

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE JUBILEE HALL ON 13th MARCH 2023

Present: Mr Duncan Boulton (Acting Chair)
Mr Les Gordon
Mrs Margaret Poole
Mr John Poole
Mr Ray Hudson

Ms Barbara Drysdale (Clerk)

Also present was: Cllr Caroline Newton (S0DC)

Apologies were received from: Cllr Caroline Hjorth (LPC)

Item 1: MEMBERS’ DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None were received.

Item 2: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 13th February 2023 were accepted as being a true record of proceedings by councillors and signed accordingly by the acting Chair.

Item 3: MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (INFORMATION ONLY)

- location of OCC tree has been moved from Lewknor to a more suitable site in Postcombe.
- in response to an email from LPC, the OCC Director for Planning, Environment and Climate Change replied that OCC would be seeking to discuss again the issue of charges at the Bledlow Ridge recycling centre with Buckinghamshire CC.

Item 4: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SESSION

No requests had been received by the Clerk.

Item 5: THAMES VALLEY POLICE

The Clerk told the meeting that the police had not given any information about the crash on the B4009 by the bus stops in early February.

Item 6: DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

Cllr Newton told the meeting:

She was asking SODC to draw up a policy on solar farms and their impact on the district, in the light of the high number of planning applications for such farms.

She said there was huge pressure on social housing with 1,277 on the housing register but under 250 affordable homes available. Many Ukranian refugees were coming to the end of their term staying with local residents and were looking for homes of their own. And discussions were underway for SODC to help re-home Oxford City residents in need of social housing.

The planning committee system was facing a backlog with more than 40 applications waiting to be heard.

There had been an increase in the number of complaints about litter on verges and pathways as vegetation was being cut back in the spring clean.

Chair:

Date:.....

The number of uncompleted routes by refuse lorries had dropped in January for the first time since May 2022. And the bulky items collection service had now reopening.

Central government money had been won to pay for toilets for the severely disabled to be installed in Thame Market House.

Acting Chair highlighted that refuse lorries were frequently not picking up bags of batteries and linen left correctly with bins.

Item 7: FINANCE

a) Councillors received and noted a budgetary control report for year to date from the RFO which showed balances as of 8th March 2023:

Treasurers Account: £1,627.01

Business Savings Account: £17,676.77

Hall Account: £6,317.18

The monthly Cashflow spreadsheet was approved and signed by the Acting Chair and Finance councillor.

The meeting noted that the RFO had transferred £1,000 from LPC's savings account to Treasurers Acc.

b) The meeting noted payments made after approval at last month's meeting:

i) Seated Furniture/Costcutters	Bench	£491.99	S.111 LGA 1972
ii) Seated Furniture/Costcutters	Anchor tool kit	£109.25	CIL
iii) Gala Tents Ltd	Marquee lights	£109.98	S.111 LGA 1972
iv) Royal British Legion	Tommy	£200.00	S.111 LGA 1972

Cllr Margaret Poole said the lights and Tommy had both been delivered and the bench was due later this week.

The Clerk told the meeting she had received formal approval from OCC to install the bench on OCC grassland in Postcombe.

Two quotes were considered for installing the bench; it was agreed that the Clerk would check with OCC about which contractor was approved to carry out the installation; the lower quote would be accepted, if possible.

Clerk

The Clerk told the meeting that once the bench had arrived, she would add all the items to the LPC insurance policy.

Clerk

c) The council approved payment of the following outstanding accounts:

i) Caroline Hjorth, Chair	Printer cartridge	£24.99	S.15(5) LGA 1972
ii) B Drysdale	Clerk's expenses	£29.25	S.112(2) LGA 1972
iii) Community Heartbeat	Defib pads	£72.00	S.234 Public Health Act 1936
v) Friend of the Ridgeway	Membership	£15.00	S.137 LGA 1972
iv) LPRG&H	Hall Rental	£84.00	S.111 LGA 1972
vi) PetWasteSolutions	Dog bin emptying	£92.95	S.111 LGA 1972
vii) OALC	Membership	£156.00	S.143 LGA 1972

And approved this payment to be made in early April:

viii) Seopremium Ltd	Coronation mugs	£504.00	S.137 LGA 1972
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d) The council noted that payment of LPC's ICO data protection fee would be made on 11th April 2023 by direct debit.

Clerk

e) The Clerk/RFO told the meeting she had had a meeting with LPC's new internal auditor who had raised no significant issues that needed immediate attention and would submit a report. The RFO would submit the AGAR and end of year finances to the auditor at the beginning of April.

