

Lighthorne Parish Council

Draft Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Village Hall on Tuesday, 8th January 2019 at 8pm

Present: Cllrs. A. Archer (Chairman), H. Archer, A. Smith, L. Steele, District Cllr. C. Mills, County Cllr. Mrs. I. Seccombe
1 member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

County Cllr. C. Williams (illness).

2. To take any questions from the floor

No questions.

3. Declarations of interest

Cllr. Smith declared a personal interest in item 5(i) as a nearby landowner.

4. Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr. Steele proposed that the minutes be approved, seconded Cllr. Archer and carried unanimously. The Chairman signed the minutes.

5. To consider the following planning applications

Cllr. Smith did not take part in this item.

(i) 18/03618/FUL - The Beeches, Lighthorne Rough
Councillors agreed to raise no comments or objections.

Planning notice 18/03257/TREE - Stoneybank, The Bank; no objection

6. District Council Matters

(i) To receive report

District Cllr. Mills updated the meeting on the management changes at the District Council. He has attended a training course about rough sleepers. The District Council is committed to helping these people.

(ii) Planning enforcement investigation update - Home Farm (17/00558/CRIT)
Cllr. Smith explained that he has tried to look at the details behind the appeal but has been unable to access the data. District Cllr. Mills suggested that the appeals officer in Bristol might be able to assist.

ACTION: Cllr. Smith to contact the appeals officer.

Cllr. Smith said that he has tried to find out the status on the removal of the ancient hedge and been told by the District Council that they are unable to do anything because it was too long ago, and because of a lack of evidence.

Cllr. Smith is seeking clarification with the assistance of District Cllr. Mills.

(iii) TPO request for land at Old School Lane; photo requested

Cllr. Steele reported that this land is in the conservation area and so the trees are already protected.

(iv) Community Governance Review

Cllr. Steele explained that this has been finalised. The number of parish councillors will be increasing to 6 in May.

7. County Council Matters

County Cllr. Mrs. Seccombe updated the meeting on finance with the main part of funding supporting adult social care. Children's services and special educational needs require high levels of funding. Transportation for special educational needs is a huge expense. There are also high costs associated with waste removal. The County Council is financially sound. County councillors have again been allocated £36,000 for road safety and £6,000 towards the community grant scheme. Cllr. Steele asked if there was any funding available now from the community grant scheme? County Cllr. Mrs. Seccombe said there was and the community group or parish council should contact Amanda Wilson-Patterson.

(i) Grit bin on Post Office Lane; new location needed

Cllr. Archer reported that County Highways has agreed a location; in front of the Antelope. All bins will be filled shortly.

(ii) Old School Lane; verges

Cllr. Archer said that County Highways are unable to repair these verges or provide kerbs. Councillors said that they believed it was the developer who was responsible for these repairs.

ACTION: County Cllr. Mrs. Seccombe agreed to follow up on this.

(iii) Blocked drains Bishop's Hill; reported

The Clerk confirmed that the drains have been reported to the County Council.

(iv) Highways; traffic calming

Cllr. Smith reported that the Police have monitored traffic but unfortunately it was during the Christmas period. They have been asked if they could return in the spring. Cllr. Smith said that he is trying to obtain data from the 3 sites in the village which were monitored by County Highways.

ACTION: County Cllr. Mrs. Seccombe agreed to follow up on this.

Erecting a sharp bend sign would cost £300. A developer has said that he will not fund this because it is unsightly and ineffective.

8. Parish Maintenance

(i) Sports Pavilion/Sports Ground; update

The Chairman reported that he has requested a quote for the protection of the tank. The contractor who installed the tank is going to look at the allotment issues.

(ii) Play area inspection report

Cllr. Steele said that the gate to the play area is broken. She has been monitoring the situation and doesn't believe the broken gate will be a health and safety issue since it doesn't open on to a busy road. The work on the village hall is about to start and she understands a new gate will be installed during the coming months. Other issues reported have been repaired.

9. To agree 2019/20 precept and budget

A draft budget had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr. Steele proposed that the precept be increased to £14,091, seconded Cllr. Archer and carried

unanimously. The annual increase to a band D property will be approximately £1.24. A copy is attached to these minutes.

10. Contracts and Finance

(i) Bank balance

The treasurer account bank balance was reported as £15,560.71 with the business bank account at £10,919.95. Cllr. Smith asked if he could be given permission to access bank statements on-line. There were no objections.

ACTION: Cllr. Smith to arrange for banking information on-line.

(ii) Café lease; update

Cllr. Smith reported that the final amendments have been sent to the Café.

(iii) Income - £520.00

(iv) To consider a grant to the Village Hall Committee

Cllr. Smith has spoken with members of the Village Hall Committee and asked for a meeting to fully understand the situation. This has been agreed to and once a key committee member has returned from business travel a meeting will take place.

(v) To appoint a clerk

The Chairman said that a resident was considering the position. They would let him know by the end of the week if they wanted the role.

(vi) To authorise the signing of orders for payment

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

Payee

Mrs. C. Hill - Salary (December)

Amount

£189.85

Mrs. C. Hill - expenses (Apr-Dec)

£166.58

Farm Services Ltd. - replacement tank

£9724.32

11. Date of next meeting

12th February 2019

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm.