



LIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday 3rd July 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Councillors Aftelak, Bunney (Chair), Poppleton, Sturgess and Wilson

Also present: Laura Evans (Clerk), CEO of the Great Western Hospital and one member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

Resolved: To approve Ward Cllr G Sumner's reason for absence (unavailable)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

. Cllr Poppleton declared an interest as Treasurer for All Saint's Church and Cllr Sturgess as the Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee.

3. APPLICATION FOR AND APPROVAL OF DISPENSATION FOLLOWING ELECTION

All Councillors are required to apply for a dispensation to be able to participate in any discussion or vote concerning the setting of the precept.

Resolved: All Councillors completed the application forms which were duly signed by the Clerk granting the dispensation.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 5th June 2024 were approved and signed as a true record.

5. MATTERS ARISING (10 MINUTES)

Village Fliers – The village fliers have all been distributed.

Hillside Cottages – The request for the grass verge to be cut regularly as it is dangerous for people exiting the Cottages onto Purley Road has been actioned and cut by Swindon Borough Council.

The Street pothole- The clerk has reported this to SBC reference number E22151

6. CEO OF GWH

The acting CEO, J Westbrook, of the GWH gave an update on recent activity at the GWH.

The Emergency Department was built to be able to deal with 48,000 patients per year but currently the department is topping 100,000 patients per year.

The waiting lists for operations and consultations have doubled since Covid and the aim is to reduce the waiting time to 65 weeks.

The new Emergency Department is in progress with a one-way system. The hospital consulted with young children from Primary schools and other groups within Swindon to design the layout.

New Electronic Patient Records are being installed which will improve the time information is proved resulting in the right and better care of patients.

The implementation of a surgical robot has been successful with the 100th operation being performed last month.

The robot is capable of carrying out more keyhole surgeries where surgeons hands cannot fit, this reduces the pain, length of recovery and reduced stays in hospital for patients.

The Parish Council thanked J Westbrook for attending and thanked him and his team at the GWH for the good work they are doing.

7. PUBLIC SESSION (15 MINUTES)

Spinney Close rear access- received via email – The rear access is hugely overgrown. As this is not a public footpath and is an access route to the rear gardens of the properties in Spinney Close, the meeting agreed that this is not the responsibility of the Parish Council but of the housing department at SBC and those who own their properties. Clerk to respond to the resident. **Action- Clerk**

The resident in attendance raised concern over a recent article on the Advertisers Website regarding the developers at the site next to M4 Van Sales on the main road into Swindon, who have applied to SBC to remove any requirement for affordable homes. As correspondents have pointed out, this company bought the site with its

planning consent in place; they knew about the conditions and should have factored it into their profit calculations. The site seems well advanced, and wonders whether the relevant houses have been built already. The resident urged the Parish council to resist on this matter. Clerk to follow up. **Action- Clerk**

8. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT (10 MINUTE)

No report was received from the Ward Councillor.

9. PLANNING MATTERS (10 MINUTES)

(a) **To consider any planning applications:**

The meeting noted that no applications had been received.

(b) **To note any comments submitted between meetings:**

The meeting noted that no comments had been submitted.

(c) **To note any decisions:**

The meeting noted that no decisions had been received.

10. FINANCE (10 MINUTES)

(a) **To approve payment of the following invoices:**

Resolved: Cllr Poppleton proposed approval of the invoices, standing order, recurring payment and ratification of the payments made between meetings. Cllr Wilson seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed

- HMRC- Tax Month 03 - £53.00
- Members Expenses, B Aftelak - £55.00
- Auditing Solutions Ltd- Annual Internal Audit- £234.00
- Liddington Village Hall – Hall hire- £60.00

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

- Adams & Watt July Installment – £742.55

(c) **To approve the following Direct Debits:**

- Three Mobile phone bill - £3.00

(d) **To approve payment of the following recurring payments**

- Unlimited webhosting – (18/06/2024- 17/07/2024) - £5.99

(e) **To ratify payments made between meetings**

- Salary June - £212.60
- Vastern Timber -timber for bench - £382.37
- P Harman- Allotment water provision - £787.98

(f) **To receive the monthly account reconciliation.**

Resolved: The meeting noted that the accounts are in a good position.

