



LIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday 5th February 2020 at 7pm in Liddington Village Hall

Present: Councillors Cripps, Hill, Lomax (Chair), Moore and Spillane
Also in attendance: Val Curtis (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

Resolved: To approve Cllr Bunney's reason for absence (unavailable). **Resolved:** To approve Cllr Wilson's reason for absence (unavailable).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 8th January 2020 were approved and signed as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Footpath & Hedge B4192 – A request for a cultivation licence for the hedge has been submitted to Swindon Borough Council.

B4192 – Swindon Borough Council to be asked to clean the kerbsides the length of the B4192 from the 40mph sign to the Liddington Village boundary sign. **Action – Clerk**

Wales & West Utilities - reinstatement works completed are not to an acceptable standard, notably The Triangle in Church Road, Medbourne Lane and at the bottom of Purley Road although other areas need further attention and remedial work undertaken. Site visit to be arranged with Project Manager to discuss remedial action needed.

Action – Clerk

S/19/0703 – Draft response addressing identified issues outstanding

Action – Cllr Cripps

VE Day – Cllr Lomax apologised as he had misunderstood the suggestion from the Village Hall Committee. As Wanborough are organising an event, the possibility of Liddington Village joining them was being considered. Apology to be included in the Lyden Magazine article.

Action - Clerk

Annual Play Equipment Inspection report – a coded padlock had been purchased and installed. Authorised users to be given the code

Action – Cllr Lomax/Clerk

Other minor issues identified remain outstanding

5. PUBLIC SESSION

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

6. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) To consider any planning applications:

Application: S/20/0081 (18th February 2020)

Location: Great Western Hospital, Marlborough Road, Swindon, SN3 6BB

Proposal: Installation of two rapid electric vehicle charging stations

Resolved: The Meeting agreed to submit the following comments:

Liddington Parish Council has no objections to this proposal

(b) The Meeting noted that no decisions had been received

(c) The Meeting noted that the following had been submitted between meetings to the Swindon Borough Local Plan Review public consultation:

Section 3.1 “Council Vision”

This “Vision” is aspirational but there is no sign of it happening soon.

As to “successful economy” this is overshadowed by the decision by Honda to close down one of the Borough’s major employers. This is only referred to briefly in the Plan. Presumably SBC will have to produce- expeditiously- a plan for how to stimulate the economy in the light of this unwelcome decision, and also lay down strict policies, either in the Local Plan or in another document, as to the future of this large employment site.

As to “compelling cultural, retail, and leisure opportunities” the general opinion in our village community is that Swindon Town Centre is suffering a steady decline. The retail sector in England generally has suffered a severe downturn, which is particularly bad in Swindon, with the remaining shops concentrating on the lowest end of the market.

It is noted that if and when the new Local Plan is adopted then the “Central Area Action Plan” will cease to have effect. The latter document is more than ten years old and badly out of date, but what is to replace it? The proposed new Policy DM17 is hardly sufficient.

Policy SP1

We cannot find any definition of what is a “large and significant proposal”.

Be that as it may, as so much of the powers and duties of the Borough Council have been delegated to parish councils, it is only fair and proper where infrastructure associated with new development is required, that the relevant parish council is consulted at an early stage and given first refusal of undertaking or commissioning maintenance rather than bringing in outside companies.

Policy SP2

This Policy, in general terms, is supported, but in the case of development in smaller (village) communities, it is important to stress that new houses should be built to a high and individual standard. Much of recent housing developments have been of basic designs. The impression that smaller and more local developers should be encouraged is welcome.

Policy SP4 (Badbury Park)

Paragraph 5 of this Policy states that his development should seek to “protect integrate and enhance existing environmental assets including Coate Water Country Park , and Day House Lane Copse.” This wording is curious. It is hard to see how any housing development could “enhance” these important features, and it would be manifestly wrong to “integrate” Coate Water Country Park into such development. Indeed the very opposite is suggested elsewhere in the document. We suggest that the wording should be amended to “protect from harm and respect” these features. NOTE- the word “Park” has been omitted from the end of this Paragraph 5.

In Paragraph 6 there should be added a new sub-paragraph as follows: -

d. the amenities and welfare of neighbouring communities and settlements caused by additional traffic on local roads including “rat running” by commuters.

(Hospital Expansion)

As previously submitted, we are much in favour of sufficient land being reserved for expansion of the Hospital. The question arises as to whether the land allocated will be sufficient in the medium term, and the Hospital is now surrounded with roads and houses. As such, bearing in mind the continued expansion of Swindon and hospital provision is always playing “catch-up”, maybe a site should be found for a second hospital, but this is beyond the scope of these comments.

Policy LA 8 Coate Water and Day House Lane

This Policy is supported, but it is fundamental that there should be no doubt as to the extent of the protected area. The Policy should have a suitable plan attached, in line with all the other "LA" Policies. This is so important in the light of the expansion of Badbury Park, and the attraction and significance of Coate Water Park.

In Para 2, we suggest adding the words "and its function as a facility for informal recreation". By this we mean walking, cycling, horse-riding, etc.

