



## LIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 7.00pm in Liddington Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Councillors Allen, Bishop, Howes, Lomax, Moore, Wilson (Chair). Also in attendance Liz Carmichael (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

### Action

#### 2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIR

Councillor Bishop proposed that Councillor Gordon Wilson be elected Chairman. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Howes and agreed unanimously. Councillor Howes proposed that Councillor Guy Allen be elected Vice Chair. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Lomax and agreed unanimously. Councillors Wilson and Allen signed their respective acceptance of office forms.

#### 3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Jones. The Council **resolved** to accept his reason for absence (work).

#### 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lomax declared an interest in agenda item 15 as he is the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall committee.

#### 5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 be approved subject to the following change: 'lived at' to 'owned' in paragraph 1.

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 be signed as a true record.

#### 1. PUBLIC SESSION

Kath and Gary Blue the owners of The Lodge, 37 The Street, Liddington attended the meeting with their architect Nigel Henham. Nigel advised the meeting that the Highways and the Trees Officers had no objections but the Conservation Officer had raised objections with regard to the access to the property. The Conservation Officer's concerns were that it would result in the loss of a neighbourhood asset and that the embankment was worthy of retention in its present form. The Conservation Officer had suggested that the access should be off the lane with the garage in the same location as the existing garage. This proposal would require the removal of trees which would make the property more visible from The Manor.

#### 7. PLANNING MATTERS

##### (b) Application: S/15/0230

**Location:** The Lodge, The Street, Liddington SN4 0HD

**Proposal:** Demolition of The Lodge and replace with new dwelling

**Status:** Application Pending Consideration

Following the consultation with Highways and the Conservation Officers, the Planning Officers have strong concerns about the new access and how with the need to undertake significant engineering works to the bank, this is likely to have a significant impact on the character of the Conservation

Area contrary to EN10 of the Local Plan. Planning have no objections to the replacement house, but on the basis of the new access are likely to be recommending refusal of planning permission unless the new access is omitted from the scheme.

The Parish Council consider the comments from the public and **resolved** to ask for the Planning Committee to determine the application. It was **resolved** to submit the following reasons in support of the access as shown on the planning application: the reduction in the embankment improves visibility for road users and increases road safety, the off road parking also contributes to road safety, trees will be retained and the property will continued to be screened from The Manor, properties opposite have be allowed large entrances and other properties further along The Street have entrances that cut through the embankment. The Council **resolved** to send a representative to the Planning Committee meeting if someone is available.

**(a) Application: S/EIA/15/0607**

**Location:** Redlands Farm/Airfield, Wanborough Road, Swindon SN4 0AA

**Proposal:** Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report for an outline planning application for a proposed development

**Status:** Application

**Resolved** to submit the following comments on application S/EIA/15/0607: the Parish Council is concerned about rat running and coalescence, and supports Wanborough Parish Council in their objections.

**(c) Wiltshire Council Statement of Community Involvement** – The Parish Council noted Wiltshire Council’s Statement of Community Involvement.

**(d) S/14/0792 Great Western Hospital** – It was noted that this application had been withdrawn.

**6. MATTERS ARISING**

The speed survey along Medbourne lane showed that the average speed of vehicles coming from the M4 over pass and towards the stables crossroads was 47.2mph and the average speed of vehicles coming from the Liddington end was 32.3mph. Swindon Borough Council agrees that these speeds are not acceptable for the location, and will be looking at removing entirely the national speed limit for Medbourne Lane. SBC will hopefully be placing a 30mph limit for its entire length. This will include paintwork (roundels) on the road surface shortly after the M4 fly over, and at the other end as vehicles come into Medbourne from Liddington. SBC plan to install new horse signage and would anticipate once ordered, the work will take up to 6-8 weeks, however this will be based on the workload of the team. Julie Furneal has stated that once the costings for the scheme have been completed it will be sent to the Parish Council and the Locality Lead for consideration. No works order can be raised until the Locality Lead confirms that they support and will fund the scheme. Kim Swift should be updated on progress. Clerk

It was noted that although workmen from SBC had been in the village recently, and had done good work, the Parish Council’s highest priority task (clearing the footpath alongside the B4192) hadn’t been done. **Resolved** to escalate to James Garrad. Clerk

The gate on SBC land adjacent to the footpath nearly opposite the top entrance to the village is considered to be in a dangerous state of repair. In clearing the footpath SBC workers have now made this fallen down gate more hazardous to the public and it should be removed. **Resolved** to report the gate to SBC for action. Clerk

