

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE JUBILEE HALL ON 12th FEBRUARY 2024

Present: Mrs Caroline Hjorth (Chair)
Mr Duncan Boulton
Mr John Poole
Mrs Margaret Poole
Mr Ray Hudson

Ms Barbara Drysdale (Clerk)

Apologies were received from: Cllr Freddie van Mierlo (OCC) & Cllr Georgina Heritage (SODC)
& Cllr Les Gordon (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 15th January 2024 were accepted as being a true record of proceedings by councillors and signed accordingly by the Chair.

Item 3: MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- Postcombe hedges now cut
- UPW have been helping clear the Lewknor graveyard
- Village shop: contract with new tenants is being finalised, should be completed in next few weeks once fire risk assessment has been done and terms of agreements agreed.

Item 4: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SESSION

No requests had been received by the Clerk.

Item 5: THAMES VALLEY POLICE

There were no reports.

Item 6: DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

Councillors noted receipt of both district and county monthly reports; and apologies for absence from both councillors.

Item 7: FINANCE

a) The council received and noted a budgetary control report for the year to date from the RFO which showed balances as of 7th February 2024:

Treasurers Account: £1,411.38
Business Savings Account: £17,849.33
Hall Account: £6,205.58

b) Approval was formally given for the payment of the following outstanding accounts:

i) Tencer LPRG&H boiler repairs £1,519.77 S.111 LGA 1972
NB this payment was approved but would not be made until the repairs were successful.

See Item 13

ii) CPRE Membership £36.00 S.137 LGA 1972 Chair/RH

Chair:

Date:.....

- iii) PetWasteSolutions Dog bin emptying £92.95 S.111 LGA 1972
- iv) B Drysdale Petty Cash uplift £50.00 S.112(2) LGA 1972

NB this amount is lower than on the agenda due to the lower than predicted costs of printer cartridges

Clerk

- c) The council formally agreed to renew its membership of Friends of the Ridgeway next month
- d) The council noted the slight rise in fees from VisionICT (£2 for LPC’s email services)

Item 8: PLANNING

- a) The council discussed and noted the following new application:
R3.0010/24 Watlington Relief Road
- b) The council noted the status of the following applications:
 - 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) P23/S2490/LDE The Storeground, Aston Hill, near Aston Rowant Decision awaited
Mixed use of site for residential use workshops and storage
 - iii) P23/S4010/HH Poplar Cottage, Box Tree Lane, Postcombe Decision awaited
Alteration/extension to existing outbuilding to form residential annexe
The council noted an amendment: information on drainage
 - iv) P23/S4282/FUL Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve carpark, Sunken Way Walk, Lewknor

Provision of revised access arrangements to Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve carpark to improve public accessibility & reduce anti-social behaviour Decision awaited

Item 9: MANOR CLOSE

The council noted receipt of an email update from Cllr van Mierlo setting out the current situation on the issues around the entrance to the Close:
Land gap and adoption:
“OCC has advised Beeks on how to resolve this, which requires an application by Beeks to the Land Registry with a letter of support from OCC. I'm informed that at a meeting held between OCC and Beeks, Beeks has said they do not wish to do this. This means that the entry to the estate cannot be adopted by OCC highways, meaning future maintenance costs of the entry will not fall to OCC”.
Entry way to the estate:
“The current entrance to Manor Close is not built to the plans. Because the entrance is outside of the 'red line boundary' in the planning application, there is no enforcement action SODC can take. However, Beeks are willing to complete the work, which includes a footway, crossing and road surface work. OCC is willing to work with Beeks to issue the 'section 278' agreement that allows developers to legally work on the highway, without a resolution to the land gap issue. Beeks submitted plans to OCC in November but unfortunately due to an oversight OCC did not respond between November and January. Officers have asked me to apologise for this. Officers have now replied to Beeks requesting some further detail and information on their solicitors”.