Policy DM21 Transport and Development

This Policy is vital, and every effort should be made, if it is adopted, to ensure that it is complied with. There is a problem here in that-as appears elsewhere in the draft Plan- the tendency recently has been for the Swindon area to become "home" for people who work elsewhere, and who wish to take advantage of the comparatively low house prices. This trend is partly responsible for the vast increase in commuter travel which has adverse effects on rural and semi-rural village communities like ours.

Policy DM28 Open Space and Green Infrastructure

Please see our comments on Policy SP1 above. To specify tree planting etc. in new developments is important, but equally important is future maintenance and upkeep. There is an increasing problem in the Borough where over mature and ill-maintained trees are causing unsightly aspects at best, and danger at worst. This problem is exacerbated by SBC failing to deal with problem trees adjacent to highways. In implementing this and similar Policies, timely and meaningful consultation with relevant parish councils is vital.

Policy DM34 Historic Environment

Although the lists of parks and gardens in paras 7.10.18 and 19 are described as being "non exhaustive", we are surprised that there is no specific mention here of either Coate Water Country Park or The Lawn Park. Both these contain "listed" features.

Either in this Policy or in another place, it would be useful to have specific reference to the need to protect the integrity and character of downland and other villages, and the significance of the Ridgeway National Trail and Thames Path where they pass through the Borough.

We agree strongly with paragraph 7 of the Policy and with paragraphs 7.10.25 and 26 about the significance, and need to protect, locally important heritage features that are not necessarily listed.

7. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

There was no Ward Councillor report as Councillor Sumner was unable to attend.

8. FINANCE

Due to insufficient signatories present, the Clerk was given permission to countersign all payments

- (a) **Resolved:** Cllr Lomax proposed to approve payment of the following invoice. Cllr Cripps seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.
 - Liddington Village Hall – Room hire - Sept, Oct x2, Nov, Dec - £34.50
- (b) **Resolved:** Cllr Lomax proposed to approve payment of the following Standing Order. Cllr Cripps seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.
 - Adams & Watt – Annual grass cutting contract – February instalment - £478.65
- (c) **Resolved:** Cllr Lomax proposed to approve payment of the following recurring payment. Cllr Cripps seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.
 - Unlimited webhosting – (18/02/2020 – 17/03/2020) - £4.19
- (d) **To receive the monthly accounts reconciliation** – The Meeting agreed that the accounts were in good order.

9. VILLAGE MATTERS

- (a) Complaint – parking in Church Road – see attached document

Resolved: Cllr Hill to contact all of the groups that make use of the hall enforcing no parking in Church Road and provide alternative locations should the need arise. Research to be done to source and provide signs stating 'No parking on Grass verges'. Clerk to respond to the resident.

Action – Cllr Hill/Clerk

10. FLASHING SPEED SIGNS

- To agree the number of signs to purchase

Resolved: The meeting agreed that one moveable sign to be purchased

- To review products and costs and select preferred supplier

Resolved: The meeting agreed that Stocksigns are the preferred supplier.

- To confirm submission to Swindon Borough Council and agree payment of required fee

Resolved: The following information is needed prior to placing an order and submitting the Application to Swindon Borough Council:

Posts – the Clerk to contact Stocksigns requesting a quote	Action - Clerk
Insurance – the Clerk to contact Came and Company	Action - Clerk
Data captured – the Clerk to contact the Police to see if the data will be used	Action - Clerk
Installation of the posts – the Clerk to contact the Parish Council contractor	Action - Clerk
Utility pipes and cables – the Clerk to contact SBC Planning department to request details	Action – Clerk

Cllr Spillane joined the meeting at 8.20pm

11. COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

The Parish Council would like to improve communications with the residents of the Village via Noticeboards, a Facebook page and making more use of the website. As a new noticeboard could cost up to £1,000, a suggestion was made to make use of the large noticeboard by Spinney Close Green, by adding doors to protect any notices from the weather. Cllr Spillane to provide contact details of two carpenters to Cllr Lomax

Action – Cllr Spillane/ Cllr Lomax

Cllr Hill to create a Community Facebook page and look at the website

Action – Cllr Hill

12. COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

Community Safety Forum – Cllr Hill had attended the recent meeting where details of a new Policing model was discussed that will come into effect from May. The model will change from a centrally controlled response basis to a Neighbourhood scheme with designated Officers for each area.

13. PARISH MAGAZINE

The meeting agreed to put the following into the Parish Magazine:

- VE day celebrations – an apology for the misunderstanding
- Update on Speed signs
- Parking issues
- Village Spring clean-up on 4th April 2020

14. CORRESPONDENCE

The Meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

15. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE AGENDA

A memorial for Joel Joffe to be discussed at the next meeting.

Due to the impending election on 7th May and the need for a meeting to be held within 14 days of this date, the Parish Council meeting on 6th May will be moved to 20th May. The Parish Council AGM will be held on Wednesday 1st April.

Ridgeway Road – a large pothole, 300 yards left from the B4192 to be reported to SBC **Action - Clerk**

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed.....

Dated.....