

October

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2nd OCTOBER 2013

PRESENT: Guy Allen, Sid Bishop, Vince Jones, Gordon Wilson (Chairman), Liz Carmichael (Clerk) and Andrew Bennett (Ward Councillor).

1. APOLOGIES

None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. GUEST SPEAKER, INSPECTOR SAUNDERS, WILTSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Inspector Saunders was unable to attend the meeting.

4. GUEST SPEAKER, SUZANNE COLES, SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Suzanne Coles advised the meeting that the 2011 traffic survey results show that speeds have dropped. The effectiveness of the Community Speedwatch Schemes was discussed and it was noted that the negative impression that some residents may have of the scheme could be due to the fact that initially there was no back office support and, as in the case of Blunsdon, it may seem that nothing was happening when the local speedwatch team recorded a speeding vehicle.

The Parish Council advised Suzanne that the vehicle activated sign was obscured by trees and that the hedges along the B4192 were overgrown as the Borough Council's workers never cut them back sufficiently.

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

Andrew Bennett joined the meeting.

Suzanne explained that vertical traffic calming (speed cushions) have the disadvantage that the noise and vibrations which will impact properties nearby.

Horizontal traffic calming like build outs (chicanes) have their own restrictions and are not always successful as often the drivers who are supposed to give way speed up to get through the chicane ahead of traffic that has the priority. Suzanne suggested that 'Keep Clear' markings could possibly be put on the roundabout at Commonhead to help those vehicles exiting from the Liddington road.

The Parish Council raised its concerns regarding the pedestrian crossing lights on the slip road of the A419 being mistaken for traffic lights for the roundabout. 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

The Parish Council advised Suzanne that many drivers were unaware that there was a pedestrian crossing until they were on top of it and consequently pedestrians have to rush across the road to safety. It was noted that due to the narrowness of the road a bigger refuge in the road could not be created.

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

Action: SC

The Parish Council asked if the start of the 40mph section could be moved further up the hill. Suzanne advised the meeting that there would be a cost associated with moving the 40mph signs as a traffic regulation order and advertising is required. It was noted that it may be possible to get funding for the project from the localities.

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

Action: SC

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Paragraph 6.6 of the minutes of the meeting held on 4th September was amended from 'sarsen stones are blocking the path' to 'sarsen stones are obstacles in the path'.

Subject to this amendment the minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Actions completed

Get price list for trees and find out deadline for ordering disease resistant elms

Action: clerk

Get prices for fruit trees for a Community orchard

Action: clerk

Contact Kompan and report fault with play equipment

Action: clerk

Send letter to R. Buckland detailing the PC's concerns with broadband speeds

Action: GW

Find out when legal action will be pursued regarding issues with footpath 21

Action: clerk

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

The clerk advised the meeting that Mark Reynolds had been unwell and only just got the all clear from the doctor to get back to work fully. He has committed to carrying out the work to strengthen the foundations of the trough in The Street in the week commencing 14th October. Vince Jones and Sid Bishop offered to speak to residents about removing their cars.

It was noted that the directional signs for PGL Liddington had been installed from Commonhead roundabout through to Liddington crossroads and that the Liddington Hotel sign had been removed.

7. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

7.1 Neighbourhood Planning meeting - The meeting agreed that representatives from the Parish Council would attend the meeting on 21 October at Hooper's Field Sport facility.

7.2 Dog Fouling - The clerk advised the meeting that she had been talking to the Dog Warden's office and they had suggested that additional notices may help. It was noted that it may be possible for the Dog Warden to make visits to Liddington at times when the offenders are expected to be walking their dogs. The clerk advised the Parish Council that Swindon Borough Council always prosecute in cases of dog fouling.

Get advice on the process for obtaining evidence to prosecute dog fouling offenders

Action: clerk

7.3 Village Maintenance - It was agreed that Swindon Borough Council should be asked to give a statement of what work they will continue to do so that Liddington Parish Council can see where the gaps are.

