



LIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs E Carmichael
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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1st OCTOBER 2014

PRESENT: Guy Allen, Sid Bishop, Jane Howes, Vince Jones, Gordon Wilson, Liz Carmichael (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

Gordon Wilson welcomed Malcolm Barnes to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved – That any reference of 8 Spinney Close in paragraph 7.1 be changed to 1 Manor View and that, subject to this amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September be approved and signed as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Actions completed

Find out if SBC own the land at the top of The Street	Action: clerk
Ask SBC to place Liddington on the waiting list for used benches	Action: clerk
Ask the Localities for funding for a bench and hard standing	Action: clerk
Choose a design of seat that would be suitable for near the Jubilee Gardens	Action: GA
Advise SBC that the birch in The Street and the maple in Purley need cutting back	Action: clerk

Actions ongoing

Contact SBC about the scope of the maintenance work they do in the village	Action: clerk
Get quotes to maintain Liddington clump	Action: clerk
Draft letter regarding Liddington clump including feedback from arboreal officer	Action:GW/DL

The clerk advised the meeting that James Garrad had stated that he would bear Liddington in mind the next time he is replacing benches. It was noted that the Parish Council could apply for a Grass Roots Grant to purchase a seat.

Swindon Borough Council (SBC) has confirmed that they own the triangle of land at the top of The Street and the trees needing attention have been reported to StreetSmart. It was noted that SBC will first do an investigation into what tree work is required, then the appropriate work will be scheduled.

The clerk advised the meeting that she had requested an immediate emptying of the dog waste bin but had not received any indication that it had been scheduled. The Stratton St Margaret clerk had however stated that the dog waste collection service would end in April 2015.

Find out who Wanborough use to empty their dog bins and see if any other local Parish Councils are interested in joining together to employ the same dog collection company next year Action: clerk

5. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 5.1 Liddington Bells Project At the District Church Council (DCC) meeting on 17th September a committee was agreed for the Bells project. Tony Pullan is Project Manager, Malcolm Barnes is Technical Adviser and Fiona Nelson, Church Warden, is the Church representative. Sid Bishop and Geoff Hale were also invited to join the committee. Geoff Hale has decided not to join the committee. Malcolm Barnes advised the meeting that the Bells Project has been repeatedly on & then off again since 1976. It was noted that English Heritage had stated that the old bell frames must be either repaired or left alone. A decision has been made to leave the existing wooden frame in place and to treat it to prevent further deterioration. The proposal is to place a new metal frame below the original and to lower the belfry floor to allow sufficient space. Ringers gallery will be installed which will be reached via a new staircase in the vestry. The project will focus on the restoration of the bells only. The clock will be the subject of another project done at a later date. It was noted that Tony Pullan has setup a Liddington Bells website. The plans have been approved by the Diocesan Bells Advisor. An application still needs to be submitted to the Diocese for final approval. The meeting noted that if the application fails that will be the end of the bells and there will be no further attempts to fix them. The bells will need retuning. Any that can not be fixed will be replaced with ones salvaged from decommissioned churches. The project will need assistance from people with specific skills e.g. stonemasons, carpenters, electricians. **Resolved:** that the Parish Council was fully in support of the Bells project.
- 5.2 Swindon Local Plan 2026 It was noted that Gordon Wilson will be attending the open meeting at Wanborough on 6th October to discuss amendments to the Local Plan 2026. It was noted that Councillor Eric Shaw believes that planning will putting together a summary of the changes. The main concern for Liddington is infrastructure and the effect of new roads and the development at Commonhead on the village.
- 5.3 Playing Field Fireworks It was noted that someone who has booked the village hall was seeking permission to set off a few small fireworks on the playing field. The clerk advised the meeting that the insurance company had recommended that the Parish Council insist that the hirers obtain event insurance. **Resolved:** that permission would be granted provided that the hirers of the hall clean up after themselves, do not light any bonfires, obtain the appropriate event insurance and advise the neighbouring properties.

Ask SBC if an event license is required

Action: clerk

- 5.4 Parish Lengthsman The clerk advised the meeting that Liddington Parish Council didn't need to pay the same rate as Wanborough. It could agree its own hourly rate that reflected the duties and responsibilities for Liddington's Parish Lengthsman – provided it wasn't less than the minimum wage. It was noted that Guy Allen has put a spreadsheet of village maintenance tasks, some of which could possibly be undertaken by a Parish Lengthsman. The spreadsheet is incomplete and input from other people is required. **Resolved:** that all Councillors will review the list of village maintenance tasks with a view to filling in any missing information.

6. PLANNING

- 6.1 The Parish Council noted planning application S/14/1473JAB for the construction of a vehicular access at 36 Purley road. The deadline for comments has passed.
- 6.2 It was noted that no new permissions have been granted.

7. FINANCE

- 7.1 The Account Summary was reviewed by the Parish Council and the forecasted overspend in the audit budget category was noted. **Resolved:** that £30 be transferred from insurance and £30 be transferred from miscellaneous to balance the budget.
- 7.2 It was noted that Auditing Solutions invoice A3684 for £125.00 was paid between meetings.

Resolved: that the Stratton St Margaret Parish Council invoice 2623 for dog bins (Apr – June) and that a cheque for £18.36 be signed

Resolved: that John Kent be reimbursed the cost of sundries for village maintenance and that a cheque for £53.50 be signed. **Resolved:** that, in the future, the Parish Council will need till receipts rather than an invoice for items purchased by John Kent for village maintenance

Speak to John Kent about keeping receipts to submit to the PC for reimbursement Action: DL

Resolved: that the Grant Thornton invoice 7033253 external audit additional fees be queried

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 The meeting noted the following correspondence for information.

- SBC Members Bulletin Issues 729 - 731

9. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

9.1 There was no 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 the 11th & 25th September and that there were no issues to report.

10.2 Village Hall Committee – It was noted that the hall curtains were not being totally replaced. Instead they are to have new thermal linings.

10.3 Neighbourhood Watch – It was noted that additional advertising promoting the scheme may be required.

10.4 Community Speedwatch – It was noted that 1 new person has been trained.

11. PARISH MAGAZINE

Resolved – that the following items should be put in the Parish magazine:

Visit from Malcolm Barnes re. Liddington Bells, committee being set up & volunteers required
Thank you to John Kent, Wendy Curtis & Christine Hicks for taking care of areas of the village
Neighbourhood Watch

12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA

To continue the discussion regarding employing a Parish Lengthsman

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm

Signed : _____

Date : _____