

LIGHTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of The Ordinary Meeting of Lighthorne Parish Council – Held at Lighthorne Village Hall
On Tuesday 14th March 2022 At 7.30pm

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: Cllr Smith (Chair), Cllr Langhorn, Cllr Driver & Cllr Mills (SDC & WCC)
IN ATTENDANCE: 3 members of the public.

1. **Apologies**
Clerk, Cllr Middleton
2. **Declarations of interests and consideration of dispensation requests**
None.
3. **Acceptance of minutes from January & February**
The minutes of the January & February meetings were accepted.
4. **Public Participation**
A resident reported that the bench in the playground requires attention. This was already on Cllr Langhorn's radar and will be attended to. Comments were made about LPC directing much attention to improvements at the sports field, questioning whether funds may be better directed towards the village centre. All proposals from residents are given serious consideration. However, where grants are obtained to support specific projects they are conditional on being used for that project and no other purpose. The efficacy of the recent village survey was discussed. A resident asked councillors to be mindful of how messages on social media can be perceived.
5. **To consider a resident's request for LPC to purchase private land for use as a village green**
The resident attended and presented their vision for the village, involving land currently in private hands. To be considered, the plan hinges on the availability and affordability of the land. Another resident undertook to make enquiries. *Carried forward.*
6. **To agree the Budget for 2023-24**
Cllr Smith had circulated a budget for consideration, which was agreed. The budget is a statutory requirement, yet necessarily speculative when large projects are conditional on other factors such as gaining planning consent. The budget will be posted on the Finance page of the web site, and progress against the budget reported monthly at each parish council meeting. *Item closed.*
7. **To agree Pavilion Café rent structure for the next five years**
The ten year lease has a five year break point this March, where a rent review is required. The original rent was based on the rateable value. Based on the current rateable value a monthly rent from April of £740 for the next five years was proposed and accepted. The tenant had previously been advised. The terms of the lease suggest engaging a surveyor to assess the rent. The Clerk will consult with our solicitors to establish whether this is necessary, and what other steps need be taken to formalise the rent increase. *Carried forward.*
8. **To confirm a grant to The Redlands Residents' Association of £500**
The grant was approved. *Item closed.*
9. **To consider engaging Trevor Gill to complete the internal audit and AGAR**
Trevor Gill was confirmed as our internal auditor for another year. *Item closed.*
10. **To consider a street party for The King's Coronation Sunday 7th May 2023 and purchasing commemorative mugs for the children of the village**
Anticipated expense of £487 + postage for mugs and £200 for BBQ was approved. *Item closed.*
11. **To consider replacing 2 windows at the pavilion**
Cllr Langhorn to assess and obtain quotes. *Carried forward.*

12. **To consider a date for The Annual Parish Council Meeting (between 10th and 25th May)**
 It transpires that the regular date for the parish council meeting of 9th is acceptable as the annual parish council meeting, previous WALC advice notwithstanding. The normal practice of treating the May meeting as the annual parish council meeting will continue. Newly elected councillors will have the opportunity to elect a chairman and vice chairman. *Carried forward.*
13. **To consider organising a village litter picking day**
 The Clerk has offered to organise this, offer gratefully accepted. *Item closed.*
14. **To consider nominations for Chair and Vice Chair in May**
 To be considered at the May meeting with newly elected councillors. *Item closed.*
15. **To consider the clerk's salary for 2023/2024**
 NALC pay scales are not announced until half way through the financial year to which they apply. Based on information received we anticipate an increase in line with inflation, and so a proposed increase to £495 monthly from April was agreed, with any necessary adjustment made after the NALC pay scales are published. *Item closed.*
16. **Matters arising from the minutes and previous meetings**
- (a) **Extending the 30mph speed limit beyond Oberry Fields**
 Cllr Langhorn continues to pursue the matter. *Carried forward.*
- (b) **David Wilson & Barrett Homes**
 Awaiting a site meeting to agree location and size of a basketball area, to be arranged when Cllr Middleton is available. *Carried forward.*
- (c) **To consider improving and increasing the parking capacity at the pavilion**
 A tree survey has been carried out and we await the report. On receipt the planning application will be resubmitted. SDC have awarded LPC a grant of £19,000 towards this work, conditional upon gaining planning consent. *Carried forward.*
- (d) **To consider LPC's response to the issue of Primary Healthcare at GLH**
 Having secured a commitment from the NHS to support a permanent health facility at Upper Lighthorne, lobbying efforts are now focussed on securing a temporary health facility to bridge the gap until a permanent facility can come online, which could be as late as July 2027. *Carried forward.*
- (e) **The verge from Redlands to Lighthorne along the B4100**
 In the absence of Cllr Knapton no update from WCC was available. *Carried forward.*
- (f) **To consider the issue of parking on Bishops Hill**
 Being pursued in tandem with item 16(a). Kerb repairs on Old School Lane are expected to be carried out this week. *Carried Forward.*
17. **Planning**
- (a) **Applications for comment since last meeting**
- i. 23/00467/VARY 1 Papers Bath Vary condition 5
- (b) **Decisions to note since last meeting**
 None
- (c) **Enforcement**
 None
18. **Parish Council Reports - To receive reports on:**
- (a) **Playground** – Bench issues reported earlier are included in the inspection report, and will be dealt with.
19. **Reports from Ward Representatives of SDC and WCC – on website.**

20. Financial Administration

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|---|------------|
| (a) Lighthorne cash book balances at 9 th March 2023 | |
| i. Current account | £4,638.42 |
| ii. Allocated reserves account | £22,472.72 |
| Total | £27,111.14 |
| (b) Income since last meeting | |
| i. March rent from Pavilion Café | £690.00 |
| (c) Expenditure since last meeting | |
| i. Clerks wages 30 hours @ £14.02 | £420.60 |
| ii. Water Plus | £46.18 |
| iii. Yu Energy (Mar) | £118.81 |
| iv. Yu Energy (Mar) | £13.81 |
| v. Redlands Association Grant | £500.00 |
| vi. Steve Brooks – Hedge cutting | £300.00 |
| vii. WCC annual lighting maintenance | £217.59 |
| (d) Agreeing accounts for payment. | |

21. Correspondence

- (a) A report was received questioning the safety of the netting protecting the cricket wicket at the sports field in the event of an Air Ambulance helicopter needing to land. Cllr Smith has spoken with Warwickshire Air Ambulance and reported the concerns. A definitive response is expected in due course and if necessary the Cricket Club will be asked to remove or modify their fencing. *Carried forward.*
- (b) Cllr Langhorn advised of a resident reporting a failed street lamp in Church Lane. Attempts to repair by National Grid have so far not succeeded. Cllr Langhorn will monitor. *Carried forward.*
- (c) Unfortunately, access to the rear of the allotments was not possible and so that side of the hedgerow could not be trimmed as part of our regular maintenance. *Item closed.*

22. Other reports and items for future agendas

- (a) Councillors have informally agreed a budget of £350 to obtain a laptop computer for exclusive parish council use. Unfortunately Cllr Smith neglected to ask for this to be on the agenda and so councillors were unable to resolve to agree to that budget. This will be on the agenda for the April meeting. *Carried forward.*

23. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 11th April 2023 at 7:30pm.

MEETING CLOSES at 9:00pm