

Lifton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting at Lifton QEII Pavilion, 25th July 2019

These minutes are provisional until they are agreed and signed by the chairman at the next meeting of the parish council

Present: Cllr C Edmonds (Chairman), Cllr Moore, Cllr Measey, Cllr Willing, Cllr Sutton-Woodhouse, Cllr Glen and Cllr Sparrow

1. Apologies: Cllr Elias, Cllr Elworthy and Cllr Parsons

2. Minutes:

The minutes of the PC meeting of 27th June 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meetings.

3. Dispensations and Declarations of Interest: None

4. Visiting speaker: None

5. Public Participation/Borough Cllr. Update

Planning Application: 2117/19/FUL - Architect on behalf of the applicant provided an overview of the site and plan. Bungalow will be for family who already live on the farm who are agricultural workers. Full dwelling proposed with agricultural restrictions.

Applicant and family were present and provided details about their backgrounds and reported that they were currently living on-site in a 4-bed house with other family (6 adults and 4 kids). They are actively involved with the farm; village life and their children are enrolled with local schools. The planning application is for a low-level bungalow which will be environmentally friendly and include such things as solar panels, off grid hot water and heating. It will not be on same site as caravan but it has easy access. The site is being used for animals at present.

Borough Councillor Update:

WDBC are conducting a survey on what residents want the Council to achieve. There are 6 themes. The survey will be available on the PC and WDBC websites. Councillors were asked to please have a look and respond.

Action: Chair to forward link to survey via email to all Cllrs.

Councillors received a copy of a leaflet from WDBC on 'How we spend council tax'.

The Rt. Hon. Geoffrey Cox MP will visit Lifton on 5th August 2019 at 11am in the Community Centre.

Residents will be able to talk to him about local issues and what he can do to help. It will be publicised via leaflet drop. Residents will be able to submit written questions prior to the visit.

Action: Clerk to include visit details on parish council website.

Councillors were provided with an update on recycling. Colour bottles become plastic pipes, paper goes to D S Smith as newsprint, batteries go to Wastecare, textiles from curb side go to third world countries and textiles from banks go to the Salvation Army. A full list is on WDBC website. If any recycling falls out 2.5 metres from box, it should be picked up. There had been no other reports of faulty handles on green bags; problems can be reported online to WDBC.

6. General items

6.1 Highways Update

6.1.1 Clerk had submitted speed data from Liftondown to Steve Brockman, who

responded that he had spoken with the traffic team and said that they were not sure why the parish were showing them this data. DCC took this site again to SCARF in November 2017, following this, the site was closed with the comment that the Police may be able to do some enforcement in the area. DCC are not able to use data from these types of VAS equipment as they may not be calibrated to the same standard as the equipment DCC would use. The PC concluded that this speed data related to a different road and that it should persist with the query to highways for them to consider action. Th PC never expected them to make decision using our data but it still tells a story.

Action: Clerk to liaise with DCC and ask them to relook at this different area and data.

Resident has asked if the existing narrow bridge sign situated on the crossroads from Liftondown to Heale Bridge can be moved to the VAS pole, a distance of approx. one metre to enable drivers to see the sign when turning left from Liftondown onto the Heale bridge road. This was pursued by previous Clerk. Two narrow bridge signs are already in place on the A388. PC cannot move DCC highways signs, not even a short distance.

Action: Clerk to ask Highways for sign to be moved.

Issues with speeding cars have been highlighted around Darkey Lane and school run times. It was reported that outside school it is so narrow and that some parents park outside the old police station, with children leaving cars and crossing the road which is very dangerous.

Action: Clerk to extend an invitation to local PCSO to attend the September parish meeting to discuss issues/put concerns forward.

Resident has requested 20mph limit speed sign in Fore Street. The latest speed data captured from the village green recorded that Eastbound the average speed was 32mph; the 85th percentile was 37mph. Taking out the overnight figures after 9pm, so 8am until 7pm – the average out of the 85th percentile shows approx. 37.4mph. 24-hour percentage drops to 34 or 33mph. Westbound out of village – lower. The 85th percentile shows approx. 34mph, with an average of 30.7mph.