Clerk

f) Acting Chair and Finance Cllr Boulton set out the facts and figures concerning the Clerk's hours works for the year 2022-23 which had been discussed by the Staffing Committee. The council formally agreed and approved overtime and holiday pay to be paid in April. (The

All

Chair:

Date:.....

relevant paperwork and approval would, as always, be finalised). The Staffing committee reported that the Clerk's contracted hours had not changed since Ms Drysdale took up the post in 2012 and that the evidence of the past several years showed that 30 hours was insufficient for the workload. Therefore, the council formally approved to increase the Clerk's monthly hours to 35 (to be amended on the Clerk's contract).

Item 8: PLANNING

- a) The meeting noted the following new application:
 P23/S0457/DIS Highfield, Lower Road, Postcombe
 Discharge of condition 4 (Plan of Car Parking Provision (specified number of spaces))
 on application reference number P22/S3243/FUL (Change of use to create a secure dog
 field on part of the extensive garden/open area of the applicant's house and a 2m high
 fence around the field.)
- b) The council noted the amendment to the following application:
 P23/S0047/HH Chiltern View, Lower Road, Postcombe Decision awaited
 Three storey rear extensions and reconfigure internally
- c) The status of the following applications was noted:
- i) P22/S2744/HH & P22/S2745/LB Poplar Farm, Box Tree Lane, Postcombe Decision awaited
 Proposed single storey rear extension, and internal/fenestration
 alterations to the existing house.
- ii) P22/S4594/FUL Aston Rowant Nature Reserve Car park, Sunken Way Walk, Lewknor
 Provision of revised access arrangements to Aston Rowant National Nature Withdrawn
 Reserve carpark to improve public accessibility and reduce anti-social behaviour
- iii) P22/S4649/HH Capriol, Lower Road, Postcombe Approved
 Single storey side extension and garage conversion, changes to elevation
 materials and window/door type
- iv) P23/S0174/FUL National Land Access Centre Aston Rowant Nature Reserve,
 Lewknor
 Retrospective change of use of land from agricultural to mixed agricultural use and for the
 demonstration of BS5709:2018 in practice being the use, maintenance and installation of
 gaps, gates and styles and to undertake training courses for countryside manager to
 increase access to the countryside for all, with associated operational development.
 Decision awaited
- v) P23/S0203/SCO Land bordering M40 near Lewknor
 Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion for a proposed solar PV array
 with an export capacity of approximately 49.9 MW covering an area of 83 ha,
 with an indicative maximum panel height of 3.2 m Decision awaited
 See also Item 6.
- d) Airband roll out in Lewknor. The meeting noted the following response from Airband:
 "A framework agreement needs to be in place before we can make a formal request to SSEN
 and that our legal team is currently working on this". LPC hoped that such an agreement
 would be found so that no more poles were erected in Lewknor.

Item 9: HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

- a) Cllr Hudson presented a summary he and the Chair had drawn up listing what LPC felt was
 needed to improve the junction of the M40 and B4009. Other councillors were invited to
 consider the summary and submit any further comments to Cllr Hudson, who would then email
 the document to OCC councillor Freddie van Mierlo.

RH

All

Chair:

Date:.....

b) Councillors noted the installation of 20mph signs in parts of the parish and that they were officially enforceable from today. It was agreed that LPC would wait a week to see if the remaining issue were resolved before reporting them to OCC.

RH/MG

c) Cllr Hudson reported on his survey of the A40 bus shelter; it was agreed that he and Cllr Gordon would carry out the necessary repairs, if possible, and would report back to LPC at its April meeting.

d) The Clerk reported that the Chair had been asked by residents for new salt bins in Beacon View and Church Lane. It was decided that a new salt (costing £250 +VAT) would be ordered later in the year for Beacon View; but that the business owner in Church Lane would be approached to buy one for Church Lane; if not, residents could collect salt from the OCC bin on the High Street.

Chair/Clerk

Item 10: CIL

The meeting noted that the new white village gates and the Village Only sign had now been installed in Postcombe.

The Clerk told the meeting that LPC had £10,540 of CIL funds still to spend: £1,500 had to be spent by October 2024, the rest by April 2025.

Item 11: CORONATION

See Item 7c iv)

It was agreed that while there would be some budgeted funds left over after the purchase of the mugs, there were, at present, no specific items that needed to be purchased.

Item 12: DOG BINS

Cllr Hudson voiced concern about the amount of dog waste that was left in the grounds of the Lewknor village hall. It was agreed that the Clerk would draft a notice to put in Grapevine, on the LPC website and on FB pages asking residents to clear up after their dogs and to highlight the dog waste bin at the entrance to the village hall plus the general waste bin by the playground entrance which could also be used.

Clerk

Item 14: NOTICEBOARDS

It was agreed that some refurbishment was needed on the South Weston noticeboard and the quote of £120 from Mr Soren Hjorth was approved by the council.

Clerk

Item 15: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- Community1stOxon: Emergency plan preparations: it was agreed the issue would be discussed at LPC's April meeting

Clerk

- CleanSlate donation request: it was agreed that LPC would approve a £50 donation in April

Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Chair:

Date:.....