

Lifton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting at Lifton Methodist Room, 24th October 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 Elias, Cllr Measey, Cllr Willing, Cllr Sutton-Woodhouse, Cllr Glen, Cllr Sparrow and Cllr Elworthy

1. Apologies: Cllr Parsons

2. Minutes: The minutes of the PC meeting 26th September 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. Dispensations and Declarations of Interest: None

4. Visiting speaker: None

5. Public Participation/Borough Cllr. Update

A tribute was paid to former Lifton Parish Councillor Len Showell who sadly passed away in September aged 88 years old. Mr Showell moved to Lifton in the 1990s and served until 2015. Councillors thanked him for his service to the Parish.

Borough Councillor Update:

The Net-Zero Task Force has been appointed by the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group – made up of Devon’s councils, emergency services and business groups to deliver the Devon Carbon Plan. A DCC dedicated website will be launched shortly so that people can put forward suggestions regarding reducing carbon emissions etc.

6. General items

6.1 Highways Update

The Clerk reported the response from the Highways Officer in relation to the request to reinstate the illuminated 30mph speed signs on the A388. The HO said that, according to the traffic signs manual, repeater signs are not required if the streetlights are within 200 yards of each other. The A388 Liftondown does not have streetlights so the signs would not be illuminated, only the ones on the Launceston side are as they are within the light section. The illuminated signs may have been in place many years ago when the 30mph limit started at that particular place and therefore they would not be required to be reinstated there now.

6.1.1 The Clerk reported two road closures on 30th October 2019 (1 day) - Colemans Cross to Router Cross for Devon Highways pothole/patch repairs and on 20th-22nd January 2020 (3 days) – North Road for the provision of a new water service.

It was reported that detritus had built up by the curb side in Liftondown and that the road sweeper came out last Friday to clear it up. The PC agreed that this area should be built into future weed killing work.

6.2 Bus shelter update

The Clerk reported that the contractor had provided a quote for £532.12 (Inc. VAT) for the installation of a metal bench measuring 1.5 metres long for inside the bus shelter. Councillors discussed the quote and agreed that no further action on this matter should be taken.

It was reported that a dustbin had been placed inside the shelter which was now overflowing. Councillors agreed that as there was a public waste bin right outside the bus shelter, the PC were within their right to remove the bin and its contents, as the PC owns shelter.

Action: Chair to speak to local volunteer team to get the bin and contents removed.

6.3 Village Trees

The Chair had undertaken further research into The Woodland Trust's free tree scheme. It was reported that a 30-sapling pack (covering the size of a tennis court) would be the most sensible option to apply for. The pack would also include canes and spiral guards to protect the trees. There were various types of trees to choose from. Councillors agreed that a copse of 30 silver birch, rowan and cherry trees would be ideal and that they could be planted at the QEII recreation ground, around the bus shelter and to fill in gaps on the village green. If there were any left, they could be put at the top of Darkey Lane. The necessary permissions from DCC would have to be sought prior to planting. The application process was now open, with delivery expected in March 2020.

Proposal: To apply for a 30-sapling pack to be planted at the QEII and other areas; all in favour.

Action: Chair to submit online application to The Woodland Trust.

6.4 Defibrillator

The Councillor to undertake the next monthly checks was confirmed.

6.5 Graveyard

The Clerk circulated a revised sign to be displayed in the graveyard to deter the use of glass jam jars and reported that she was still awaiting the quote from a Launceston-based company. The Chair reported that he had spoken to the contractor regarding levelling the ground on the right-hand side in the cemetery and that he was awaiting a response regarding the quote.

Action: Clerk to continue to chase for the sign quote and report back to the next PC meeting.

6.6 Liftdown BT Payphone Kiosk Adoption

WDBC had submitted its final response to BT following the recent consultation process with Town and Parish Councils on village payphone kiosks. The deadline for Parish Council's to submit their comments to WDBC was 20th October 2019. The PC had initially decided that the village green phone kiosk should remain and agreed that the kiosk at Liftdown could be removed. The PC subsequently received a request from a resident in Liftdown for the PC to adopt the kiosk in Liftdown so that members of the local community could utilise it for either a book exchange or other community need. As the 20th October deadline fell prior to this meeting, Councillors had been asked to provide their comments, via an email to the Clerk, on whether they would support the request to adopt the Liftdown payphone kiosk. The majority of those Councillors who responded supported the request to adopt the kiosk in Liftdown subject to the future maintenance needs of the kiosk and associated costs being discussed prior to any formal adoption taking place.

The Clerk provided an overview of the adoption process which confirmed that the PC would be liable for all future maintenance of the kiosk, once it was adopted; that BT would organise and cover the cost of removing the actual payphone; that although BT would retain responsibility and pay for the power supply to the point of the fuse box within the service panel of the kiosk, the internal wiring from the fuse to the light would be maintained by the PC (including replacement light bulbs). No equipment other than a defibrillator maybe connected to the power.

BT would not take the kiosk back if the PC no longer wanted it; the PC would need to arrange its removal at its own expense. PC's are free to sell or transfer ownership; BT's only stipulation being that it cannot be to another telecommunications operator.

The Clerk reported that the telephone kiosk would be covered for public liability under the PC's current insurance policy, under the core cover at no extra cost. There would be an additional premium payable of around £15.00-£20.00 if the PC wanted to have cover for theft or damage (malicious or accidental). It would currently cost around £2k to £3k to replace a red telephone box. Councillors agreed that whilst it waited for BT to respond to the consultation, the Chair and Vice-Chair be asked to examine the BT/PC adoption contract and bring back their findings to a future PC meeting. The Clerk was asked to also look into whether it was possible for members of the local community to raise money themselves and make a donation to the PC specifically for the payphone kiosk maintenance costs.

Proposal: Chair and Vice-Chair to examine the BT/PC payphone kiosk adoption contract and report back to a future meeting; all agreed.

Action: Clerk to contact DALC and seek advice on local fundraising and donations to PC's for payphone kiosk maintenance costs.

6.7 Community Emergency Plan

Martin Rich from Devon Communities Together had confirmed that he will provide a short presentation to Lifton Parish Council at the 23rd January 2020 meeting.

6.8 PC Meeting Venues

A Community Centre trustee had expressed their disappointment that the Parish Council had decided to no longer use its meeting room for parish meetings as the local Youth Club also met there on a Thursday. The PC did not want to disturb the young people.

It was reported that the Youth Club would be quite happy to give up one room a month for the PC to hold its meeting. There would also not be an issue in the Summer as the Youth Club tended to go to Roadford Lake.

Councillors discussed where to hold future parish council meetings and agreed that they should return to the Community Centre but continue to use the school, QEII Pavilion and Methodist room as well.

Proposal: To hold the November Parish Council meeting back in the Community Centre; all agreed.

6.9 QEII Riverbed Ownership Update

The Clerk circulated the HM Land Registry current title plan for the recreation ground to Councillors which clearly showed the boundary line. The Clerk reported that The Arundell Arms had kindly provided some background history and had confirmed what fishing rights it owned for the river in this

area. They confirmed that they were happy for duck races to continue as before. Councillors thanked The Arundell Arms for their assistance.

Councillors agreed that the Chair and Vice-Chair should look at all the information that had been provided and report back to the next meeting with a summary of their findings.

Action: Clerk to contact insurers regarding liability on PC land specifically the riverbank and river usage (duck races etc.).

Clerk to circulate all information on the above item to the Chair and Vice-Chair for them to look at it further and bring back a summary to next months' meeting.

7. Reports

7.1 QE11 report:

For many years visitors to the pavilion have been greeted by a musty odour. Recently this had become much stronger, and then a depression appeared in the kitchen floor. When a section of the vinyl floor covering, and the chipboard floor underneath was lifted, it became apparent that there was a serious rot problem with the chipboard. This was then taken up as a matter of some urgency. It appears that there had been a leak on the wash hand basin in the distant past, estimated at probably soon after the building was completed.

The main floor area was completely rotted, but fortunately the area under the units was still serviceable and salvageable with an application of timber preservative. The floor has now been re-laid which hopefully will give the whole building a pleasant fresh aroma to greet our visitors, and also eliminate the possibility of anyone putting their foot right through.

The field has had a lot of use recently, but the playing surface seems to have held up quite well despite the heavy rain and three football matches in two weeks.

7.2 Community Centre Report

A successful table top sale with 15 tables had taken place, raising £168.00. Plans for the car park had been worked out and were ready to be taken to WDBC. The plan was to enlarge it and make it double the size.

Youth Club now had a TV installed which enabled them to play games. The outside wall was now finished. Plans for an extension to the building had not been abandoned but there were currently no specific timings.

The Clerk provided details from BT on the installation of a pay phone in the community centre. Councillors agreed that the costings were high and felt that the pay phone would not get the use to justify the costs involved. The majority of people have mobiles and that it would be far better to invest in 5G in the village.

Proposal: To not proceed with the installation of a pay phone in the Community Centre; all agreed.

8. Finance

8.1 Donation requests

8.1.1 CAB annual donation

Motion: to donate £ 100.00. Proposed, seconded; all in favour.

Action: To make payment next month

8.1.2 Poppy wreath

Motion: to donate £ 50.00. Proposed, seconded; all in favour.

Action: To make payment next month

8.1.3 Lifton Scout Group

Motion: to donate £ 120.00. Proposed, seconded; all in favour.

Action: To make payment next month

8.2 For payment

Clerk's salary	£389.33
Clerk's mileage expenses	£18.00
Waste bin emptying (WDBC) (incl £55.90 VAT) (BACS)	£ 335.40
Bickle (West Devon Drive verge trimming) (incl £442.40 VAT)	£2654.40

Proposed and seconded that all the above payments be made.

[Total payments: £3397.13]

Action: Clerk to make all payments

8.3 Payment received:

Interest	£ 0.41
WDBC 2nd half of precept	£6,607.00

8.4 Outstanding invoices: None

General matters relating to Finance:

8.5 Technical Consultation on the Local Government Finance Settlement 2020/21

The information was shared with Councillors.

9. Planning

9.1 Applications: None

9.2 Approvals:

2412/19/ARM Lifton - Land to the East of Liftondown Lifton PL16 0EB. PROPOSAL: Approval of reserved matters following outline approval 01014/2015. **DECISION:** Conditional Approval

9.3 Refusals: None

9.4 Appeals: None

General matters relating to planning:

9.5 A question was raised about an outstanding application; the Gladman determination had been due on 16th October. It was reported that there had been a delay around the Section 106 agreement and that discussions were on-going between WDBC and Gladman.

10. Correspondence

The Clerk shared the following information with Councillors:

NDC & Torridge District Council Public Consultation - draft Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs); Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

Super Link Meeting - 27 November 2019

Exploitation Prevention Toolkit - free training

Request from 'Power for People' to support national community energy campaign

The Chichester Arms, Chillaton, Lifton - Listed Asset of Community Value

Sourton Parish Council – Thank you email re grass verge cutting along West Devon Drive.

11. Councillors' items for future agenda

As outlined in above minutes.

Next Meeting

7.00pm, Thursday, 28th November 2019, Community Centre, Lifton

Meeting closed at 20:30

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