Item 10: HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

a) Hill Road steps: OCC has confirmed the steps form part of the highways and are their responsibility to maintain; they will re-look at them. OCC has welcomed LPC’s offer of £1,500 CIL money towards a handrail. However, OCC says this will have to wait until the new financial

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year. Both the Clerk and Cllr van Mierlo have asked if this could be installed earlier, for safety reasons.

The trees overhanging the steps are due to be cut back soon; this project was delayed by emergency work needed elsewhere are the recent storms.

b) Postcombe anti-speed project: the village gates have been moved to stand alongside the 30mph sign, "dragons' teeth" have been painted on the road warning motorists of the reduced speed limit and the other lines have been re-painted.

The moving of 30mph VAS and installation of the new 20mph around the parish will happen soon.

JP/
Clerk

Cllr John Poole reported that the Postcombe Speedwatch group was planning a training session and would then carry out its first Speedwatch operation. The council discussed the provision of Speedwatch warning signs and high vis jackets for the Speedwatch group. It was formally agreed that up to £500 could be spent on these items - to be organised and agreed by Cllr John Poole and the Clerk. This would be funded by CIL money as it was of definite benefit to the whole community.

DB/
Clerk

c) FixMyStreet superusers: Cllr Boulton told the council he had had no response to his concerns about how the system of superusers was working. It was agreed that this would be raised with Cllr van Mierlo.

d) Mobility Hub: the council discussed the email from Cllr van Mierlo about plans for "mobility hubs". Concern was raised about what this would actually mean and whether it was appropriate for Lewknor. It was agreed that LPC would write to Cllr van Mierlo to raise their concerns.

All

e) Salt Lane bridge steps: the Clerk told the meeting that she had raised the issue of their safety with the OCC Paths Officer; she'd had no reply so far. Councillors said they would provide photos to illustrate the problems which the Clerk would forward to OCC.

All

f) South Weston roads: the council noted concern voiced by residents in South Weston about excessive mud on the roads from farm traffic and the damage done to some verges. It was agreed that the issue would be closely monitored.

All

g) The recurring issue of misuse of the "funeral path" off Salt Lane was raised. It was agreed the Clerk would ask Aston Rowant PC about the height barrier installed on one of their paths.

Clerk

Item 11: CIL

The Clerk told the meeting that she had forwarded information on the new CIL grant fund to the LPRG&H committee.

See also item Item 10b.

Item 12: ANNUAL LITTER PICK

Re litter pick on 23rd March. The Clerk told the meeting the equipment had been ordered and the declaration and safety forms sent off. A notice about the event had been published in Grapevine and on the parish noticeboards; and would in due course be published on the LPC website and FB page.

Clerk

Item 13: LPRG&H

The Chair reported that the engineer had worked on the boiler today but had failed to get it working again; therefore the bill would not be paid. However, the council agreed that if the repairs were successfully carried out – and the bill remained the same as the quote – this could be authorised and paid before the next meeting.

The Chair also told the meeting that another glis glis had been spotted in the hall. Rentokil had admitted they had not carried out the follow-up visits as set out in the agreement for payment back in November and had been back to resolve the issue.

Chair:

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The council discussed a request from LPRG&H for LPC to take over paying some regular bills out of LPC's funds set aside for the village hall. The Clerk said documentation about these payments would need to be formally presented and discussed by LPC before agreeing to taking them over. These would be requested by the Chair, as a member of the LPRG&H committee.

Chair/
Clerk

Item 14: SPECIALIST TOPICS

The council carried out its annual review of specialist topics. All remained content to keep their chosen topics. The Clerk suggested that membership of the LPRG&H should be added to the list. It was noted that the Chair had been the LPC member of the committee for more than four years; she requested that another councillor should be recruited as well. Cllr Hudson offered to take on this role. The council thanked them both for their service.

Clerk

Item 15: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- the Clerk had applied for a government offer of a free official photo of the HM King.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Chair:

Date:.....