Contact SBC about the scope of the maintenance work they do in the village

Action: clerk

7.4 Highways Matters - These were discussed earlier in the meeting.

8. PLANNING

8.1 Pre Application Proposal for 14 The Street, Liddington – The meeting reviewed the pre-application proposal for 14 The Street. It was agreed that there were no objections to the proposal but the Parish Council would reserve the right to object if the final planning application differed from the pre-application proposal.

8.2 Planning Applications – There were no planning applications to consider.

8.3 Decisions – The meeting noted that application S/13/0950/EDSM 17 Purley road was refused planning permission and application S/13/0869/NISM for the Great Western Hospital was granted planning permission.

9. FINANCE

9.1 Account Summary – The account summary was reviewed. It was noted that the second and final instalment of this year's precept had been received and that expenditure on hall hire and on dog bins is forecast to go over budget. The Parish Council approved the following payments between meetings:

Swindon Commercial Services invoice for grass cutting (ref. LTD002 10308770)
£451.00

Gordon Wilson re-imburement for bedding plants for Jubilee Gardens £20.00

9.2 Payments – The Parish Council approved payment of the following:

- ♦ Stratton St Margaret Parish Council, dog waste service June – August 2013, invoice# 2473 £18.00
- ♦ Barrett ATS Ltd, internal audit, £120.00

9.3 Recovery of VAT on purchases for the village hall – The clerk advised the meeting that the auditor had reported that the Parish Council had incorrectly claimed the VAT on the invoices for the village hall roof and had recommended that HMRC be notified of this error as soon as possible to minimise the interest and penalties that could be charged. It was noted that the auditor had also highlighted the fact that as a general rule a local council cannot use its right to a refund of VAT to benefit other bodies by acting as their agent. The auditor had stated that it was a serious matter as it was an unlawful evasion of VAT for a council to purchase something on behalf of a charitable village hall committee, claim the VAT and obtain reimbursement from the committee. The clerk advised the meeting that Liddington Village Hall Committee was a charity and not a committee of the Parish Council and therefore the guidance relating to committees and the ability to reclaim

VAT did not apply. The Parish Council resolved to obtain further advice and clarification regarding the VAT issue from ACRE and WALC.

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

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 The following correspondence for action was discussed :

- ◆ Invitation to the AONB annual forum on 16 October 10.00am – 4.00pm
Wick Bottom Barn, Temple Farm, Rockley, Marlborough
- ◆ Donation request from Cruse Bereavement Care, Swindon & District Area. It was agreed that a donation would be made if this organisation notified the Parish Council the next time that someone from Liddington used their service.
- ◆ Letter from Swindon Borough Council ref. poll cards. The Parish Council determined that it was very unlikely that a parish by-election would ever be held, and consequently agreed that it would pay the full costs for any associated poll cards.

10.2 The Parish Council noted the following correspondence for information:

- ◆ Notification of closures and restrictions, plus copies of plan showing alternate routes for Swindon Half Marathon on 13 October
- ◆ North Wessex Downs AONB Partnership Annual Review
- ◆ Notification of the Government's revised policy on the role of the strategic road network in enabling economic growth.

11. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

11.1 Andrew Bennett advised the meeting that WALC and SBC were jointly responsible for creating the Parish Charter and the Planning Protocol and that Stephen Taylor is proposing that these documents be reviewed. Andrew advised the Parish Council that the Police and Crime Commissioner had been at a meeting he attended last night and that topics that had been touched on included the Community Speedwatch scheme, the StreetWatch scheme and the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

12. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

12.1 Playing Field – Sid Bishop advised the meeting that he had carried out his fortnightly safety inspections of the play equipment on 4th and 18th September and that there were no new issues to report.

12.2 Village Hall Committee - There was no report as David Lomax was not in attendance at the Parish Council meeting.

12.3 Neighbourhood Watch - Nothing to report.

12.4 Community Speedwatch - It was noted that more volunteers needed to be trained and that the last training session is scheduled for 30th November.

12.5 Jeffries Land Trust - Nothing to report.

13 PARISH MAGAZINE

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

- Parish Council having been in contact with the Dog Warden and have been advised that SBC always prosecute. The Parish Council is determined to put an end to the dog fouling.

- Village clean up on 9th November from 9.30am

14 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA

There were no items for information or for a future agenda.

The meeting concluded at 10.05pm