Action: Chair to share speed data with resident. Clerk to share concerns with Highways and ask whether they would consider setting up a speed trial in Fore Street in response to the resident's request for a 20mph limit speed sign.

6.2 Litter bin provision update

WDBC were contacted regarding the provision of a bin at the Arundell Gardens play area and it reported that ownership of this site had been transferred to the LiveWest housing association. The Clerk contacted LiveWest and the request had been passed onto the Housing Officer for the area who was asked to look into this. The Housing Officer has said that unfortunately they cannot provide bins, as they do not have the resources to maintain the emptying of them. It is their understanding that it is the responsibility of the Local Authority to provide dog bins, as they have the facilities to ensure they are emptied on a regular basis. The PC agreed to leave this matter but it would revisit issue if problems were highlighted in the future.

6.3 Bus shelter

The Clerk contacted Contractor A after the last meeting to confirm that they were to undertake the work on the bus shelter and asked them for confirmation of a start date for the works. The Contractor has been out of the County but has booked the work in for a couple of days in the next 2 weeks.

Action: Clerk to confirm date work is due to commence and share with all Cllrs via email.

6.4 Mower

The mower was sold on 3rd July 2019 for £1850. The Clerk received the bank receipt and signed sale receipt.

6.5 Double Yellow Lines at The Green

The Clerk reported that 2 further responses had been received after the closing date of 30th June 2019; one for and one against double yellow lines. Councillors were reminded that at the last meeting the motion to put the suggestion for DYL to HATOC received no support. As this motion was passed prior to the consultation closing date, a resident had queried this decision. Councillors were therefore asked to consider the following options:

Option 1: To uphold the motion and revisit the issue in six months' time if deemed necessary or

Option 2: To refer to Section 7 of its Standing Orders and request a special motion

at the next meeting. Provided the correct number of Councillors gave written notice to the Clerk as Proper Officer, a special motion could be put forward to overturn or reverse the previous motion.

Following discussion, Councillors agreed to Option 1 but, in the meantime, they would continue to monitor parking and access at the Green in the coming weeks/months and bring any issues to the Clerks attention. Apologies would be expressed to the resident regarding the oversight on the timings of the original motion.

Motion: To revisit item in 6 months' time. Proposed and seconded. All in favour. Action: Clerk to put item back on agenda in early 2020.

6.6 Defibrillator

The Councillor to undertake the next monthly checks was confirmed. The minutes would record that the necessary checks have been undertaken so there was no need for the Clerk to keep old inspection forms. Councillors agreed to keep this item on future agendas.

Action: Clerk to dispose of old inspection forms and place as standing item on future agendas.

6.7 Proposed Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service Changes - 12 Week Consultation

The Clerk provided details of an announcement of proposed changes to DSFIRE and shared information about a 12-week consultation period. DSFIRE were very interested in hearing local people and stakeholders' views on the proposed changes for a new service delivery operating model.

Action: Clerk to upload details about the 12-week consultation to parish website and share details about the online consultation, via email, to all Cllrs.

7. Reports

7.1 QE11 report

The management committee met on the 24th July to discuss the implications of letting the field during the autumn/winter period for commercial events.

It was decided that the interests of the football club are paramount during this time, and as they pay rent for the entire season from the last week in August until the third week in April their fixtures should take precedence when considering applications for the hire of the field for other events.

It was further agreed that the hire conditions for one off events should be discussed in depth at the next committee meeting.

7.2 Community Centre Report

3 of the trustees visited North Tawton to look at a 5-a-side football pitch. They were able to speak to the person who installs pitches. The levels at the Community Centre required excavation which would mean earth being moved. A very powerful electric cable that runs under carpark would require Western Power to attend to move this cable. Size of pitch would cut down size of car park. Look at put in levels that fit it in within carpark.

Defib – renewed insurance offered to cover defib for village halls for no extra charge (for the future). Contract for lift has been renewed.

Centre is getting very busy with 5 more organisation hiring hall.

Complaints from residents regarding noise from car park/basketball court were noted however these areas formed part of the original planning permission.

8. Finance

8.1 For payment

Clerk's salary £421.04

Proposed and seconded that all the above payments be made.

[Total payments: £421.04]

Action: Clerk to make all payments

8.2 Payment received

Mower sale (03.07.19) £1850.00

8.3 Outstanding invoices: None

General matters relating to Finance:

8.4 Bank reconciliation: This was shared with Councillors.

9. Planning

9.1 Applications:

060/19/TPO - Proposal: T1: Ash - Fell due to ill health - showing obvious defects and extensive dead branches; G1: Ash (6no. stems) - Fell - showing signs of dieback, with dead sections of stem and branches. Site Address: Orchard House, New Road, Lifton, PL16 0AQ

PC decision: to support (7); all in favour

2078/19/FUL - Proposal: Demolition of part of the existing mill building, construction of new blending plant building, relocation of weigh bridge. Site Address: Spry Mill, Station Road, Tinhay, Devon, PL16 0BA

Straightforward plan. Proposed works will improve technology to update the working facilities and help reduce noise levels. Positive investment. 58 staff employed on site. Logical rejig of site.

PC decision: to support (7); all in favour

2117/19/FUL - Proposal: Erection of an agricultural workers dwelling.
Site Address: Development Site At Sx 383 870, Wortham Farm, Lifton, PL16 0ED

The Chair visited the site as ward member not to predetermine application on PC; Planning Officer was made aware of this visit. Highlighted area classed as development in countryside. Isolated development in countryside is permitted. Sustainable opportunity for rural work and living. Farm is not listed. The site is tied to an agricultural restriction it therefore cannot be sold at market value. Application is for family to live on farm in separate dwellings. Cllrs were handed site/floor plan of bungalow. It is a large and busy farm and proposed plan was demonstrated as an essential need to run the business. Looking at plan, it's a straightforward residential plan, very subtle and merits support.

PC decision: to support (7); all in favour.

9.2 Approvals: None

9.3 Refusals:

1471/19/PAT Application for prior notification of proposed development by telecommunications code systems operators for installation of a 17.5 metre high monopole supporting 3no. shrouded antennas and 2no. 300mm microwave dish antennas, the installation of 2no. equipment cabinets and development works ancillary thereto; Land at the junction of Darkey Lane and Fore Street. *(Prior approval refused 02/07/19)*

The application was refused on sighting grounds and visual impact. The Chair reported he was able to speak to the Planning Officer (PO) but was not allowed to influence her decision. PO said that Grade 1 listed buildings have highest level of protection. There were also 2 castles trails, a cycle route and the West Devon drive/tourist route to consider.

The Chair was able to speak to the agent with the PO's permission. Agent is going back to the company to find out where they want to go from here in the future. They could appeal or look for alternative sites. This is still open and local support will be offered. The PO is happy to talk about alternative site on preapplication basis.

0309/19/FUL Erection of dwelling at Robins Croft Road From Liftondown Cross To Robins Croft, Liftondown, Devon, PL16 0DA. *Refused on 10/07/19*

9.4 Appeals: None

General matters relating to planning:

None

10. Correspondence

The Chair shared information regarding Devon Communities Together which provides help to PC's to formulate local emergency plans, offering short presentations to parish council meetings etc. Lifton should have a local emergency plan and the community centre is an obvious place for an emergency centre.

Action: Clerk to put item on as future agenda item.

11. Councillors' items for future agenda.

Defibrillator (standing item on all agendas)

Local Emergency Plan for Lifton/Devon Communities Together

Next Meeting

7.00pm, Thursday, 29th August 2019, QE11 recreation ground

Meeting closed at 2049

SIGNED..... Date.....