

Lighthorne Parish Council

Draft minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in Lighthorne Village Hall on Tuesday, 14th March 2017 at 8pm

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

1. Apologies for absence

District Cllr. Mills (personal commitment) and Cllr. Ryan (personal commitment).

2. To accept Cllr. Daniel's resignation

The Chairman reported that regrettably Cllr. Daniel has resigned from the Parish Council. He thanked him for his hard work.

ACTION: The Clerk to inform the District Council

3. To take any questions from the floor

A resident said that he was not to blame for the malicious letters that had been posted to some councillors.

A resident asked if the Parish Council could mark the boundary between his land and parish land. Cllr. Steele said that some of the vegetation needs removing and the boundary can then be marked.

ACTION: The Chairman, Cllrs. Smith and Steele to review.

The Parish Council was asked if they would be contributing towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard this year. The Clerk confirmed that £300 has been budgeted. The resident asked if we could consider more.

ACTION: April's agenda item.

A resident explained that she is hoping to submit a planning application for her property but wanted to speak to the Parish Council first. Councillors said that the project looked exciting.

2 members of the public leave the meeting.

4. Declarations of interest

No interests were declared.

5. 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.

6. To consider the following planning applications

(i) Planning application no. 17/00163/FUL - Westfields Cottage, Moreton Morrell

Councillors agreed to support this application. This is a rural business which is trying to diversify bringing employment and business to this area.

ACTION: The Clerk to respond to planning.

(ii) Planning application no. 16/03904/FUL - Jaguar Land Rover (amendment)
No objection or comments.

ACTION: The Clerk to respond to planning.

Planning notice: 17/00047/LBC - Pratts Farm, Old School Lane; granted
Planning notice: 17/00057/TREE - Stone House, Bishop's Hill; no objections
Planning notice: 16/03538/OUT - land north of Moreton Morrell Lane; refused
Planning notice: 16/03612/FUL - Jaguar Land Rover; granted

7. District Council Matters

(i) To receive report.

County Cllr. Williams reported that the District Council met on Monday to set the budget. Council tax will rise by 2%. The Police are not increasing their budget.

(ii) GLH Treatment of the B4100; 13th March feedback

The Chairman reported that councillors were unable to attend and so Cllr. Smith had drafted a letter and circulated to councillors. Cllr. Steele proposed that the draft should be accepted, carried unanimously. The Clerk forwarded the letter to the District Council. County Cllr. Williams confirmed that the letter was reviewed. He also said that no conclusion was made at the meeting. County Cllr. Williams said that the working party is unable to consider a new road because it is not legally accepted. Cllr. Smith asked him for references to planning legislation. County Cllr. Williams referred Cllr. Smith to a 25 page report, which was submitted by the County Council, giving legal reasons. Cllr. Smith requested a copy of this report. County Cllr. Williams agreed to forward a copy to him.

ACTION: County Cllr. Williams to forward a copy of the report to Cllr. Smith.

The Chairman stated that he did not agree with the procedure being followed for the treatment of this road. Cllr. Smith asked if the treatment of this road is wrong who is accountable? County Cllr. Williams said that the modelling is never wrong.

8. County Council Matters

(i) To receive report

County Cllr. Williams reported that the County Council tax will be increasing by 2% plus 2% for adult social care. The County is now entering the pre-election tidying up period. Election period starts on 24th March.

(ii) Street light update

County Cllr. Williams said that he knows nothing about this. Cllr. Steele explained that it has taken 10 weeks to get a street light fixed. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Steele for sorting this.

(iii) Extension to 30mph limit; update

County Cllr. Williams said that this is going to happen. We need the legal paperwork to be processed.

(iv) Chesterton Road resurfacing date

County Cllr. Williams reported that this is on the scheme. It is not considered dangerous so won't be done yet. There is a 5 year plan.

9. Matters arising from previous meetings

(i) Defibrillator update

ACTION: Cllr. Steele to liaise with a resident regarding type. The Clerk to forward information to Cllr. Steele regarding the type used by other parishes plus cost.

(ii) Community Forum feedback (notes circulated)

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Smith for attending this meeting.

10. Parish Maintenance

(i) Sports pavilion/sports ground update

Councillors agreed that they need to meet with the Cricket Club.

ACTION: The Chairman to discuss with Cllr. Ryan.

(ii) Broadwell; update on repairs

The Chairman reported that we are still waiting for the contractor to carry out the repairs.

11. Contracts and Finance

(i) Bank balance

The bank balances were reported as follows: £1 and £23,544.12.

(ii) New Bank Mandate form

The form was amended.

ACTION: April agenda item.

The Chairman asked if item (iii) could be discussed at the end of the meeting. There were no objections.

(iv) Payments for the works to the Horse Chestnut Tree referred to Bryn Patefield at WCC

The Clerk reported that, following the advice from County Cllr. Williams, she has written to Bryn Patefield explaining that the work related to storm damage. She has also informed the finance department that we do not have to pay this bill.

(v) Lloyds Bank; to consider the response to our complaint

The Clerk explained that Lloyds Bank had refused to pay 3 cheques. The 2 accounts are operated on a 'switch basis' which means amounts are automated removed from the deposit account to the current account when there is a need. The switch facility failed to work which resulted in 3 cheques being returned to the payees. Cllr. Steele said that this has happened before. Councillors agreed that this service is unacceptable. It has caused embarrassment and additional work. Lloyds Bank have apologised and offered compensation of £100. The Clerk did suggest to Lloyds Bank that the compensation should be higher since this is the second time it has happened. They have refused to increase it. Councillors agreed to accept £100 compensation. They also agreed that with low interest rates the Parish Council could operate one account. The Clerk to draft a letter requesting the cancellation of one account and transferring of the funds to the remaining account. She should also accept the £100 compensation.

ACTION: The Clerk to prepare a letter for signature at the next meeting.

(vi) Footway Lighting Maintenance 2017/18

Councillors agreed to continue this contract with the County Council.

(vii) To authorise the signing of orders for payment

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

Payee

Amount

Mrs. C. Hill - Salary (February)

£184.29

Councillors agreed to reissue the cheque to Mr. Newberry which has been returned. The Clerk confirmed that it had been returned.

12. Correspondence

(i) Mountford Rise (evens); parking restrictions

County Cllr. Williams said that this was a matter for the District Council.

ACTION: Cllr. Steele to liaise with District Cllr. Mills.

Councillors agreed that they should also liaise with the Village Hall Committee.

(ii) Jaguar Land Rover Gaydon Triangle Ground Breaking

It was agreed that the Chairman would attend.

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

No matters were discussed.

9.20pm County Cllr. Williams leaves the meeting.

11. Contracts and Finance

(iii) To consider applying for legal advice in relation to leases for the sports pavilion/sports ground

Cllr. Smith briefly updated councillors on the current situation. Councillors agreed that legal advice needs to be sought in relation to all land owned. Cllr. Smith to approach Penmans Solicitors for a fee estimate.

ACTION: Cllr. Smith to approach Penmans Solicitors for a fee estimate.

14. Date of next meeting

Tuesday, 11th April at 8pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.