**8. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT**

There was no Ward Councillor’s report

**9. PARISH LENGTHSMAN**

**Resolved** that the following tasks be undertaken this month:  
Maintain benches, except those in the churchyard

Clean all street furniture including the white gates  
 Clean play equipment as necessary  
 Spray weed killer on dandelions under the Horse Chestnut on the corner of Church road  
 Subject to permission from the landowner to fill in the potholes in lane up to the playing field

As the lane is private land, permission will be needed from the owner

Cllr Bishop

It was noted that none of the tasks allocated for this month would result in double taxation. At the next meeting the Parish Council will agree a monthly budget for the Parish Lengthsman's tasks.

**Resolved** to delegate to the Clerk both the collating of requests for the monthly Parish Lengthsman's tasks and the liaison with the Lengthsman.

## 10. CLERK'S ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) **Notice Period** – The clerk has informed the Parish Council that she only has a verbal contract of employment and has been unable to find a written contract. Councillors agreed that this should be rectified as soon as possible with a written contract of employment. **Resolved** to continue for a period of up to 3 months on the existing terms with a 4 week notice period until a formal contract is put in place.
- (b) **Job Description** – **Resolved** to approve the standard clerk's job description with 2 minor amendments.  
 A copy of the job description is to be sent to the clerk for approval/comment Cllr Wilson
- (c) **Notice Board** – It was **resolved** that the clerk should hold the key to the notice board and that duplicate keys will purchased if required.

## 11. INSURANCE

- (a) **Level of Cover** – The Council **resolved** that the level of insurance cover was adequate.
- (b) **Policy Renewal** – The renewal premium is £547.79, including 6% insurance premium tax. This takes into consideration the Council's long-term agreement which expires on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016 and includes the Council's annual 5% no claims discount. **Resolved** to renew the Council's insurance policy.

## 12. FINANCE

- (a) **Account Summary** – Copies of the statement of accounts as at the end of the financial year were given out and will be taken away by the Councillors for review.
- (b) **Invoices - Resolved** to approve payment of the following:  
 Clerks remuneration January – March 2015 £375.00  
 Administration fee April 2014 – March 2015 £100.00  
 WALC annual subscription 2015/16 £137.89.

## 13. TRAINING

WALC can provide councillors' training covering roles and responsibilities, law and procedures. This two hour course costs £200 + VAT for 1-10 councillors and £300 + VAT for 11 – 20 councillors. Liddington can offer places to members from other councils to make up numbers and spread the costs. The cost will be going up in May but the quoted price will be honoured for anything booked before 31st July (even if it takes place after this date). The cost, for comparison, of attending a set councillors' training event is £35 per delegate and this is also due to go up in May.

Stephen Taylor (SBC) can also provide training. He usually does 90 minute training focusing on the 'Code of Conduct'. He can cover the same topics as WALC (roles and responsibilities, law and procedures) but has said that it would be a bit rushed with not a lot of time for interaction.

It was **resolved** to go forward with Stephen Taylor's 'Code of Conduct' training for all Councillors.

#### 14. DEFIBRILLATOR PUBLIC MEETING

Councillor Wilson stated that he would be attending the defibrillator meeting being held in Wanborough and would report back at the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr Wilson

#### 15. VILLAGE HALL

(a) **Statement of Accounts** – The Council reviewed the annual statement of accounts. There were no issues or concerns raised.

(b) **Report – To receive an update from the Village Hall Committee**

#### 16. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Bishop carried out safety checks on the play equipment on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April and there were no issues to report.

#### 17. PARISH MAGAZINE

The Parish Council **resolved** to put the following in the Parish Magazine:

Annual Village Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Update on progress on Medbourne lane

Please maintain hedges where they overhang footpaths

#### 18. CORRESPONDENCE

The meeting noted the following correspondence for information:

SBC Members Bulletin Issues 756, 757, 758, 759, 760

Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Dragonfly issue 136

#### 19. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2015

It was noted that Councillors Wilson and Jones have given their consent for summonses to be sent to them electronically.

#### 20. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE AGENDA

It was noted that the hedge for the thatched cottage next to the village hall was encroaching on the lane and needed to be cut back.

Items for the Annual Parish Meeting were discussed and included:

- Police attendance to discuss their response to recent break-ins in the village and public safety. If necessary this could continue under the main Parish Council meeting.
- Per Axel Warensjo from Wanborough Parish Council to be asked to attend the Annual meeting to discuss Neighbourhood Plans.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm