



## LIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015

**PRESENT:** Councillors Allen, Bishop, Lomax, Moore. Also in attendance Liz Carmichael (Clerk)

#### 1. PUBLIC SESSION

7 members of the public attended the meeting to present their concerns regarding road safety, and in particular with respect to Medbourne Lane. About 2 ½ weeks earlier there had been a serious incident involving cars and 2 horses with riders where the Police and ambulance had also attended the scene. The increased traffic along the lane and the increased speed of that traffic is of great concern. Some of the horse riders have taken to wearing hi-visibility jackets and head cameras and have recorded video of the Thamesdown buses speeding. It was noted that the Ridgeway school buses are also speeding along the lane and, in addition to near collisions, there has been an incident of road rage. Residents raised a concern that the national speed limit sign is located before a section where 2 cars cannot pass at the same time and there is not additional signage to indicate that the road narrows. Liddington Parish Council was asked if it could remove the national speed limit signs as a quick and simple way to help remedy the situation. Members advised that the road signs did not belong to the Parish Council and that LPC had no authority to remove them. The residents are in the process of gathering evidence of any road traffic incidents with a view to presenting it to Swindon Borough Council to drive forward changes to the road signage.

#### 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gordon Wilson, Jane Howes and Vince Jones. Cllr Jones's reason for absence (work) was accepted. Ward Councillor Andrew Bennett also sent his apologies.

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Lomax declared an interest in agenda item 10 (c) as he is the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee. Cllr Moore declared in interest in agenda item 9 (b) as he is a volunteer with The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust.

#### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 7th January 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record.

#### 5. MATTERS ARISING

- (a) **Allotments Update** – The Parish Council noted that Church Warden Fiona Nelson and Cllr Howes met with Arthur Witchell the land agent (from Smiths Gore) representing the Diocese of Bristol at the allotments to discuss administrative issues and usage. It was decided that the churchwarden of Liddington All Saints church would now administer the allotments, using an agreement form provided by Smiths Gore, and that the price for annual rental of one allotment would be £10.00 effective from April 1st 2015. Permission was sought and provided to make unused areas of the allotment land subdivided into smaller plots. This will allow more people to have access to an allotment that would not be so arduous to maintain. The cost would remain the same for portions of

the allotments as a whole, i.e. £10 per annum. Fiona is going to put something in the Lyden Magazine to this effect and that there are allotments available. She is also in the midst of ascertaining which of the allotment holders want to continue with them. The Parish Council will monitor the situation as there is a concern that the Church Warden may not have sufficient time to manage the allotments.

- (b) **Tree Works Update** – The tree outside number 30 Purley road that is growing into overhead electricity cables is on SBC land and the borough council will be reporting it to the electricity company, if it hasn't already been reported. The borough council's tree works programme does not start until April so the horse chestnut on the corner of Church road and others in Medbourne lane, Purley and The Street will be inspected in mid to late March by Frank Donachie (SBC) and Cllr Wilson. This tree work is suitable for locality hours. Richard Polatch, Top of the Trees, has been advised to commence work to reduce the sycamore on the playing field by 30% and Mark Reynolds has been advised to cut the hedge around the playing field.
- (c) **Dog Waste Bin Collection Service** – Merlin Waste is no longer collecting in the Liddington area. From the beginning of April Allbuild Building and Landscaping will be providing a dog waste collection service to various local parishes, including Chiseldon, Covingham, South Marston, Blunsdon, and would be happy to extend the service to include Liddington at a cost of £2.25 per bin per collection. Stratton St Margaret PC was charging £2.50 per bin per collection plus VAT (£3.00 inc VAT). The council **resolved** to contract Allbuild Building and Landscaping to empty the dog waste bin on the playing field on a fortnightly basis.
- (d) **Day House Lane** – Robert Buckland MP has acknowledged receipt of the letter sent by Adrian Moore on behalf of Liddington Parish Council regarding the proposed closure of Day House Lane and has referred the matter to Swindon Borough Council. The borough council has responded by stating that it is unable to comment just yet.

## 6. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

There was no report as Ward Councillor Bennett was unable to attend the meeting.

## 7. HIGHWAYS

- (a) **Medbourne Lane** – The Parish Council discussed road safety along Medbourne Lane. There have been a number of traffic related incidents, including the recent one involving two horses & riders and motor vehicles. Residents are already collating information on these incidents and the Parish Council agreed to support them. It was noted that Ridgeway Ward has about £8K of Highways funds available for projects. The Parish Council **resolved** to apply for some of the Highways funds for more warning signs and/or for a reduction in the speed limit.
- (b) **Footpath alongside B4192** – The meeting noted that Swindon Borough Council are trying to arrange for a mechanical footpath sweeper to visit site and if this is not possible they will try to blow the debris off the path. This will not resolve the issue of the footpath being overgrown and needing to be cut back to prevent the need for pedestrians to have to step into the road. It was understood that localities funding for this work had been secured last year. The Parish Council decided to escalate the matter to Ward Councillor Bennett.

Speak to AB about clearance of the footpath alongside B4192

Action: clerk

- (c) **Drains** – It was noted that the drains were last done in April 2014 and are not due to be done again for some time. Swindon Borough Council sweeps the main routes through Liddington 3 or 4 times a year as they are on a gritting route. Medbourne Lane and other village roads are treated the same as other routes in the borough and are cleansed on a cyclical basis which is every 3 – 3 1/2 years. Part of the problems experienced along Medbourne Lane may be due to wide tractors mounting the bank and pulling soil into the road which then blocks the gullies. Although the gullies are not due to be done for a while any specific problems and locations can be reported to Highways (via StreetSmart) and will be added to an ad hoc gully cleaning list. This work is not suitable for locality hours.

## 8. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

- (a) **Spring Clean Up** - The Parish Council **resolved** to have the spring village clean-up on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am. The meeting point is the Jubilee Gardens. It was **resolved** to include the

following tasks in the clean-up: litter picking, clearing the overgrowth along B4192, clearing sections of the footpath alongside the B4192 where people usually cross the road, taking photographs of areas where there are problems with the drains.

Get litter pickers, gloves etc. for spring village clean up

Action: GW

- (b) **Parish Lengthsman** – The Parish Council reviewed the quotes and the scope of work for the Parish Lengthsman. It was agreed that tree maintenance would be removed from the lengthsman's tasks and that Swindon Borough Council would be asked to continue cutting the playing field, if the charge for 2015-2016 is competitive. It was **resolved** to employ Allbuild Building and Landscaping as lengthsman.

Arrange site visit with lengthsman to agree tasks

Action: clerk

Get quote from SBC for cutting grass on playing field

Action: clerk

## 9. PLANNING MATTERS

### (a) Decisions

**Application:** S/TWC/15/0263

**Location:** Church Cottage, Church road, Liddington, SN4 0HB

**Proposal:** Works to trees in a conservation area

**Status:** Application Granted

It was noted that the Parish Council had not been advised of the application for tree works.

Find out if the Parish Council should be consulted on applications for tree works Action: clerk

- (b) **Swindon Low Carbon Local Development Orders** – Swindon Borough Council is creating a suite of Local Development Orders which would support the delivery of a low carbon Swindon. Key features of the proposed Local Development Orders include:

- permitting standalone micro-generation and local generation solar panels installations within the curtilage of non-domestic properties, subject to safeguards;
- extending the national permitted development size threshold for roof mounted micro-generation and local generation solar panels from 50kWp to 1MWp on non-domestic properties, subject to safeguards;
- permitting small building mounted and standalone micro-generation wind turbines at non-domestic properties, subject to safeguards
- 29 sites in the Borough where planning permission could be granted upfront for solar arrays and solar farms.

It was agreed to have a working party meeting to review the proposed Low Carbon Local Development Orders and to put together a draft response for approval at the April Parish Council meeting.

- (c) **Neighbourhood Plan** – It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plans for Wroughton, Blunsdon and Highworth are all well advanced and that Wanborough has started creating its Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that the members needed to be better informed on the benefits of Neighbourhood Plans and on the process for creating one before progressing any further. Cllr Wilson may have some relevant information on Neighbourhood Plans. If not, it may be possible to get someone from Forward Planning to come to a meeting to talk to the Parish Council about Neighbourhood Plans.

Determine what information Cllr Wilson has on Neighbourhood Plans

Action: clerk

Arrange for someone to attend a meeting to talk about Neighbourhood Plans

Action: clerk

- (d) **Local Plan 2026 Update** – The meeting noted that the Inspector's Report on the examination into the Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 concludes that the plan is sound and provides an appropriate planning policy framework for the Borough over the plan period, subject to the incorporation of main modifications as recommended in the report. The report is available on the Borough Council's website at [www.swindon.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.swindon.gov.uk/localplan) . A hard copy of the report was given to Cllr Moore to review.

- (e) **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Update** – The meeting noted that the Examiner’s Report on the examination into the Swindon Borough Council Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule concludes that it provides an appropriate basis for the collection of the levy in the area, subject to the modification as set out in the report. The Borough Council has sufficient evidence to support the schedule and can show that the levy is set at a level that will not put the overall development of the area at risk. An electronic copy of the report has been received by the clerk. The report is also available on the Borough Council’s website at [www.swindon.gov.uk/CIL](http://www.swindon.gov.uk/CIL) .

## 10. COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

- (a) **Borough / Parish Liaison Group** – At the meeting on 12 February the Borough Council had stated that some Parish Councils were not submitting any reasons when objecting to a planning application and didn’t attend planning meetings to make representations in person. It was agreed that, if in doubt about any objections, the planning officer should contact the relevant Parish Council for clarification. Cabinet is due to decide on a Broadband supplier in March. Virgin is putting more money in to providing new cables etc. but this doesn’t include rural areas. Some Parish Councils are not being advised about the Localities meetings. The Forward Planning officer gave an update on the Local Plan and advised the CIL (community infrastructure levy) comes in on 7<sup>th</sup> April.
- (b) **Playing Field** – The Council noted that Cllr Bishop had carried out his fortnightly safety inspections of the play equipment on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February and there were no issues to report.
- (c) **Village Hall** – There was no update from the Village Hall Committee
- (d) **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme** – There was no report on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme as Cllr Jones was unable to attend the meeting.
- (e) **Community Speed Watch** – There was no update from the Community Speed Watch initiative

## 11. PARISH MAGAZINE

The Council **resolved** to put the following items in its report for the Parish Magazine:

- Spring village clean-up on 28<sup>th</sup> March
- Parish Council gathering evidence on traffic incidents and would like residents to contact the clerk with details of incidents

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE

The meeting noted the following correspondence for information:

- SBC Members Bulletin Issues 748, 749, 750, 751

## 13. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE AGENDA

To review the remaining budget for the landscaping project alongside the B4192 and to consider purchasing a bench for the area

It was noted that the playing field will need to be cut about 7 days before the village fete on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

The meeting concluded at 9.00pm

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

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