

LOXLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT LOXLEY SCHOOL ON 26th January 2009 AT 7.30 P.M.

PRESENT: P. Morris, (Chairman), P Gregory Hood, G Jones, M Nightingale.

IN ATTENDANCE: W. Gadd (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from I Seccombe and C Ayres.

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillors were reminded that they are required to disclose an interest in any item on the Agenda.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the last Meeting held on 8th December 2008 were read and were approved subject to one amendment. Paragraph 10 Line 8 was amended to “This proposal was passed with two Councillors in favour and one abstention”.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1. Village Website

G Jones reported that more progress had been made with the restructuring of the village website. It was thought that it would now be appropriate for the councillors to inspect the work and a meeting will take place Tuesday 3rd February.

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from Warwickshire County Council Stratford Area Office concerning the Parish Council Communications Grant Scheme and advising that there was still money available. The maximum grant is £500 and is available to help improve parish communications including the development/enhancement of websites. It was agreed that an application should be submitted.

4.2. 2 Hill Top

The Clerk reported that she had recently discussed this matter with Jeff Morris Area Surveyor Highways Department Wellesbourne Depot. He said that Miss Rackstraw had told him about the suggestion that the leaking water contained chlorine. He had contacted Severn Trent to check this out prior to undertaking any work.

5. FINANCE AND BUDGET FOR 2009/2010

The Clerk reported that on 2nd January 2009, the Parish had reconciled cash funds of £12076 held with Lloyds TSB Bank. This includes £3200 relating to the Flood Relief Grant. This sum is ‘ring-fenced’ and is to be specifically spent in accordance with the grant application.

The following payments were approved:

H M Revenue & Customs	3mths PAYE	£75.00
Staples	stationery	£17.98
CPRE	annual subscription	£29.00
Dr M Sill Grapevine A/c	parish magazine	£140.00
M Nightingale	printing	£9.00

The Clerk presented a proposed budget for the year 2009/2010 (please see attached) showing that a precept of £8700 was required which would be an increase of 45%. She explained that there was a projected deficit for the current year of £756 which had been caused by unanticipated expenditure on the play area of £1401 compared with the budget of £400. In addition, the grass cutting was £600 over budget due to extra cuttings and the collection of grass in the churchyard.

The Clerk presented the grass tender from Thomas Fox for the year 2009/2010 which showed an increase of approximately 3%. M. Nightingale proposed and P. Morris seconded that the tender should be accepted and this was agreed unanimously.

The Council then discussed the breakdown of the tender and the fact that out of the total annual cost of £2134 plus VAT, £826 plus VAT related to the churchyard and £217 plus VAT to the cemetery. The churchyard cost has increased significantly in recent years due to the request that the grass be collected. However, the church annual contribution has remained at £100 for many years. G. Jones proposed and M Nightingale seconded a proposition that the chairman should write to the Parochial Church Council requesting that they should make a 50% contribution to the churchyard and cemetery mowing costs. This was passed with two in favour and one abstention.

M. Nightingale proposed and P. Gregory Hood seconded a proposal that the increase in the precept should be limited to 20%. This resolution was passed. The Clerk was instructed to amend the budget to reduce the required precept to this level. The grass cutting budget is to be cut by £500 to reflect the proposed church contribution. If this does not materialise then the council will no longer be able to finance the collection of grass in the churchyard. The playing field budget is to be cut of £250 and the contingency by £500. Further minor adjustments will have to be made to achieve the reduced precept requirement.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

7.1 Wayside Stratford Road

A further application has been submitted by Diana Mason and this has been supported by the Parish Council.

7.2 Orchard House

The application has been approved.

7.3 Meer Wood House

A planning application has been received in respect of a rear extension to this property. The Councillors will visit the property and consider the application.

7. THE VILLAGE GATEWAY SCHEME

The Clerk advised that the results of the speed survey have been received.

M Nightingale has submitted a grant application giving a total cost of £6200. The maximum available would be 50%. However, P Gregory-Hood reported that I. Seccombe believes that our chances are not high as there is a shortage of funds.

8. FLOOD PREVENTION

8.1 Meer Barn Farm

P. Morris advised that John Lucas has not yet started work on this flood prevention project.

8.2 Goldicote Road

The Clerk advised that the drains on Goldicote Road were jetted on 12th December. The report stated that they had been full of mud. Highways Department have requested feedback from the locality to see whether matters have improved. Dave Tiley, Flood Prevention Officer has suggested that we should await feedback before embarking on the next stage of checking with cameras. The Council agreed that we should wait until the next Parish Council Meeting before decided whether to proceed further.

9. PLAY AREA

The Clerk advised that the Annual Play Area Inspection Report had been received. There were still several outstanding items, some of which we believed had been rectified. The Inspector has offered to visit to discuss the report with us. It was agreed that P. Morris, M. Nightingale, P Gregory Hood and the clerk will meet the inspector on 4th February.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10 General

Various correspondence has been received mainly notices of meetings, advertising and other miscellany. The accumulated newsletters and reports were given out to be circulated around the Councillors and to be returned to the Clerk at the following meeting.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11. Parish Plan

M Nightingale advised that we are now receiving regular parish plan newsletters from David Morgan, Project Manager Parish Plans and Rural Outreach.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for 16th March 2009 at 7.30 p.m. and will be held at Loxley School. The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.