

Lifton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely using Zoom on 25th March 2021

These minutes are provisional until they are agreed at the next meeting of the parish council; they will be signed by the Chairman at the earliest opportunity.

Present: Cllr C Edmonds (Chairman), Cllr Dunn, Cllr Elias, Cllr Elworthy, Cllr Glen, Cllr Lees, Cllr Measey, Cllr Parsons and Cllr Sutton-Woodhouse

1. Apologies: None

2. Minutes: The minutes of the PC meeting 25th February 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting and will be signed by the Chairman at the earliest opportunity.

3. Dispensations and Declarations of Interest: None

4. Public Participation/Borough Cllr. Update

Public Participation: None

Borough Councillor Update: WDBC business grants are on the way from central government and will be rolled out in April. 13 grants are still running.

The elections for Devon County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner take place on 6th May 2021. Polling cards have been sent out. The Community Centre in Lifton will be used a polling station.

5. General items:

5.1 Highways Update (including village traffic)

The response below from Devon County Council Highways in relation speeding in the village and North Road was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, as follows:

As you can appreciate, road safety is an emotive issue and one sentiment expressed regularly in the many letters that the County Council receive is the point that each individual site is an accident waiting to happen. To achieve a desired reduction in speed, measures such as traffic calming may need to be considered in order to alter the characteristic of the road so that it is compatible with the proposed limit.

The installation of traffic calming features is often required when reducing limits to 20mph and for this reason are limited to locations with significant vulnerable road users and where a speed related casualty accident history exists due to the expensive nature of such physical changes to the road.

I am aware of the response you have already received from my Development management colleagues in relation to the planning application and would reiterate that the alignment of the road serving the site constrains vehicle speeds and 30 mph speed limit is considered entirely appropriate having regard to the circumstances. Observed vehicle speeds in the area are predominantly less than the posted speed limit which was supported by previous speed readings. There are a number of trials countrywide regarding the wider application of 20mph limits but at present 30mph is the norm in communities and we will only consider 20mph limits in certain circumstances.

Once the housing development is fully occupied should further concerns be raised by residents we would be happy to take new speed readings so we can assess if there have been real changes in terms of vehicle speeds due to the development. The results of which would influence whether any future

changes to the road are necessary and would be discussed with Devon and Cornwall Police to ensure they support such amendments.

Reply from Development control

The concerns you have raised were considered at the time the application was assessed by the planning authority, West Devon Borough Council. I was present at the committee and answered the concerns that the committee members had raised. A copy of the planning committee report (and all other documentation) is available on West Devon Borough Council's website, reference WD/2323/16.

The committee decided to refuse planning permission contrary to officer's recommendation to approve, one of the reasons for which was pedestrian safety concerns. At the appeal determined by the Inspector for the Secretary of State following that refusal those matters were considered at an appeal (see paragraphs 12-16 of the attached Inspector's decision letter) and the Inspector allowed the appeal and granted planning permission having decided that the highway infrastructure was adequate to serve the modest development of up to 20 units.

The alignment of the road serving the site constrains vehicle speeds and 30 m.p.h. speed limit is considered entirely appropriate having regard to the prevailing circumstances. Observed vehicle speeds in the area are predominantly less than the posted speed limit. The introduction of a one-way system (which was discussed as a possible option at the committee) would actually potentially increase vehicle speeds in the one-way section as drivers could proceed quicker with greater confidence.

I realise this will not be the answer that you had hoped for and disruption during the construction period is inevitably an inconvenient consequence of any new development, whatever size. In this instance the Construction plan approved by the planning authority requires drivers visiting the site to be recommended to arrive and leave from the east – i.e. not past the school. The highway authority remain confident that, following the completion of the development, the situation will return to what prevailed prior to construction with a negligible increase in vehicle traffic. As can be seen from the decision notice, that was the view shared by the Inspector for the Secretary of State, too.

The Clerk informed Councillors that she had been in contact with the local PCSO regarding the concerns raised about the increase in traffic and speeding vehicles through the village, in particular along Fore Street, New Road and North Road. The PCSO responded and said that the concerns raised and request for a Speed Data Recorder to be installed in Lifton had been forwarded to the Camera Safety Partnership Team who would be in touch. To date, a response has not been received.

Cllr Glen reported that residents' vehicles in The Rowans were being blocked in and they were not able to get off of their drives because of congestion and poor parking during the main school run. The situation had become quite dangerous and could affect emergency services accessing the area. The same concerns were also raised with parked cars blocking access to The Lifton Hall Hotel.

Residents were advised to contact the Police on 101 or via their website to report the issue as it was illegal to block someone's property. The local school headteacher could be asked to remind those that drive their children to school to respect the amenity space in The Rowans and all surrounding areas. Some encouragement could also be given for locals to walk to school rather than drive.

The Clerk reported that the fallen tree by the bridge along Leat Road had now been cleared; the pothole on North Road had been filled in and with regards to the blocked drain on Fore Street, the Neighbourhood Highway Officer has checked the records for this gully. This gully was last cleaned out on 12th January 2021 but was logged as a 'slow runner'. The NHO has requested a CCTV survey is undertaken to see what the problems may be. This works should take place within the next few weeks. Councillors were informed that there is an on-going issue with the fly-tipped rubbish that had been initially reported to the Clerk by a local resident.

DCC Highways will be undertaking highways cleaning, all being well in April/ May 2021, as follows:

Footway – A388 Polson Bridge & Strawberry Fields to Lifton

Carriageway – Stone Cross to Cookworthy & Old A30 Sprytown Cross to Tinhay.

Action: The Clerk to provide an update to a future meeting once a response had been received from the Police Camera Partnership Team. The Clerk to send the details of the DCC highways cleaning to all Councillors via email.

5.2 Current Vacancy

The Clerk confirmed that the 'Notice of Vacancy' had been sent to WDBC and published on the Parish website and in village noticeboards. The deadline for election requests was the 13th April 2021. If an election is not requested, the Clerk will advertise the vacancy for a new Councillor locally.

Action: The Clerk to liaise with WDBC and keep Councillors updated on any progress.

5.3 North Road Development – Update

The Chairman reported that following the issues raised last month, the Clerk had written to Harrington Homes as requested by Councillors and that he had since spoken with one of the Managing Directors on several occasions. Harrington Homes agreed to place a new sign at the end of North Road as requested and reported that the building site vehicles would be parked on site from today. Assurance was also given that the verges along North Road would be repaired.

Harrington Homes have contacted their suppliers to remind them that their vehicles and drivers should use the signed diversion routes to access the site. No further issues with large haulage vehicles using North Road have been reported.

Action: The Chairman to report to Harrington Homes the damage caused to the verge by Whitehall Cottage.

5.4 Burial Ground

The Chairman provided an update on the project to create a new wildlife area in the cemetery. The local contractor has agreed to plant any leftover trees (provided by the Woodland Trust) in this area along with some new turf that already contains wild flower seeds. He would also clear the pathway and assemble and install the bench that was currently being stored at the QE11 Recreation Ground. The Headteacher at the primary school had been contacted and she was happy for the children to be involved in this project as part of their outdoor learning.

The Clerk had submitted an entry form to the Devon CPRE's 'Devon's Best Churchyard Competition 2021' and an application had been submitted for a WDBC Locality Grant for the sum of £100.00 to go towards the project costs. It was hoped this grant would cover the cost of the new turf and the purchase of a bird box and hedgehog house.

Clr Elias provided some information on suitable plants that could be used in the wildlife area and Clr Glen suggested that the Devon Wildlife Trust should be contacted for further advice on this project.

All Councillors agreed that suitable space should be set aside at the top right-hand corner of the cemetery for the new wildlife area and agreed that advice should be sought from the local contractor with regards to how much space could be allocated.

Action: Clr Elias to provide further details, including costs, for suggested plants via email to the Clerk. The Clerk to contact Devon Wildlife Trust for further advice on the project.

5.5 Future Meeting Arrangements & Business Continuity (including end of year finance)

The Clerk reported that DALC had provided a further response regarding how and when future parish council meetings should take place. Parish Councils were being encouraged to hold their Annual Parish Meetings virtually in April 2021 followed by the regular monthly meeting where the year-end accounts and audit reports would be on the agenda. This is to ensure PCs meet their legal obligations and the deadlines for the AGAR 2020-21.

The Clerk asked Councillors to agree to hold the next meeting on 29th April 2021 (a week later than planned) in order for her to have enough time to prepare all the finance and audit paperwork.

Decision: All Councillors agreed to move the next meeting to 29th April 2021.

The Clerk reported that, if the current Covid-19 regulations are not extended and the ability to meet virtually is removed, the PC may have to hold its Annual Meeting before the 7th May 2021. Following this date, there could be a period of time when the PC is not able to meet either virtually or face-to-face. In the event of this happening, the Clerk would update the 'Scheme of Delegation' and ask Councillors to formally adopt this at their last virtual meeting in April.

Action: The Clerk to keep Councillors informed of future meeting arrangements.

6. Reports:

6.1 QE11 report: The Chairman reported that some temporary emergency repairs had been made to the recreation ground gateway area. The holes had been re-filled using existing materials. A quote for a more permanent solution had been accepted by the QE11 Management Committee at their virtual meeting on Monday.

The QE11 Management Committee had also agreed the proposed phased completion of the new playground equipment project. Councillors received a detailed financial summary for this project prior to the meeting. It was hoped that phase 1 would be funded by various grants (details were provided on the finance summary) with phase 2 being funded via local Section 106 agreements.

Councillors asked what would happen if the various grant applications for this project were not successful. The project would either be temporarily put on hold or applications for funding would be made elsewhere. The project would not be cancelled.

Councillors were asked to agree, in principle, to provide £6,000 from the Parish Council budget to go towards phase 1 of the project, subject to all other funding coming through.

Decision: All agreed.

Councillors were informed that work on the decking at the front of the pavilion was going to be done. The non-slip surface in place at the moment was becoming a potential trip hazard. A suitable rubber-matting alternative had been sourced; thanks were expressed to Cllr Sutton-Woodhouse for his work on this. The whole decked area would be treated with a preservative in due course.

7. Finance

7.1 For payment

Clerk's salary for March	£ 416.22
Clerk's expenses: 2nd class stamps (12)	7.92

Proposed and seconded that all the above payments be made.

[Total payments: £ 424.14]

Action: Clerk to make all payments online.

7.2 Payment received:

Interest	£ 0.08
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7.3 Outstanding invoices: None

General matters relating to Finance:

7.4 None

8.0 Planning

8.1 Applications:

0261/21/HHO - Proposal: Householder application for two-storey side extension. Site Address: 11 Arundell Close, Lifton, PL16 ODP

Councillors fully supported this application.

Proposed and seconded. PC decision: support (9); not support (0); abstain (0).

8.2 Approvals:

0375/21/COM - Location: BT Pole WWLIFT-55-00 Footway at Arundell Close Lifton PL16 0DT.
Application Type: 28 (1 month) Communication PD Application. Proposal: Notice of intention to amend the location of a telecommunications equipment cabinet (Approved 3782/20/COM).
Decision: Permitted development

3848/20/FUL - Location: Lifton Village Hall Duntz Hill Lifton PL16 0BJ. Application Type: Full Planning Application. Proposal: Conversion of former village hall to family dwelling. Decision: Conditional Approval

8.3 Refusals: None

General matters relating to planning:

8.4 *There is no statutory consultation requirement on the applications below - the information is being sent for information only:*

0726/20/ARC - Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions (discharge). Application for approval of details reserved by condition 7 of Planning Permission 3557/17/FUL. Ambrosia Creamery, Car Park Station Road Tinhay PL16 0BB

9. Correspondence: Councillors received details about:

Draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay – Consultation
Devon Climate Emergency Council Support Network - Survey Findings and 1st Meeting

10. Councillors' items for future agenda: Two concerns raised by parishioners regarding the disused petrol station and the Community Centre. Defibrillator update.

Next Meeting: 7.00pm, Thursday, 29th April 2021 - via Zoom

Meeting closed at 20:22

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