

Lighthorne Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held at The Pavilion Cafe on Tuesday, 13th February 2018 at 8pm

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

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr. Smith (illness).

2. To take any questions from the floor

A resident asked how soon she could get minutes. The Clerk explained that there is a legal requirement for minutes to be displayed 5 days before the next meeting or within a month of that meeting. The timing of the minutes depends on the clerk's workload.

The resident said that the website is not up-to-date and compliant with the transparency code. There is no Code of Conduct shown. The Clerk explained that previous minutes will show that the Parish Council has adopted the District Council's Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct is available on the District Council's website. The Clerk said that she didn't believe there was a requirement for this Code to be displayed on the parish website but she would check.

ACTION: The Clerk to confirm whether there is a need for the Code of Conduct to be displayed on the parish website.

The allotments lease is due on 1st April. Could the Parish Council please consider a reduction in the rent.

ACTION: The Clerk to circulate the lease to councillors to review.

A representative from the Village Hall Committee asked if there was any section 106 money for the hall. Cllr. Steele responded that the only section 106 money being paid to the Parish Council is allocated, by the District Council, to the play park. A resident said that this money isn't due yet. He explained that a considerable amount of money has been paid for social housing. Could some of this money be directed to Lighthorne? District Cllr. Mills agreed to discuss with David Buckland at the District Council.

ACTION: District Cllr. Mills to discuss with District Council officers.

What is happening with the ancient hedgerow? The Chairman explained that the Parish Council wrote to Robert Weeks at the District Council complaining about the removal. The Clerk followed up on this complaint and was told that the enforcement officer and the planning officer would be meeting with the developer on-site. She requested that a councillor be present and has received no response. The developer confirmed that a meeting has taken place. He said that he has been told by the District Council that the application must be resubmitted before 21st February. The enforcement officer has agreed that they can continue working as long as they do not work in the 10 metre strip.

ACTION: District Cllr. Mills to follow up on this and respond to the resident. The Clerk to request an update from the planning officer.

A resident said that the culvert by this development has been damaged by lorries accessing and exiting this site. The developer explained that the culvert had been damaged by a bin lorry but he arranged for it to be repaired. Was the culvert cleared after it had been repaired and how was it repaired? The developer said that he did not know. The resident explained that he is concerned that this culvert could collapse which would result in his property being flooded. County Highways should check to ensure that this culvert will not collapse. County Cllr. Williams explained that the culvert is not owned by the County Council. The Clerk said that she understands that the County Council has a responsibility in respect of flooding. She advised residents to report concerns to the County Council call centre and to keep a record of the reference number.

Dog waste on Church Road was highlighted as an issue. This is a large to medium sized dog and it is happening in the evening. Anyone witnessing a person not clearing up after their animal should contact either the Clerk, the dog warden at the District Council or a councillor.

ACTION: The Clerk to ask the dog warden to visit Church Road in the evening to reinforce to residents the need to clear up after their animal.

3. Declarations of interest

Cllr. Reynolds declared a pecuniary interest in item 5(iv) as a nearby landowner. Cllr. Steele declared a pecuniary interest in item 9(iii) as a relative is a payee. The Chairman and Cllr. Archer declared personal interests in item 10(viii) as nearby residents.

4. Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting

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

5. To consider the following planning applications

(i) 18/00261/TREE - St. Laurence Church

No comments or objections.

ACTION: The Clerk to respond to the planning department.

(ii) 18/00080/TREE - Stonecroft, Post Office Lane

No comments or objections.

ACTION: The Clerk to respond to the planning department.

(iii) 17/03719/VARY - Jaguar Land Rover

No comments or objections.

ACTION: The Clerk to respond to the planning department.

Cllr. Reynolds did not take part in this discussion.

(iv) 17/03404/FUL(amendment) - Home Farm, Old School Lane

Cllr. Steele explained that the District Council was asked if they could delay the determination of this application until after the investigation into the removal of the hedgerow. They said that they could not and so the Parish Council had no option but to object to this application. This application has now been withdrawn.

Planning notice 17/03404/FUL - Home Farm, Old School Lane (withdrawn)

Planning notice 17/03747/TREE - Southview, The Bank; no objection

Planning notice 18/00080/TREE - Stonecroft, Post Office Lane; no objection
Planning notice 17/03681/TREE - Stone House, Bishops Hill; no objection
Planning notice 17/03746/TREE - Tawton; no objection
18/00264/DDT notification - Pratts Farm Road

6. District Council Matters

(i) To receive report

Shakespeare birthday parade is in April.

Hi-5 activity camps in Wellesbourne for Easter holidays.

£13.4 million for the Long Marsden Garden Village from the Government's housing infrastructure fund for vital site infrastructure measures. Cllr.

Reynolds asked if there is a process whereby individual communities can apply for some of this money. Cllr. Mills said that he believes that this is specifically for Long Marsden.

Canal quarter regeneration consultation end on 16th March.

