



## LIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on  
**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 7.00pm in Liddington Village Hall**

**Present:** Councillors Bunney, Lomax, and Wilson (Chair)  
Also in attendance: Ward Councillor Gary Sumner and Val Curtis (Clerk)

### 1. APOLOGIES

**Resolved:** to approve Cllr Brown's reason for absence (incapacitated). **Resolved:** to approve Cllr Hill's reason for absence (illness). **Resolved:** to approve Cllr Moore's reason for absence (away). **Resolved:** to approve Cllr Spillane's reason for absence (holiday).

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Lomax declared an interest as Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee.

### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.

### 4. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr John Martin from Chiseldon Parish Council has confirmed that a meeting for all Ridgeway Parish Councils will be held on June 20<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 7.30pm to discuss the proposed redevelopment of J15, M4 and the way forward.

Jubilee Gardens damage – no update was available as yet. A timber fence or sarsen stones were suggested as a possible deterrent to stop damage reoccurring in the future.

6 The Street – Vertical sleepers are being used as a retainer fence that has encroached onto the highways verge. The Parish Council have also been made aware that delivery lorries were arriving at the site as early as 7.15 a.m. which is not in line with the traffic management plan that forms part of the planning permission. In the interests of highway safety, school buses and public transport, SBC Planning officers would be informed. **Action – Clerk**

Horse riders & the footpath along the stream – Letters had been sent to all local stables. Mr Horton had responded confirming his assistance in asking riders to not use footpaths. It was noted that the handrail had now been replaced.

Allotments – A successful meeting had taken place with Cllrs Moore, Wilson, Lomax, local resident Mr Kent, the Clerk and Arthur Witchell on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June. An article will be placed in the Lyden Magazine to confirm the level of interest from residents in having an allotment prior to moving this forward.

### 5. PUBLIC SESSION

As no members of the public were in attendance, the Parish Council continued with the meeting.

### 6. CLERK'S REPORT

Annual external audit (Limited Assurance Review) – Completed and sent to Grant Thornton on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May. Receipt confirmed with an explanatory note that the Audit cannot be started until after the Exercise of Public Rights which will run from 5<sup>th</sup> June until 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

VAT claim – An amount of £491.19 had been received on 26<sup>th</sup> May for VAT paid during financial year 2016/17.

Dog Bin – This had been ordered and delivered. Adams and Watt have been asked to install it

### 7. PLANNING MATTERS

- (a) **Application:** S/HOU/17/0694 (9<sup>th</sup> June 2017)  
**Location:** 10 The Street, Liddington, SN4 0HD  
**Proposal:** Erection of a detached summer house  
**Resolved:** that the following comment be submitted:

The Parish Council has no objections to this application

**Application:** S/HOU/17/0756 (9<sup>th</sup> June 2017)  
**Location:** New House, Bell Lane, Liddington SN4 0HE  
**Proposal:** Erection of a single storey rear extension  
**Resolved:** that the following comment be submitted:

The Parish Council has no objections to this application

**(b)** It was noted that the following applications had been granted permission:

S/HOU/17/0427 – 35 Purley Road – Erection of two storey side and single/two storey rear extensions  
S/HOU/17/0487/ISPA – 9 Spinney Close – Erection of a single storey side extension  
S/HOU/17/0466/IH – Street House Farm – Removal and replacement of render to the external walls and like for like replacement of timber windows

It was also noted that the following applications for 'Works to trees within a conservation area' had been granted permission

S/TWC/17/0750 – 6 The Street  
S/TWC/17/0875 – Parsonage Yard, Church Road

## 8. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

Education Transport Policy 2018/19 consultation was discussed with comments forming the basis of the Parish Council's response.

Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) list due to be published in the latter part of June for public consultation.

Commonhead transport solutions are still being considered

Southern Connector Road – investigations coming to an end. Preferred route to then become available.

