issues. The clerk advised the meeting that Kompan would be sending some guidelines on the checks that should be done on the playing equipment, along with instructions on how to re-install the grab handle.
- 10.2 Village Hall Committee – It was noted that the carol service was good but unfortunately not too many people attended it.
- 10.3 Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing to report.
- 10.4 Community Speedwatch – Nothing to report.

## **11. PARISH MAGAZINE**

It was agreed that the following items should be put in the Parish magazine:  
Request for anyone who is part of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, or wishes to join it, to contact Vince at the Village Inn.  
The Parish Council met with Robert Buckland MP to discuss rural broadband and wants residents to collect data on their speeds and pass it on to the Parish Council.

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

The Parish Council has received some complaints about the fact that the step at the Village Inn stop was too low and the Thamesdown buses aren't adjusting their height. This has resulted in at least one accident.

The meeting concluded at 9.35pm

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_