

Loxley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at Loxley School on 13th March at 19:30

Present: Glynn Jones, Chair (GJ), Justin Whitehorn (JW), Peter Gregory Hood (PGH), Dan Bake (DB), Ken Osborne (KO), Samantha Thomas (ST), Maria Garcia (MG)

In attendance: Izzi Seccombe, Vicky Leach, Christine Coote, David Brazendale, Richard Parsons, Sarah Boyle.

1. Record of members present

All Councillors were present at the meeting.

2. To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence

No Apologies

3. Declaration of interests in any item in the agenda

No interests declared.

4. To approve the minutes of LPC meeting held on 16th January 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2018 were read and were approved as a correct record with just one minor change from Loxley Hall to Loxley School, ST to amend and post on the website.

5. To receive any representations from the public

GJ noted that a draft NDP had been prepared and submitted to the Council for review. He emphasised the need to be objective – and hence the Council would be carefully reviewing and amending the draft as the document would be owned by the Council.

Following these amendments by the Council, a public consultation exercise would be held at which the views of the community would be actively sought and the plan would be subject to further revisions in light of views expressed. He reiterated the need for the process to be open and transparent, and the Council would be looking to take on board comments made in the consultation to give the plan the best chance of receiving a positive vote.

Given the significance of the Plan, the Council would like to see ‘clear blue water’ with support from a clear majority of the public. Hence, consultation and involvement of the community were key to the success of the plan. DB reiterated the importance of having a clear majority vote in favour of the plan.

Questions from the public:

Concern was expressed about the first consultation exercise and specifically changes made to the consultants’ site assessment matrix

GJ responded that the Council would be going back to first principles and be reviewing the basis on which sites had been rejected / accepted by the working group – but the starting point would be the consultants' recommendations - as consultant was an independent advisor. There would therefore have to be a strong and compelling case for rejecting the consultants' recommendations.

GJ asked whether the changes to the matrix had been approved by the group and the votes had been recorded in minutes. JW stated the changes had not been voted on by the working group.

Concerns were raised about voting / non-voting / abstentions in relations to sites by members of the working group

And concern was also raised that the consultants' views appear to be ignored. It was not clear why certain sites had been rejected by the working group when the consultants' matrix had not highlighted any difficulties that could not be overcome.

It was felt that residents were not able to speak freely at working group meetings, and in some cases had been prevented from speaking, despite the fact that the group was just an informal resident led group it appeared to be working on a very formal basis. The views were expressed that decision making-process was 'biased and disturbing'.

GJ responded by reiterating that the working group was not the ultimate arbitrator of decisions relating to sites – but the Parish Council. The working group was acting in an advisory capacity only. Hence the Council would be reviewing the Plan and site allocations at a specially convened meeting.

The starting point would be the views of the independent consultant. The Council would be amending the Plan in line with Councillors comments and the Council was fully committed to consulting openly and fully with the community and would be actively listening to their views and engaging residents in debate.

A discussion then ensued about site k, where there was the potential to amend access arrangements, and the view of highways did not definitively rule out the site. Comparisons were then drawn with other sites – with all sites having some drawback. GJ stated site k - along with others - that had been supported by the consultant but rejected by the group, would be carefully reviewed by LPC.

A discussion around the sites ensued. Councillors voted to put site G and site K back into the allocated sites for the Plan. The vote was unanimous, with no Councillors registering an objection at the meeting. Councillors further agreed that a separate meeting would be required to review the Plan and dates would be circulated in due course.

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

JW complimented the Kissing gate installation.

7. Clerks Report

The Clerk provided a brief update of financial matters.

Chq's for approval at tonight's meeting

- A) Lynwood Tree Surgery - £400 – no vat
- B) APS - £540 – incl £90 vat
- C) APS - £792 – incl £132 vat
- D) APS - £468 – incl £78 vat
- E) Warwickshire County Council - £96 – no vat
- F) Warwickshire County Council - £4500 – no vat
- G) Sam Thomas - £500 – no vat
- H) Grapevine - £140 – no vat
- I) Richard Mole - £60 – no vat
- J) CRPE - £36 – no vat

Payments r'cd

Bank interest - £0.27

Bank Balances

At last statement - £6,319.96 & £21,059.53

- less un cleared chqs of £3451.00
- Leaving a **total** of £23928.49

Councillors agreed to renew the subscription for CPRE but not renew Parish online. It was agreed that the renewal quote from Thomas Fox would be accepted if it was no more than 5% more expensive than the previous contract. The Clerk noted that although a number of other contractors had been contacted none had expressed any interest or submitted a quote.

8. Playing field & Playground

GJ had requested a quote for the multi-play area. And he reminded DB to obtain a quote for a bench in the park. DB agreed to bring this to the next meeting.

GJ also reminded Councillors that after the next annual meeting with the community the first meeting of the Playing Field Committee on which all Councillors were co-opted plus Julie Fewins (Chair of the Environment Group) had also agreed to join.

DB agreed to investigate who would be responsible for emptying the dog bin. MG had not updates on the gym equipment but agreed to bring these to the next meeting.

9. Traffic Issues

KO is waiting to hear from Graham Stanley about Safer Schools. There was a brief discussion about large tractors through the village KO agreed to clarify whether anything could be done to prevent those tractors not from local farms travelling through the village.

DB commented that there had been a couple of collisions on the hill and he asked if residents can report them to the Parish Council to ensure that we maintain accurate records.

Matthew thanked those residents that had gritted the roads and helped maintain access into the village.

10. Environment

Richard Parsons noted that drainage improvements had been completed at the top of Dancers Lane. However, the drain on Goldicote Road remains blocked as does the grid at the bottom of Dancers drive. GJ asked IS whether the Council could unblock the drain. IS stated she would make a request to unblock using the 'gully buster.'

The Parish Council thanked Yvonne Brocklehurst for the offer of two trees (Damson and Christmas). GJ to ask whether Yvonne would be happy for the Damson tree to be planted in the community planting scheme.

GJ noted that the Environment Group had requested replacement stiles. PGH stated that he was happy for the stiles to be replaced unless they were metal in which case he thought they would be inappropriate and another solution would need to be sought.

The issue of dogs being let off their leads on farmland was raised and it was agreed that the matter would be raised at the next meeting of the Environment Group.

11. Review of other outstanding actions from previous meeting

Covered under other items

12. Correspondence

None

13. Any other business

None

14. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 8th May 2018.

The meeting closed at 9.27pm.