Medbourne Lane speed limit. Cllr Moore's comments in an email to SBC and Cllr Sumner were very useful

Ward Councillor Sumner left the meeting at 8.30pm

## 9. VILLAGE MATTERS

- (a) To provide an update with regards to services transfer from Swindon Borough Council** – Cllr Moore had carried out a final review of the Deed and highlighted his own concerns. The Parish Council agreed to sign the document.
- (b) Dog Bins** – Completed
- (c) Parish Projects** – the Parish Council agreed to the request from the grass cutting contractor to replace the litter bin in Jubilee Gardens. **Action - Clerk**

## 10. FINANCE

- (a)** It was **resolved** to approve payment of the following:
  - Earth Anchors – Invoice number EA29995 - £182.34
- (b)** It was **resolved** to ratify the following payment made between meetings:
  - Came and Company – Ecclesiastical local council insurance policy - £566.46
- (c)** It was **resolved** to approve payment of the following standing order:
  - Adams & Watt – Annual grass cutting contract – June instalment £352.20

## 11. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT GRANT (CTSG)

The Consultation paper from Swindon Borough Council concerning the calculation method for future payments of the CTSG was reviewed. It was **resolved** to submit a response stating that the current methodology used was the preferred option. The Parish Council also felt that there was a conflict of interest for the Borough Councillors serving as Parish Councillors on the newly formed Parish Councils. **Action - Clerk**

## 12. PARISH ALLOWANCES

The Council agreed that allowances suggested by SBC would not be paid to the Councillors and the Chairman's allowance would remain the same. **Action - Clerk**

### 13. EDUCATION TRANSPORT POLICY 2018-19

The Parish Council agreed that the following comments would be submitted to the Consultation:

At its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017, Liddington Parish Council agreed that it wished the following comments to be noted against the above-mentioned consultation on Swindon Borough Council's (SBC) proposed changes to the provision of subsidised transport assistance for pupils attending post 16 (16-19 age population) education establishments, i.e. 6th Form Colleges etc:

1. Whilst these changes may be acceptable to the majority of pupils who live in the urban area of Swindon where the school/college being attended is easily accessible, being within a short walking distance or by public transport, there is no consideration for the problems pupils will experience who live in the rural areas of the Borough such as the Ridgeway villages of Liddington, Wanborough, Bishopstone, Hinton Parva, Badbury and Chiseldon.
2. For many more than 30 years the Ridgeway School in Wroughton has served the residents of the Ridgeway villages for all secondary educational needs including post 16 education.
3. Free home school transport for pupils of compulsory school age has always been and is currently provided. For village pupils, their school is some 5 to 9 miles direct travel distance away whether on foot, car or by public transport.
4. A school bus is provided for pupils of compulsory school age. These can adequately accommodate the post 16 pupils attending the 6<sup>th</sup> form at Ridgeway school with little or no additional cost implication for SBC.
5. To enforce Ridgeway village pupils to use an alternative means of transport would seriously disadvantage them: -
  - a. An inadequate alternative public transport involving change of buses, poor timetabling. Presently would involve bus to town centre then town centre to Wroughton. Hardly feasible!
  - b. Walking is not feasible, cycling is possible but would involve a very poor and dangerous route – further explanation here can be provided if required.
  - c. Time taken to commute would be disastrous unless taken to school by car which in itself would increase rush hour congestion in Swindon.
  - d. Discourage pupils from continuing higher education at the Ridgeway school
  - e. The existing public transport system serving the villages relies on subsidy by Wilts CC which, if withdrawn, would cause further problems.
  - f. A regular and reliable public transport alternative would be needed.
6. These arrangements would add to the rural deprivation in this part of the Borough, where services are being closed down: shops, public transport etc.

Once again SBC seems to think only of its urban area and not the rural responsibilities.

The Parish Council cannot comprehend why this course of action is being considered when the school bus will still be provided for the younger pupils.

### 14. TRANSPARENCY FUND

**Resolved:** To approve submission of a grant request from the Transparency Fund for the purchase of a laptop for the Parish Council, scanner and Microsoft Office

**Action - Clerk**

### 15. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Swindon Area Committee – Cllr Wilson attended the last meeting from which he received two documents provided by Karen Phimister, Planning 1. Statement of Community Involvement in Planning and 2. Involvement in planning applications & the Local Plan – statement of community involvement. He and Councillors from Wroughton & South Marston Parish Councils will be participating in discussions with SBC.

Playing Field – Cllr Bunney confirmed that he had carried out the fortnightly safety inspections on the play equipment on 13<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May. He reported that the equipment was in need of some general maintenance and cleaning.

### 16. PARISH MAGAZINE

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

- Allotments
- Education Transport Policy 2018/19 consultation
- Community Speedwatch

### 17. CORRESPONDENCE

The meeting noted the following correspondence for information:

- CPRE – Wiltshire Voice

**18. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE AGENDA**

- Allotments
- Parish Projects – replacement of stiles, wild flower meadow

The meeting concluded at 9.40 pm

Signed.....

Date.....