

# LOXLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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## **Minutes of the Meeting Held at Greenbanks on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 19:30**

Present: Glynn Jones, Chair (GJ), Justin Whitehorn (JW),  
Maria Garcia (MG)

In Attendance: Karen Jones, Acting Clerk (KJ), Philip Seccombe, District  
Councillor (PS)

### **1. Record of Members Present**

As shown above.

### **2. To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence**

Apologies were received and approved from P Gregory-Hood, I Seccombe & K Osborne.

### **3. Declaration of interests in any item in the agenda**

GJ stated that Steve Wreford, MD of Appletree Developments (item 9 below) is an acquaintance having met SW briefly on a couple of occasions by virtue of the fact he was landlord to his sister in law for 12 months in 2006/07.

### **4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 2016 were read and approved as a correct record.

### **5. To receive any questions or representations from the public**

None present.

### **6. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not covered in the agenda**

Role of Clerk: Simone Bush has just this evening confirmed she is unable to take on the role for personal reasons.

GJ has emailed the other preferred candidate to ask if she is still interested. Otherwise the position will be re-advertised as the current acting Clerk will be working away from 1<sup>st</sup> March.

PS noted other clerking options that IS/PS could put Loxley in touch with.

Airfield:

PS updated the mtg that the District Council has designated Mountfield as an Airfield in the Core Strategy and any change to that would need planning permission. The businesses are still trading and the District Council have threatened compulsory purchase if necessary to protect the site.

## **7. Clerk's report**

### **a. Finance**

The Lloyds bank accounts have a reconciled balance of £20,106.25 as of the 9/12/16 statements.

The Groundwork report is presumed signed off as a second tranche of grant funding has been approved.

All payments approved at the previous mtg have been made, although several cheques are still to clear.

The previous Clerk's P45 has been issued.

### **b. Payments to be approved**

None.

## **8. 2017/2018 Budget**

GJ and JW (with KJ in attendance) met prior to this mtg and drafted the 2017/18 budget.

JW took the Council through the draft budget. Items of note were:

- Clerk travel – £250 has been added for this as the next clerk is likely not to live in the Parish.
- We have just reached the end of a 3 year grass cutting contract and need to go to tender for the next year. An increase of £250 has been put in the budget for this as price increases are anticipated due to such factors as fuel costs and the national living wage.
- NDP – the NDP relies on grant funding for which it must predict it's spend 6 months in advance; it cannot retrospectively claim. As this can be difficult, LPC has covered some shortfall in 2016 and may be required to do so again.
- The draft budget expenditure showed a 12% increase in spend but only a 2% increase in the level of the precept, in line with inflation.

PS stated that from a public point of view, Council Tax is to be frozen so although a 2% precept rise is negligible (around £1 per household for the year), it could be negatively viewed.

The meeting agreed to reduce 'other expenses' and return the precept to last year's level of £6,840.

It was raised that as the acting clerk is unpaid that the full clerk's salary in the budget could be questioned. However, the budget reflects anticipated spend from 1 April 2017, by which time a permanent paid clerk should be in role.

GJ proposed the Council accept the proposed budget, subject to the noted amendment above. This was seconded by JW.

## **9. Planning**

### **a. Planning Applications**

#### **16/03401/FUL 3 Hill Top**

Permission for a hard standing has been passed.

#### **16/03659/FUL Land off Goldicote Rd**

GJ confirmed he had responded in support of the application as agreed by the Council, subject to the conditions set out in the Sheldon Bosley report.

LPC and PS have received a letter from Appletree indicating that the planning officer is minded to reject the application, believing the site to be outside of the village boundary. Appletree have requested that the LPC make representation at the upcoming Planning Committee West, believed to be meeting in Kineton on 1<sup>st</sup> March at 6pm.

PS asked whether that site would have come forward in the NDP – GJ confirmed it did and that it is between houses.

GJ stated that if the planners reject sites like this, Loxley will struggle to find sites to meet their obligations. We notionally need to find sites for up to 30 houses.

PS reported a similarly positioned application in Halford that has been passed recently.

The meeting agreed that firstly they should check what representations have been made and whether indeed the planning officer is minded to reject and if so, on what basis.

PS recommended LPC add a note to their submission:

*"If the planning officer is minded to refuse the application under delegated powers LPC request that the case be considered by the East Area Planning Committee"*

He also recommended that a member of LPC needs to attend the Planning Committee West meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March. JW and/or GJ will attend.

GJ believes any site coming forward which complies with the evolving NDP recommendations should be supported by LPC. The planting scheme of the proposal was discussed - GJ confirmed that the Council's support stresses the importance of this.

### **16/03553/FUL Oldborough Drive, Orangery**

No paper plans received – but reviewed online. No objections as just minor amendments.

### **Box Tree Cottage Application**

V Leach has contacted GJ to ask whether he could talk to her Planning Consultant. GJ gave them the details of the public mtg on the 30<sup>th</sup> and the NDP contacts. V Leach has requested councillor(s) meet with her consultant on 25/1. PS suggested that it would be helpful for more than one Councillor to attend. JW to check his diary - if unable to attend with GJ, V Leach will be asked to rearrange for a date both can attend together.

