

Lighthorne Parish Council

Draft minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in Lighthorne Village Hall on Tuesday, 13th September 2016 at 8pm

Present: Cllrs. A. Archer (Chairman), M. Ryan, A. Smith, L. Steele, County Cllr. C. Williams (from 8.15pm) and 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr. P. Daniell (business commitment), District Cllr. C. Mills (personal commitment). The Chairman said that County Cllr. Williams would be joining the meeting later as he has a prior engagement. It was suggested that the agenda be rearranged to allow councillors to openly discuss item 10(iv). The Chairman supported this and councillors and residents raised no objections.

10. Contracts and Finance

(iv) To discuss the advice received from WALC regarding the County Council proposal

The Clerk had circulated prior to the meeting the advice received from WALC. It was noted that WALC state that the Local Council Charter should be followed by parishes and local councils and there is no need of a separate arrangement. Councillors agreed that this seems to contradict the proposal received from the County Council. Cllr. Steele proposed that we ask WALC to act as our representative in discussions with County Cllr. Williams' legal adviser at the County Council to resolve this issue, seconded and carried unanimously.

ACTION: The Clerk to instruct WALC.

2. To take any questions from the floor

A resident asked if the Parish Council will be considering a replacement to the Horse Chestnut tree on the green. Cllr. Steele said that there is some money in the Jubilee Fund which the committee might want to consider donating towards a tree.

There is an Ash tree on Mountford Rise which might need attention.

ACTION: The Clerk to follow up on this.

Councillors were asked if they would consider asking the Secretary of State to 'call in' the planning application for 1000 houses. Cllr. Steele explained that there is evidence to request a 'call-in'. Councillors agreed that this should be investigated further as a matter of urgency. Cllr. Steele was asked if she could prepare a paper to circulate to councillors and, if necessary, a draft letter supporting this request.

ACTION: Cllr. Steele to investigate and report to councillors with a draft letter if necessary.

8.15pm County Cllr. Williams joins the meeting.

A resident asked if Orbit Housing could please fill their empty property. With so many homeless families around it seems sad that a property is left vacant.

ACTION: The Clerk to liaise with District Cllr. Mills.

County Cllr. Williams said that Orbit will be selling the garages.

It was stated that the Parish Council should be clearing the grips and reinstating them. The Clerk said that County Highways have confirmed that they will clear the grips and look at an additional grip once there has been some heavy rain. The Chairman said that there are a few jobs in the village that a working party could do.

2 residents left the meeting.

3. Declarations of interest

No interests were declared.

4. Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting

Cllr. Steele proposed that the minutes be agreed, seconded Cllr. Smith and carried unanimously. The Chairman signed the minutes.

5. To consider the following planning applications

(i) 16/02654/FUL - Home Farm, Old School Lane

No objections or comments

ACTION: The Clerk to respond to the Planning Department

(ii) 16/01089/FUL - Church Hill Farm

No objections or comments.

ACTION: The Clerk to respond to the Planning Department.

(iii) 16/01094/FUL - Church Hill Farm

No objections or comments.

ACTION: The Clerk to respond to the Planning Department.

(iv) 16/02621/TREE - The Old Rectory

No objections or comments.

ACTION: The Clerk to respond to the Planning Department.

(v) 16/01602/FUL (amendment) - land off Bishops Hill

Councillors agreed to withdraw their objection as this application has been recommended for approval.

ACTION: The Clerk to inform the Planning Department

16/01669/OUT - land north of Moreton Morrell Lane; withdrawn

6. District Council Matters

(i) To receive report.

In the absence of District Cllr. Mills County Cllr. Williams reported that the planning meeting for the additional houses at GLH will take place at Kineton High School on 5th October. He said that the treatment of the B4100 is being discussed by a working party and not a committee which means the Parish Council is a consultee.

7. County Council Matters

(i) To receive report

County Cllr. Williams said that the County is facing a major problem with finance. One third of funding is possibly going to be stopped from the Government. On 29th July the B4100 was declared open. The Highways Agency work at junction 12 is not open yet. After 3 months the scheme will be evaluated. JLR have written to staff asking them to use the M40.

Cllr. Smith asked if the planning application for 1000 houses should be decided after this new scheme has been evaluated. County Cllr. Williams said that this has no effect on 1000 houses because it is traffic.

Cllr. Ryan reported 3 water leaks on Post Office Lane. County Cllr. Williams said that this was the responsibility of Severn Trent. The Clerk was asked to contact Severn Trent to arrange for the leaks to be repaired as a matter of urgency.

ACTION: The Clerk to contact Severn Trent.

8. Matters arising from previous meetings

(i) Mountford Rise water leaks update

The Clerk reported that there is no date for this repair work as County Highways do not believe there is a safety issue. Cllr. Steele said that there will be a safety issue when the water on the road freezes in winter. The Clerk was asked to point this out to County Highways.

ACTION: The Clerk to make County Highways aware of the safety issue.

(ii) Highways maintenance issues; grips, pot holes

County Cllr. Williams reported that the grips will be cleared but not on a regular cycle. He has requested that the road by the Sports Club be resurfaced. He does not yet have a date but will request that the parish is informed in advance of the work.

9. Parish Maintenance

(i) Sports pavilion/sports ground

Cllr. Ryan reported that JLR have done a wonderful job assisting with the maintenance of the field. Thanks to the café for providing refreshments for the JLR team and also to JLR for doing the work. Cllr. Ryan said that he has written to JLR thanking them.

(ii) Playpark

Cllr. Steele announced that we have been awarded £10,000 towards the play park.

(iii) Horse Chestnut Tree update

The Chairman reported that significant branches had fallen from the tree and so he contacted the County Council. They have inspected the tree and it has been made safe. Councillors agreed that the tree should be removed and approved an expenditure of £300.

ACTION: The Chairman to arrange for a tree surgeon to remove the tree.

(iv) Broadwell; update on repairs

The Chairman said that he would liaise with Farm Services for a quote for the work and also liaise with the resident. Councillors were asked to provide details of any other companies they believed could carry out this work.

ACTION: The Chairman to liaise with Farm Services and the resident.

Councillors to pass details of any other companies who could undertake this work to the Chairman.

10. Contracts and Finance

(i) Bank balance

The bank balances were reported as follows: £17,253.37 and £1.00.

(ii) Bank reconciliation

ACTION: October agenda item.

(iii) Cricket Club lease update

This has been sent to the Cricket Club but no response has been received.

ACTION: Councillors to meet to discuss a way forward.

(v) To authorise the signing of orders for payment

Cllr. Ryan proposed that the following accounts be approved for payment, seconded Cllr. Smith and carried unanimously.

Payee	Amount
Mrs. C. Hill - Salary (August)	£184.29
Rainbow Garden Services Ltd. - grass maintenance	£324.00
E.ON - street lighting	£136.64
Mrs. C. Hill - expenses (Apr-Sep)	£85.68
Mr. J. Newberry - play equipment	£54.98

11. Correspondence

(i) Various emails regarding traffic

County Cllr. Williams said that the junction should be opened by the end of the month. This will reduce traffic through the villages.

(ii) letter regarding weeds in Mountford Rise

Cllr. Steele reported that the weeds have been cleared.

(iii) letter regarding The Stone House

Noted.

(iv) Community Forum; 15th September

It was agreed that Cllr. Smith would be the Parish Council representative.

12. To consider any other matters which the Chair decides urgent

No matters were discussed.

13. Date of next meeting

Tuesday, 11th October at 8pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.