



LIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on
Wednesday 3rd February 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

Present: Councillors Bunney, Hill, Hyatt, Lomax, Moore, Wilson and Workman
Also present: Val Curtis (Clerk), two members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Resolved: To approve Cllr Workman's reason for absence (work related)

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 6th January 2021 were agreed as a true record. Due to the social distancing guidelines, the agreed minutes will be signed at the next face to face meeting

4. MATTERS ARISING

Great Western Hospital – A good overview had been provided in the answers given to the questions submitted to the hospital late in 2020. It was evident that the problems with the proposed changes to car park provision was due to the areas being used for the construction works. The suggestion that remote consultations had resulted in a lesser need for parking facilities currently, did not necessarily hold for the future, as it was believed that once Covid 19 had dissipated, it will revert to pre-pandemic practices and levels of need will increase accordingly. It would be unacceptable to use NHS monies to build a multi-storey car park therefore alternatives should be looked at, with a suggestion of a park and ride type facility. Confirmation that Savernake Hospital had been handed over to another NHS Trust, however it was noted that it will be made more use of in the future.

Gigabyte fibre – Cllr Wilson believed that approximately 110 properties needed to sign up for the offering as per the website during the afternoon of 3rd February 2021 to be able to reach the target needed. No update had been received regarding Church Road and Medbourne Lane. Cllr Wilson commented on the short-termism which resulted in wasting money due to projects not being planned correctly. The small businesses in Medbourne Lane plus the domestic properties, would have taken up the offer, had it been made available. Cllr Bunney had contacted Openreach re Church Road and had been passed on to a community project that involved local communities paying for the installation. He believes that everyone in Church Road would take up the offer if it was made available. Cllr Moore had written to Robert Buckland, MP a month ago but had not received a reply, to date. Cllr Wilson suggested a letter to be composed and sent to Robert Buckland, MP

Action – Cllrs Wilson/Bunney

Complaints Procedure & Habitual & Vexatious Complainant Policy – actioned and available to view on the Liddington.org website

Swing – A quote for £300 + VAT from the Play Inspection Company for the Resi-PD survey had been received, which was considered expensive. Kompan had been approached for the cost of replacement of the part. Cllr Wilson suggested that replacement of the complete frame might be a better option. Details to be forwarded to all for consideration.

Action – Clerk

Trough located in The Street – no offers of help had been received. A final request to be included in the Lyden Magazine

Action - Clerk

5. PUBLIC SESSION

Broadband – It was disappointing to find that Church Road and Medbourne Lane were not included in the current Openreach offering. The residents believed that there would be significant take up and suggested a survey confirming the possible take up from the affected residents to enhance the case in the letter that is to be sent to Robert Buckland and Olive Dowden?

Playing Field – Excessive dog poo being left is a problem. Regularly 4 or 5 dogs off the lead and the owners not acting responsibly. The situation is becoming untenable. A suggestion was made of stronger worded signage or that all dogs must be kept on a lead in the playing field should be considered, however this would be unenforceable.

The condition of the football pitch, particularly the goal mouths, and both entrances is very poor. The goal mouths were due to be repaired and new turf laid over the Christmas holidays which had not taken place. Clerk to ring the Contractor to find out why and ask about a solution for the entrances. **Action - Clerk**

6. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) To consider any planning applications:

The Meeting noted that no planning applications had been received

(b) To note any decisions:

The Meeting noted that no decisions had been received

7. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

No Ward Councillor's report was given as Cllr Sumner was unable to attend the meeting

8. FINANCE

(a) To approve payment of the following invoices:

- Swindon Borough Council – Highway licence - £125.00 –This payment was not approved and is to be disputed.

Resolved: Cllr Wilson proposed the approval of the standing order, recurring payment and to ratify the payment made between meetings. Cllr Bunney seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

(b) To approve payment of the following Standing Orders:

- Adams & Watt – Annual grass cutting contract – February instalment - £518.57

(c) To approve the following Direct Debits:

(d) To approve payment of the following recurring payment

- Unlimited webhosting – (18/02/2021 – 17/03/2021) - £4.19

(e) To ratify payments made between meetings

- Zoom – Standard pro monthly (February) - £14.39

(f) To receive the monthly accounts reconciliation

The Meeting agreed that the accounts were in good order. Cllr Moore asked what position the accounts would be at the end of the financial year. The Clerk confirmed, based on expected expenditure approximately £15,000 would be carried forward.

9. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Moore tabled a written report, added to the minutes in the minute file, on the draft lease received from the Solicitors working on behalf of the Diocese of Bristol, the contents of which were disappointing. He had written to the Parish Council solicitor listing the issues that needing addressing and was awaiting a reply.

10. VILLAGE MATTERS

a) To consider the purchase of a second Speed Indicator Device

The Meeting agreed to defer the decision until the original device, installed by Swindon Borough Council some years ago, had been investigated. A request had been submitted for the trees around the device to be cut back as the assumption was that it was not working due to the sunlight being blocked from the solar panel. **Action - Clerk**

b) Complaint re provision of dog bins

The Meeting understood the residents complaint. However, it was not considered appropriate for a dedicated dog bin to be installed so near to the houses. The litter bin to be relocated to a more suitable location and usage monitored. Cllrs Lomax and Wilson to investigate and identify where to re-site it. Clerk to inform the Contractor and request a regular update. **Action – Cllrs Lomax/Wilson/Clerk**

11. DEFIBRILLATOR (10 MINUTES)

Second Defibrillator - To consider the quote received for the provision of a defibrillator in the kiosk with no power, including a locked cabinet and thermal bag.

Resolved: Cllr Moore proposed the purchase of a device contingent on the phone box being refurbished and a suitable hosting agreement being completed. Cllr Hyatt seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.

Action - Clerk

12. LORD JOEL JOFFE MEMORIAL

Mrs Moore continued to work on the written piece for hanging in the Church Hall. Cllr Moore to provide measurements of available space to Cllr Wilson who would supply appropriate photographs.

Action – Cllrs Moore/Wilson

Cllr Lomax reported that the existing finger posts were not long enough to take all of the words and there was evidence of woodworm. He had sourced some kiln dried wood to replace them. **Action – Cllr Lomax**

13. CONSULTATION & REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICIES

To consider a response to the 5-yearly review of the Statement of Licensing Policies – The Meeting agreed that there were no comments to make.

14. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Playing Field - Cllr Bunney confirmed that he had carried out the fortnightly safety inspection of the play equipment on 16th & 29th January. He noted that the Oak tree had not been replaced. **Action - Clerk**

Village Hall Committee

- To consider a response to the email from the Chair of the Village Hall Committee.
The Meeting agreed that it had no objection to the Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Committee being held virtually. **Action - Clerk**

Town Fund Board – Cllr Wilson confirmed that there had been no communication from HM Government and the January meeting had been cancelled. The next Meeting was due to take place on 19th February 2021.

Cabinet Member Advisory Group (CMAG) – The Clerk was one of eight Clerks who had been invited to attend the first meeting of CMAG. This meeting was called in an effort to identify issues that Parish Councils faced when communicating with Swindon Borough Council with the aim of trying to fix them and improving the relationship. One of the main issues from all Parishes was the continued passing of requests on My Account for actioning when it was not the Parish Councils responsibility. The lack of acknowledgement of the differences between the Councils, i.e. size, precept amount, urban v rural, resulting in a one size fits all model was also creating issues. One of the larger Parishes had suggested that two groups were created, rural parishes and urban, to allow the specific issues to be identified. Cllr Wilson suggested that the Ridgeway Parishes be contacted to see if there was an agreement to hold a joint meeting as they would be experiencing be common problems. **Action - Clerk**

15. PARISH MAGAZINE (5 MINUTES)

The Meeting agreed to put the following in to the Parish Magazine:

- Trough – a final request for help
- Excessive dog mess around the Village and the Playing Field
- Second defibrillator

16. CORRESPONDENCE

The Meeting noted that no correspondence had been received

17. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE AGENDA

The trees/hedges from the grounds of The Manor needed to be cut back to behind the verge to provide clear access for buses to pass. **Action - Clerk**

Litter – excess litter had been noted along The Ridgeway Road

18. ADMISSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS: TO RESOLVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 3 (C) THAT 'IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED, IT IS ADVISABLE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC BE TEMPORARILY EXCLUDED, AND THAT THEY BE INSTRUCTED TO WITHDRAW'.

Reason: To review and approve proposed response to SBC Standards Procedure & Processes

Resolved: Cllr Moore had drafted a response to Swindon Borough Council. Councillors Bunney, Hill and Wilson agreed that the letter should be sent **Action – Cllr Moore**

The Meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed

Date.....