(g) **Q1 Budget Monitoring**

Resolved: The meeting noted that the budget was on track

11. VILLAGE MATTERS (15 MINUTES)

a) Playpark equipment suggestions – A suggestion was received from a resident for more toddler based equipment including easier access to the slide and an obstacle course with stepping stones, beams, bridges and tunnels. Cllr Wilson suggested that adult exercise equipment would be a benefit to the playing field. Cllr Aftelak to contact companies who supply this type of equipment. **Action- Cllr Aftelak**

b) Medbourne Lane landslips – No further update.

c) Information board at trigpoint and cleaning of the compass – Cllr Aftelak obtained one quotation for an information board just to give the Cllr's an idea of the price range of a board. The quotation was approximately £900.

Resolved: Cllr Poppleton proposed to revisit the suggestion at a later date due to funds being needed elsewhere. The meeting agreed.

d) Footpath Suggestions

Resolved: The Parish Council agreed the following response to the presentation;

Thanks for sharing your ideas for improving the village at June's Parish Council meeting on 5th June. Your 'A Liddington Tour' presentation was well received, and we appreciate you taking the time to prepare it and talk us through it.

The Parish Council discussed your ideas at the July Parish Council meeting on 3rd July and concluded the following:

- Whilst there is a walking route to Badbury Park and the GWH via Dayhouse Lane, we agree that a footpath along the side of Purley Road down to the Commonhead Roundabout would be more convenient for many in the village

- We also agree that moving the 30mph sign closer to Commonhead would improve safety although previous attempts to request permission from SBC to do this have been unsuccessful. Applications for other speed deterrents have also been rejected in the past
- Improving the entrance to the village isn't a priority as we think it looks ok as long as litter is cleared on a regular basis. If we were going to plant more trees, the priority would be to screen the M4 and the A419 to reduce noise pollution
- Creating additional circular paths would be very welcome.

Given this, we propose the following way forward.

As a Parish Council, we have responsibilities that we need to execute, and we would want to ensure that we are 'in control' of any activities that impact these responsibilities. That said, we are delighted that you are happy to get involved in driving this forward. We therefore propose:

1. The Parish Council liaises with SBC to put forward the suggestion of a footpath alongside the Purley Road down to Commonhead. We would prefer to use SBC land rather than farmer's land. We still have the farmer's land option if SBC reject the idea
2. The Parish Council approach SBC to request moving the 30mph restriction nearer Commonhead
3. You approach farmers and landowners regarding the permissive paths you have suggested. If they agree then the Parish Council would like to provide the required signage.

I hope you agree that this is an appropriate way forward and thanks again for your ideas

12. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

To discuss the implications of the recommendation of section 7 – Electronic Payments of the updated Financial Regulations.

It was noted that the Financial Regulations are designed to fit all sizes of Parish Councils.

Resolved: The meeting agreed to remove section 7 of the Financial Regulations (as this is not a statutory obligation and is just a recommendation) and to continue with the current process for making payments. A policy to cover this will be drafted by the Clerk.

Action- Clerk

13. ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT (5 MINUTES)

To receive the internal audit report 2023-24 as provided by Auditing Solutions

Resolved: The meeting noted that the report was excellent with no advisories. The meeting thanked the Clerk for all the hard work.

14. CLLR'S WHATSAPP GROUP

Resolved: The meeting agreed to start a Cllr only Whatsapp group which can be used for urgent matters. Cllr Aftelak to set up.

Action- Cllr Aftelak

15. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS (10 MINUTES)

Councillors who have attended meetings on behalf of the Parish Council or who are responsible for local schemes, amenities and projects will have the opportunity to provide an update on progress made.

Allotments (AP & GW) – The allotments are now full. An Income and Expenditure finance sheet has been created by the Clerk, as requested, for clearer details on the finances of the allotments.

A resident whose garden runs alongside the allotments raised concerns that their wall is leaning which they believe is due to the traffic from the allotments. After inspection the meeting agreed that the leaning wall has nothing to do with the Parish Council and has not been caused by the minimal cars that use the allotment parking.

Playing Field (CB) - – Cllr Bunney confirmed the playpark had been inspected on 20th June 2024. There have been some youths gathering in the playing field late at night, but they are not causing any issues.

Village Hall Committee (JS) – The Village Hall Committee raised concerns over the potholes located at the entrance of the car park. The committee to report this to SBC.

Town Advisory Engagement Group (GW) – No recent meetings held.

Swindon Local Council Forum (CB & GW) – No recent meetings held.

Parish Chairs/Clerks Engagement Meeting - No recent meetings held.

16. PARISH MAGAZINE (5 MINUTES)

The meeting agreed to put the following in the Parish Magazine;

- Footpaths

17. CORRESPONDENCE

The meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

18. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE AGENDA

To receive information on matters not covered elsewhere & to receive future agenda item

No future agenda items were received.

The meeting closed at 9:01pm

Signed.....Date.....