## **b. Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Successfully received second grant of £1,000 for next 6 months.

Ian Davidson of the NDP group is going to talk to the preferred consultants.

JW asked about cost as the preferred consultants were more expensive. GJ reported that as their bid was by far the best, he had recommended the NDP go back to the preferred consultants and request a price reduction. This has been achieved and the cost is now within budget.

JW confirmed that Highways will be requested to comment on all the potential sites brought forward to the NDP, including those submitted as part of the 'Call for Sites'.

## **10. Playing Field & Playground**

MG: Next voluntary activity will be to spread fresh wood chip in the play area. MG will start to gather prices for material suitable for that purpose.

## **11. Traffic Issues**

Update on traffic calming and other highways measures

Sarah Jones, Manor Lane:

MG has spoken with SJ and reported that there is an issue getting on and off her drive, due to the volume of cars parked around the entrance to her driveway. The situation predominantly relates to the vehicles of one household.

MG has had a chat with the relevant householder and asked if the family could be more considerate in where they park, both for the neighbours and for access of emergency services. MG has been observing and believes the situation has improved.

Ms Jones also plans to get a white 'H' painted across her driveway by SDC at her own expense. GJ stated that Ms Jones has been informed that LPC have no objection to this and that she should go ahead and instigate it.

#### 'Fox Still Open' Sign on the triangle:

MG reported that following concern in the community that the sign remained after the temporary road closure ended, she had spoken to the pub landlord who promptly removed it.

#### Fallen Tree in Loxley Bushes Lane

MG also reported that Mr Johnson-Gibbs of the Old Rectory had reported a tree down in Loxley Bushes Lane. MG confirmed that Highways attended promptly and removed it, given at night the lane is un-lit and a serious accident could have occurred.

PS commented that these were all good examples of how community issues need to be resolved by talking to people before things get out of control and that MG had taken the correct approach. GJ thanked MG for her sensitive and effective interventions – which he felt to be a model approach which should inform future Council actions.

## **12. Environment**

#### Update from the Environment Group

Walks progressing under Julie Fewins

#### Flood Protection - request for assistance in funding flood protection measures

LPC had been approached to see if funding would be available to address flooding issues. However, the land in question is privately owned so the Council would be unable to provide funding in these circumstances.

PS asked if the Goldicate Rd planning application had an "attenuation tank" planned to release water slowly, as this development may add to existing issues with run-off.

#### Lengthsman scheme

There is a mtg 26 Jan @ 3pm at Wellesbourne and Walton Parish Council offices. MG to see if she can attend from LPC.

#### Temporary Diversion Signs left on the green

KJ to contact Highways to collect temporary diversion signs from Loxley.

#### Land opposite village green, in front of Loxley Farm

The legal view is that this land was wrongly designated as a 'village green'. Although there are people in the Parish who can remember community events happening on this land, it has not been used for decades. Hence the meeting agreed that LPC should not contest the recommendation that it be re-designated, lacking either resource or expertise to do so.

### **13. Community café**

JW and MG attended this event with mixed reviews and concern that it did not reach the people it was intended to, perhaps because Loxley is too small. After debating, it was decided that the Council would look instead to do other types of community event, such as the breakfasts and coffee mornings some nearby villages put on. Agreed this would be discussed later in the year when there was less other business to attend to as the idea was generally supported in principle.

### **14. Correspondence**

Circulated by email prior to the meeting. Highlight of the correspondence was Debbie's Thank You card.

### **15. Any other business**

- a) MG: Dan Baker asked about a dog bin near his house. Agreed we should do this. KJ to progress.
- b) JW: thanked the stand-in clerk.
- c) PS: told the mtg that he will be standing down as district councillor, due to the volume of work in his role as Police Commissioner. His resignation is imminent so that a replacement can be elected in May elections. Tonight would be PS' last LPC mtg, although PS happy to come back for specific topics relating to his Commissioner role. GJ thanked PS for his support of LPC and wished him well. LPC are very grateful for all PS and IS do for the community and attendance at LPC meetings. MG also thanked PS for all the support and advice he has given LPC. PS stated that LPC had always been a happy, friendly and courteous council.
- d) PS: noted that PCC Warks has published an online survey for budget consultations.
- e) GJ: the meeting agreed Debbie's replacement should be advertised.
- f) GJ: Following 'grumblings' in the community about bureaucracy when it comes to posting adverts for events, GJ was very concerned that the advertising policy posted on the notice board is too officious and sends the wrong message out. JW and MG agreed there should be something shorter on the notice board which states that the policies are 'available on the website'. MG remarked that LPC needs to be viewed as approachable and not bureaucratic for the sake of it.
- g) The mtg agreed that LPC should send PGH a Get Well card, following recent surgery. KJ to attend to this.

### **16. Date of next meeting.**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017