

Lighthorne Parish Council

Draft Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting Of Lighthorne Parish Council Held at Lighthorne Village Hall, Lighthorne, Warwickshire On Tuesday 11th February 2020 At 8.00pm

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: CLLR A ARCHER (Chair), CLLR H ARCHER, CLLR J HUNTER, CLLR LANGHORN, CLLR STANFORD and CLLR SMITH

IN ATTENDANCE: 15 members of the public, CLLR C MILLS (Stratford District Council (SDC)), CLLR C WILLIAMS (Warwickshire County Council (WCC)).

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from the Clerk due to ill health. Cllr Smith agreed to take minutes in the Clerk's absence.

2. Declarations of interests and consideration of dispensation requests

Cllr Stanford declared an interest in all matters pertaining to road safety at the junctions of Farrier's Way and Bishops Acre with the C96 Wellesbourne Road.

3. Acceptance of Minutes from December OGM

Due to the indisposition of the Clerk the minutes of the meeting held on 14th January were not available. Acceptance of these minutes is postponed until the March meeting.

4. Matters Arising from the minutes and previous meetings

i. *Sports Ground – water charges*

Cllr Smith reported that he has been successful in negotiating the refund of £220 out of the £260 in excess charges arising from the failures to pay the water bills on time. Our account is now £220 in credit since the outstanding amount including excess charges had previously been settled. Future payments will be by direct debit, and once the £220 credit is used up Cllr Smith will investigate any benefit to be gained by changing water supplier. Cllr Smith is now submitting monthly water meter readings and reports water consumption for January will have cost a little under £32.

In learning from this experience Cllr Smith proposed that unless there is good reason not to, the Parish Council's address for future mail from all sources should be given as the Village Hall address, and that one Cllr and a deputy should be made responsible for checking the letter box on a weekly basis. The newly fixed filing cabinet should be used to store PC documents.

Cllr Hunter volunteered to be primarily responsible for checking the letter box, and **Cllr A Archer** volunteered to be his deputy.

Item closed.

ii. *Barbed wire near the Ash Path*

Cllr Stanford reported that the barbed wire on the field side of the fencing has now been replaced with plain wire. Cllr Smith reported that he has written to GTC on behalf of the Parish Council in support of a resident who is seeking compensation for injury to their dog caused by the barbed wire.

Item closed.

iii. Safe path to Sports Ground

Cllr Smith reported that he has been chasing the developer's representative on a monthly basis for several months now. Formal permission is required before the Parish Council can commit to spending on the required planning application, and then the actual work. The hold up appears to be with the land owner and/or their solicitors.

Action: Cllr Smith to continue to chase.

Cllr Smith reported that an application for funding from the Heart of England Community Fund was rejected as Parish Councils are not eligible to apply, and noted that it would have been helpful if their guidelines had made this clear. An application to the Lottery Fund was not successful, purely because it was a lottery. An application to the Severn Trent Community Fund is planned. Cllr Smith has received confirmation from them that we *are* eligible to apply. Cllr Smith is booked on an education session for this fund on 27th February. One condition of application is to be in receipt of formal permission from the land owner for any project. See above.

Action: Cllr Smith to attend education session and make application.

Carried forward.

5. Public participation

Several residents from Farrier's Way and Bishops Acre presented a petition to the Parish Council calling for the 30mph zone to be moved to include the Built Up Area Boundary (BUAB), specifically the entrances to Farrier's Way and Bishops Acre from the C96 Wellesbourne Road. In addition two letters of concern were presented. During discussions the following points were made:

i) The requirement for pedestrians to cross the road to reach the pavement is at a point where there is no signage to alert motorists, and this combined with being in a 50mph zone represents a considerable risk.

ii) The proposed new gateway features at the current limit of the 30mph zone are inappropriate as they will further encourage acceleration out of the village towards Wellesbourne, increasing the risks for pedestrians and motorists at the entrances to Farrier's Way and Bishops Acre. Residents ask that erection of the new features be postponed until the issue of the 30mph zone is resolved.

iii) Residents feel that the existing arrangements alienate them from the village community, and act as a deterrent to pedestrian access to village amenities.

iv) Annual council tax contributions from residents of Farrier's Way and Bishops Acre are estimated at £30,000, of which £21,000 goes to WCC. Residents note that their contributions would be more than enough to pay for the required improvements every year, and that it is not reasonable for WCC to refuse to carry out *and fund* the required consultations and implementation.

In preparation for the meeting Cllr Smith had prepared a report on the background to these issues highlighting the objections made by the Parish Council to these developments, partly on grounds of road safety, and also highlighting that both Cllr Williams and the developer had expressed opinions that the 30mph limit should be extended. This report is available with these minutes on the Parish Council web site.

Whilst the residents have the full support of the Parish Council it is not within the gift of the Parish Council to determine mitigating measures. Cllr Williams explained that the decision to extend the 30mph zone needs the support of the Police, and that the usage threshold required to justify a controlled pedestrian crossing is much higher than the usage at this site.

Cllr Williams agreed to consult with the relevant WCC officers to gain accurate costings for each phase of the consultation and implementation process required. Once this information is to hand the Parish Council will consider the affordability of consultation and implementation.

Action: Cllr Williams to consult with WCC and report back as a matter of urgency.

Cllr Smith's report includes e-mail extracts that appear to show that a substantial S106 contribution was being discussed with the case officer in respect of 16/01602/FUL, and also e-mail extracts indicating that the developer was expecting to contribute up to £10,000 should permission for a fifth house in Bishops Acre be obtained. Permission was granted, but all mention of S106 contributions appear to have dried up and no S106 contribution was mandated in relation to 16/01602/FUL. Given the substantial costs associated with consultation and implementation of mitigations it is evident that developer contributions could make the difference between affordability or otherwise. Cllr Mills agreed to consult with SDC Planning to discover what actually happened.

Action: Cllr Mills to consult with SDC Planning and report back.

Following this discussion several residents left the meeting.

Carried forward.

6. Planning

i. Applications for comment since the last meeting

a) 20/00204/LBC Yew Tree Cottage

b) 20/00204/FUL Yew Tree Cottage

The Parish Council agreed to allow the applicant to access his rear garden via the grounds to the east of the Village Hall, provided a temporary fence is put in place between the play area and the ground in which machinery will move, and that car parking will be unaffected, subject to the approval of the Village Hall Committee.

c) 20/00137/VARY Land north of Moreton Morrell Lane

The Parish Council agreed to make no representation regarding the above three planning applications.

Action: Cllr Smith to report *No representation* to SDC Planning.

d) 19/02256/FUL Home Farm, conversion of garage to dwelling,
planning appeal

Some of the residents affected by this appeal attended the meeting to voice their concerns. The Parish Council resolved to make a submission to the Planning Inspector rebutting the arguments of the developer and reinforcing the arguments made objecting to the application.

Action: Cllr Smith to draft a submission for approval and subsequent submission.

ii. Decisions to note since the last meeting

a) 19/03445/TREE Granted Hill Cottage, The Bank

7. Parish Council Reports

i. Highways – update on traffic calming schemes

This is covered under Public Participation above.

ii. *Streetlights – update on replacements*

Cllr A Archer reported that a malfunctioning light opposite the bus shelter has been reported, but not yet fixed. Cllr Smith reminded the meeting that any member of the public is able to report malfunctioning street lamps to WCC.

Carried forward.

iii. *Playground – update on inspections*

Cllr Langhorn reported that he is investigating a replacement for the old slide and expects to be able to report back in a couple of months.

Carried forward.

iv. *WALC Seminar – Listed/heritage Buildings*

Cllrs A Archer and Langhorn reported that the seminar was informative. Cllr A Archer has slides from the presentation should anyone be interested.

Item closed.

v. *Noticeboard – update on repair*

Cllr A Archer reported that he and three other residents are affecting repairs. A budget of £150 was agreed by the Parish Council.

Carried forward.

vi. *Home Farm – street name consultation*

It was resolved to suggest that the road serving the Home Farm development be called *Home Farm Close*.

Action: Cllr Smith to reply to the consultation.

Item closed.

vii. *Village Hall Deeds and documents – to consider safe storage options*

In the absence of any storage facility offered by SDC or WCC it was resolved that these documents be sent to our solicitors for secure storage at a one-time charge of £36 (including VAT). Cllr Smith noted that the village archivist has taken copies of the documents of interest.

Action: Cllr Smith to arrange with the Clerk for a cheque for £36 payable to Wadworths Solicitors, and for this cheque to be delivered to the solicitors with the documents.

Item closed.

viii. *Parking on pavements – update on efficacy of signs*

Cllr Smith reported that he has provided signs to The Antelope and the Village Hall Committee, and that one sign is now displayed on a post near the affected verge. It remains to be seen how effective this is in modifying parking behaviour.

Item closed.

ix. *Disappearing bus stop at Lighthorne Rough – update*

Cllr Smith reported that the bus stop looks like it had been struck by a vehicle. This has been reported to WCC, and in view of a lack of historical usage they have been given the option of reinstatement or removal.

Item closed.

8. Reports from Ward Representatives of Stratford District Council and Warwickshire County Council

These reports were read out in the meeting, and are available with these minutes on the Parish Council web site.

9. Financial Administration

In the absence of the Clerk the detail for this item is deferred to the March meeting. However, the following items were approved:

- i. £60 in respect of paint and materials to treat fencing at The Broadwell.
- ii. An investigation into the repair or replacement of the bench on The Green

Action: Cllr Langhorn to investigate repair or replacement.

10. Other reports and items for future agenda:

A resident advised that they had reported to Severn Trent a flow of water emanating from a drain cover on the Chesterton Road, and that a Severn Trent van had subsequently been observed in attendance. It was noted that the flow has not abated and so the resident agreed to make a follow up enquiry. The Parish Council thanked the resident for this initiative and diligence.

Carried forward.

11. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10th March 2020 at 8:00pm at Lighthorne Village Hall

MEETING CLOSED 21:50