

Loxley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at Loxley School on Wednesday 8th May 2019 at 19:30pm

Present: Glynn Jones, Chair (GJ), Justin Whitehorn (JW), Dan Bake (DB), Ken Osborne (KO), Peter Gregory Hood (PGH), Penny O'Donnell (PO'D) and Izzi Seccombe (IS).

Other attendees: Richard Parsons (RP)

1. Election of chair

GJ proposed by JW and seconded by PGH.

2. Record of members present and apologies

Glynn Jones, Justin Whitehorn, Dan Bake, Ken Osborne, Peter Gregory Hood, Penny O'Donnell and Izzi Seccombe.

3. Declaration of interests in any item in the agenda

JW declared interest under the planning item.

4. To approve the minutes of LPC meeting held on 12th March 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2019 were approved and could be placed on the website.

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

None.

6. Representations and/or questions from the public

RP noted that WCC have come out and looked at Loxley drainage / flooding and identified various shortcomings with the network. RP has invited WCC following their report to come out in the next few weeks to report back on actions and responsibilities. RP not yet got a date but will try this week and will inform DB.

Action:

- **RP and DB to meet with WCC to follow up on drainage issues identified in WCCs previous report with a view to identifying actions and responsibilities.**

7. District & County Councillors update

PO'D noted the following issues:

- Election – more independents and greens have been elected
- Continuing to work on housing matters – including preventing evictions and work on homelessness with more initiatives to follow.
- Planning – P'OD noted her availability to comment on planning applications as ward member. GJ noted that LPC should as a matter of course make use of P'OD to comment on local planning applications, although there had been no significant developments for P'OD to comment on since her election.

IS :

- Highlighted relationships built with Coventry to create partnership across health and social care. Has resulted in more joint commissioning and other areas trying to get more social prescribing, for example to address anxiety problems. GPs are currently paid on activity - creating perverse incentives - rather than encouraging better health outcomes.

8. Clerks Report

Review and discussion of applications for Parish Clerk

GJ introduced discussion of candidates both of whom he had met. CVs and discussions indicated that either candidate would be well qualified and well suited to fill the vacancy. IS spoke on behalf of KP who works on behalf of several other PCs locally, noting her efficiency and contribution as clerk to Halford PC. DB raised a concern about travel distances involved for RW; her experience was excellent but travel times would be long. On this basis, given that there was little else to separate the candidates the preference was to appoint KP which would include the usual 6 month probationary period.

Actions

- **GJ to report back to both candidates**
- **GJ/ KJ/JW to arrange for a handover with KP**
- **GJ to issue contract for the new clerk.**

To confirm payments & receipts:

Receipts :

- Wayleave - £23.84
- Precept - £3,465

Payments since the last meeting:

- Electricity - £17.18
- WALC - £126

Chqs for approval at tonight's meeting

- Insurance - £359.37
- Thomas Fox - £179.93

Bank Balances

- Bank balance - £25,901.05
- Uncleared - £2,806.36
- Cashbook balance - £28,485.51

9. Housing and Planning

a) Distributing Loxley Housing Needs Survey and annual meeting flyer

Suggestion both flyer and Housing Needs Survey are distributed together.

- GJ suggested distribution team:
- JW – Loxley Park and Oldborough Farm
- GJ – upper village
- DB - lower village

b) Planning decisions

Application for solar panels – no response.

c) NDP update

- SDC are currently in process of appointing Examiner – expectation of a referendum this Autumn. JW asked about choice of Inspectors – GJ noted two had been forwarded and preference was in favour of an Inspector with significant previous experience of the County, as in other respects there was little to distinguish candidates.
- Some SDC comments had been received in respect of Appendices – suggested course of action is to appoint consultant to respond to these comments.
- Groundwork have confirmed that remaining NDP budget can be retained for remainder of year given delays due to local authority elections.

Actions:

- **GJ to liaise with SBT WALC regarding the housing needs survey and to produce the flyer for the annual meeting**
- **Distribution team to deliver in the village – GJ to circulate survey and flyer along with respective address details (taken from the electoral register)**
- **GJ and Wendy Gadd (WG) to finalise appendices following up on recent SDC comments, drawing on the consultant as appropriate.**

10. Agenda items for the Annual Parish meeting

Organisational updates:

- School report (Liz Rowdon, office manager to report back)
- Church report (PGH)
- LPC finances update (JW)

LPC policy update:

- NDP / Housing needs survey (GJ) and P'OD to check availability to provide housing overview
- Flooding (RP/DB)
- Fox Inn (DB)
- Safer schools (KO)
- Priorities for coming year (All).
- Advertise vacancy for Councillor (GJ)

Community Q&A

AOB

Action :

- **IS to find out about ‘Safer Schools’ initiative progress in Loxley**
- **GJ to print flyer and agenda for community meeting and circulate (with housing needs survey) via nominated distribution team**

11. The future of the Fox Inn

The first meeting was held one month ago with leaflets advertising the event dropped through every letter box in the village and Loxley Park. Aim to gauge interest to put in a bid to operate as a community pub. The first meeting attracted 45 people, plus others registering interest who could not attend the meeting. DB and GJ chaired the meeting in the pub which highlighted a range of issues including viability, community interest, organisational structures and funding. The meeting indicated the strong level of interest in examining further the potential for a community pub and it was agreed to set up a working group of interested individuals.

A second meeting of the steering group met to progress planning. Time constraint biggest issue as the bid needs to be done by 31st August 2019. DB noted funding available specifically for Parish Councils which he will look into further and report back. IS also urged group to contact community pub in Norton Lindsay. Steering group will try and meet once a week to progress. Some of the funding streams need to keep records of community involvement – individuals and brief minutes.

LPC received report from DB and approved the general approach being adopted and would continue to offer positive support given the significant support from the wider community.

Actions

- **DB continue to report progress – to attend steering group meetings where possible - and update on funding opportunities.**

12. Councillor vacancy

To be progressed as and when permanent Clerk appointed in order to ensure appropriate procedures were followed. Several names were suggested who might be approached. It was agreed the Councillor vacancy would be advertised at the annual meeting.

13. Council priorities for the coming year

Councillors discussed and highlighted the following priorities for the year:

- Spending budget :
 - Seating on the park
 - Traffic calming initiatives (opportunities in light of the potential link to ‘safer routes’ initiative)

- Council capacity:
 - Appointment of new Councillor and Clerk
- NDP - completion of report and progression to referendum vote
- Flooding – securing improvements to drainage following on from the WCC report

The meeting briefly discussed options for spending the traffic calming budget, and it was agreed to discuss further with WCC in light of the on-going safer school routes initiative.

Actions

- **IS to identify WCC lead for 'Safer schools route' initiative and (in due course) set up a meeting with WCC highways to discuss options for spend of LPCs traffic calming budget.**

14. Correspondence

Clerks and Councils Direct distributed.

15. Any other business

a) Defibrillator

DB noted that the defibrillator been beeping as battery needs replacing as a brand new battery is required every four years. Also sticky pads needed replacing – had some quotes to replace pads and battery (£271). LPC unanimously voted in favour of the spend.

Action :

- **DB to purchase replacement battery and pads for defibrillator**

b) Park benches

DB had also circulated information on range of benches for the park.

Actions :

- **Councillors to email DB with preferences on options provided.**
- **To place on agenda for discussion at forthcoming meeting on the 9th July 2019.**

16. Dates of forthcoming Meetings for 2019/20

- Wednesday 5th June 2019 (Annual Parish Meeting)
- Tuesday 9th July 2019
 - PGH sent apologies in advance.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.