

Lighthorne Parish Council

Draft Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in Lighthorne Village Hall on Tuesday, 9th January 2018 at 8pm

Present: Cllrs. A. Archer (Chairman), H. Archer, P. Reynolds, A. Smith, L. Steele, District Cllr. C. Mills
4 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

County Cllr. Williams (business commitment).

Cllr. Reynolds said that as a near landowner he would not take part in this discussion.

2. Mr. Stephen Kelly re. landscaping at Home Farm

Mr. Kelly explained that the planning deadline for comments on the 10 metres strip planning application has been extended. The plan showed landscaping for the whole site. A resident said that the hedgerow, which has been removed without planning permission, was an ancient hedgerow. This has been reported to the District Council. Mr. Kelly said another hedgerow will be planted close to the fence. Concern was expressed that the hedgerow would take a significant amount of time to grow being planted in rock on a narrow, shaded ledge. Cllr. Smith asked for a detailed description of this work. Mr. Kelly said that he would provide this.

ACTION: Mr. Kelly to provide a detailed description of this work to Cllr. Smith.

Mr. Kelly said that he would agree to an extension of the planning deadline if the Parish Council requires more information.

A resident complained about the fence which has been erected at the end of his garden as the back is viewed from his house.

A resident commented that some of the buildings are too high. Mr. Kelly said that he will arrange for this to be checked. He offered to fund an independent surveyor. The resident to discuss with Mr. Kelly.

Mr. Kelly agreed to provide more landscaping at the front of the houses. He explained that the management company will maintain these spaces.

Residents expressed concern that the trees on the adjacent land could be damaged. Photographs were shown to the Parish Council. A request was made for the trees to be protected. The Parish Council agreed to write a letter to Robert Weeks at the District Council drawing attention to the above issues.

ACTION: Cllr. Smith to draft the letter, circulate to councillors and send to Mr. Robert Weeks.

It was further agreed that if the planning deadline is not extended then the Parish Council would object for the above reasons and reconsider at February's meeting.

9.15pm Mr. Kelly and 3 residents leave the meeting.

3. To take any questions from the floor

No questions.

4. Declarations of interest

Cllr. Reynolds declared a pecuniary interest in the Home Farm discussions and did not participate.

5. Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting

The Clerk had circulated prior to the meeting draft minutes. Cllr. Smith proposed that they be accepted, seconded Cllr. Archer and carried unanimously. The Chairman signed the minutes.

6. To consider the following planning applications

(i) 17/03681/TREE - Stone House, Bishop's Hill

No comments or objections.

(ii) 17/03747/TREE - Southview, The Bank

No comments or objections.

(iii) 17/03746/TREE - Tawton

No comments or objections.

Planning notice 17/02655/FUL - Home Farm; granted.

7. District Council Matters

(i) To receive report

District Cllr. Mills reported that the District Council would be raising council tax by 1%. More money will be allocated to the homeless.

8. County Council Matters

(i) To receive report

District Cllr. Mills read our County Cllr. Williams report.

A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

(ii) To request permission for a grit bin on Post Office Lane

The Chairman reported that County Cllr. Williams had been very supportive with regards to installing a grit bin on this lane. He said that County Highways will need to approve the location and that he could meet with them to discuss. The Clerk was asked to let County Cllr. Williams know that the Chairman should be contacted by County Highways to meet to approve the location.

ACTION: The Clerk to email County Cllr. Williams.

It was reported that the grit bins have not been refilled yet.

ACTION: The Chairman to report to County Cllr. Williams.

(iii) Road closure; no notice given

County Cllr. Williams had reported that Severn Trent had not told the County Council about this work. The Clerk said that she spoke to an officer in the licensing department at the County Council on the morning of the closure.

The officer said that the developer had initially applied for a closure notice to enable resurfacing work. Severn Trent had then agreed to bring the date for the closure of the road for their work forward so there would be only one closure. The Parish Council had not been made aware of this closure because of staff shortages. The member of staff was very apologetic and explained that she had been on holiday with no cover provided.

(iv) Section 106 contributions; Long Marston/GLH explanation

The Chairman read out County Cllr. Williams' response. It was agreed that Cllr. Smith should seek clarification from The Herald.

ACTION: Cllr. Smith to seek clarification from The Herald.

9. Matters arising from previous meetings

(i) Defibrillator update

Cllr. Steele said that she is waiting for a response from the Ambulance Service.

ACTION: February agenda item.

(ii) Western Power box; update on map

The Clerk said that she has requested a copy of the map showing the wiring system twice.

ACTION: The Clerk to chase Western Power.

10. Contracts and Finance

(i) Bank balance

The treasurer account bank balance was reported as £8,876.71 with the business bank account at £15,916.50.

(ii) Café lease and rent update

The Chairman and Cllr. Smith met with our solicitor. Our solicitor has suggested a surveyor who might be able to assist with the determination of the rent. Councillors agreed that this person should be contacted. Cllr. Smith also reported that a simplified lease is possible. This is a good idea since the draft lease is rather long and a number of the points not relevant.

ACTION: Cllr. Smith to request a simplified lease. Cllr. Smith to arrange for the recommended surveyor to determine a rent for the Café.

(iii) letter re. precept

The Clerk confirmed that these figures have been incorporated into the draft budget.

(iv) To authorise the signing of orders for payment

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

Payee	Amount
Mrs. C. Hill - Salary (December)	£186.14
E.ON - street lighting	£170.75
CPRE - annual subscription	£36.00
Streetscape (Products and Services) Ltd. - outdoor gym equipment	£3,600.00

11. To agree 2018/19 budget and to set precept

A draft budget had been circulated prior to the meeting. Councillors agreed that the Horse Chestnut tree on the green should be inspected and a tree planted nearby in case it is necessary for this tree to be felled. Various types of tree were discussed and it was decided that an Oak should be planted as it is a native tree and should live for many years. It was agreed that any work to trees could be expensive and so the precept would need to be raised. Cllr. Smith proposed a 5% increase in the precept to £13681 which equates to an approximate 26p annual increase on a band D property, seconded Cllr. Steele and carried unanimously.

ACTION: The Clerk to complete the paperwork.

12. Correspondence

(i) Off road bikers at Hill Farm

Cllr. Smith said that he has explained to the resident that she needs to report this to the District Council. Councillors agreed that this is a District Council matter.

(ii) Nominations for Royal Garden Party

Cllr. Reynolds nominated The Chairman, seconded Cllr. Smith and carried unanimously.

ACTION: The Chairman to complete and submit the nomination papers.

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

No matters were discussed.

13. Date of next meeting

Tuesday, 13th February at 8pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.55pm.