7. County Council Matters

(i) To receive report

A copy of County Cllr. Williams' report is attached to these minutes.

The Chairman said that the grit bins have still not been refilled. County Cllr.

Williams explained that the map, which has been sent to the Clerk, needs to be completed and returned to the County Council. The Chairman responded that the map is impossible to complete. He is looking for an alternative map.

The Locality Officer visited the village recently and is fully aware of the locations of the grit bins. County Cllr. Williams said that he would arrange for the bins to be filled as a matter of urgency.

ACTION: County Cllr. Williams to arrange for the grit bins to be filled as a matter of urgency.

Cllr. Reynolds asked County Cllr. Williams to explain the 4.99% increase in council tax. County Cllr. Williams explained that the County Council can increase to 3% without a referendum. The additional 1.99% is for social care.

Cllr. Steele asked County Cllr. Williams if he could please request that the culvert near Home Farm is investigated and a response in writing is sent to the Clerk for circulation to concerned residents. County Cllr. Williams said that he could not get a response in writing. A resident suggested that the

Parish Council notifies the Environment Agency. The Clerk said she understands that the County Council is now the lead agency for flooding. She asked County Cllr. Williams for verification but he did not comment.

(ii) Bishop's Hill water leak

County Cllr. Williams said that he does not know when the gullies will be

cleaned. He asked the Parish Council if they could report water leaks to the County Council and not Severn Trent. Cllr. Steele explained that, in the past,

County Cllr. Williams has told this meeting that the water leaks are the responsibility of Severn Trent and not the County Council which is why we involve them.

8. Matters arising from previous meetings

(i) Defibrillator update

Cllr. Steele reported that she has been advised on the type of defibrillator to purchase and the cost is £2000. She said that she has been unable to find

any funding opportunities. County Cllr. Williams said that Fenny Compton has just bought their second defibrillator and they received a grant towards this.

ACTION: County Cllr. Williams to provide details of the grant provider to the Chairman.

(ii) Western Power box; update on map

The Clerk has chased this.

ACTION: March agenda item.

(iii) Chestnut tree plus replacement tree

Cllr. Steele explained that the whole of the tree has been removed. A section of the trunk will be dried and returned to Lighthorne later this year. Residents will then be able to count the rings to determine the age of the tree. It could be stored in the play area or the village hall. Councillors agreed that an oak tree was an ideal replacement.

ACTION: Cllr. Steele to arrange for an Oak tree to be ordered.

9. Contracts and Finance

(i) Bank balance

The treasurer account bank balance was reported as £4,549.04 with the business bank account at £15,916.50.

(ii) Café lease; to consider approving the draft lease

A draft copy of the lease had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr. Steele proposed that we forward this lease to the tenant, seconded Cllr. Reynolds and carried unanimously. The Clerk was asked to ask Cllr. Smith if he could please progress this matter with our solicitors and the tenant.

ACTION: The Clerk to liaise with Cllr. Smith.

Cllr. Steele did not take part in this item.

(iii) To authorise the signing of orders for payment

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

Payee	Amount
Mrs. C. Hill - Salary (January)	£186.14
Heartwood Tree Surgeons Ltd. - felling of dangerous tree	£2,820.00
Mr. J. Newberry - printing (newsletter) and stationery	£54.00
Mrs. C. Hill - expenses (Oct-Dec)	£30.00

10. Correspondence

(i) Hiring the grounds

Cllr. Smith had circulated prior to the meeting a proposal for this hire. Councillors agreed this proposal.

ACTION: The Clerk to ask Cllr. Smith to respond to this request.

(ii) Temporary closure footpath besides Chestnut Cottage

Noted.

(iii) Tree donations

Cllr. Steele said that the Parish Council has received 2 offers from residents for providing a donation to cover the cost of this tree. These are very generous offers and the 2 residents were thanked. Councillors agreed to accept the first offer.

ACTION: Cllr. Steele to respond to the 2 residents.

(iv) Hill Farm

District Cllr. Mills reported that this matter is now with the enforcement officer.

(v) Home Farm ancient hedgerow

The Clerk reported that this matter is with the enforcement officer.

(vi) Grass verges plus minutes of meetings

Cllr. Steele reported that the developer has stated that he will reinstate all grass verges damaged by vehicles accessing or exiting his site. The Clerk explained that the minutes are produced in line with the legal requirement.

She can appreciate that residents unable to attend meetings would like minutes as soon as possible after the meeting. However, she must balance her workload and planning applications, enforcement issues and matters with deadlines must take priority.

(vii) Horse Chestnut wood

Cllr. Steele explained that this was removed by the tree surgeon. It was not possible to fairly distribute around the village.

(viii) Church Road verges

Following complaints from residents the Clerk said she understands County Highways has looked at a considerable number of the verges in Lighthorne. They have decided that some of the verges could be protected with kerbstones and have marked these. It is not clear when or if there will be County Council funding available for this work.

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

No matters were discussed.

12. Date of next meeting

Tuesday, 13th March at 8pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm.