

LONG ITCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3rd April 2013 AT 7.30 pm IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, STOCKTON ROAD, LONG ITCHINGTON

Present: Ian Briggs (Chairman)
Barbara Atkins
Frances Heales
Russ Wheatley
Wendy Charles
Richard Jackson
Rosemary Reeve
Linda Clark
Adrian McNally

District Cllr: Christopher Spencer
County Cllr: Robert Stevens
Parish Clerk: Liz Bonney
Members of the public: 1 but left before meeting began.

1. **Apologies accepted:** none.
2. **Questions from members of the public:** Mr Sidhu wanted to draw our attention to a proposal he was planning to make formally soon but was not present at meeting.
3. **Declaration of interests:** none.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 2013**
Cllr Wheatley raised a small change in that it should be Parish Council applying for the LILAC grant and not LILAC themselves.
Councillor Atkins proposed that the minutes, having been circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting, were signed as a correct record. Councillor McNally seconded this proposal and it was agreed.
5. **Neighbourhood Watch:** Cllr Charles brought to attention the fact that a high number of cars in Southam have had their catalytic converters stolen; residents need to be vigilant. Clerk brought to attention a list of police surgery dates to be held in the church.
- 6.1 **Report from County Councillor Stevens:**
 - 6.1.1 **HS2:** Judicial reviews were all lost except for the compensation scheme. It is likely that Warwickshire County Council will protest but is not official yet. The impact of road closures was discussed and the effect on Morton's farm. The 3 main roads to Leamington will all be affected so this will have a knock on for residents. Cllr Briggs asked about the impact on the school traffic and travel to Southam College may well be difficult for students.
 - 6.1.2 **Lights Switch off:** This is actually proving to be popular in Stratford and initial reports are showing that crime is down. This prompted a discussion about the scheme in Long Itchington. Cllr Briggs mentioned several calls from residents concerned lights weren't on. This has been advertised but residents are still unaware of the change until it actually happens. Harbury spent money on modern lights rather than trying to add the switching unit onto their current stock of lights.
- 6.2 **Report from District Councillor Spencer:**
 - 6.2.1 **Composition of District Council:** Has altered due to changes of party. The Conservatives still hold the majority but the overall control has reduced.
 - 6.2.1 **Core Strategy:** More consultants have been engaged but there is still not a date for it to be finalised.
 - 6.2.2 **Observatory report:** This census report was discussed and it was noted that some basic errors called into doubt the validity of the results.
 - 6.2.2 **Council Tax:** The leaflet enclosed with Council Tax statements and it was noted that the majority of SDC money was spent on refuse. An interesting point was made that the car

parks across SDC cost more to maintain than is actually taken. Cllr Spencer also points out the difference in SDC expenditure of 12 million and WCC's 366 Million. Cllr Briggs thanks Cllr Spencer for all his hard work in relation to the parish.

7 Reports from committees:

7.1 Community Centre report by Cllr Clark:

7.1.2 Spring Show: The planning for the spring show is going well.

7.1.3 New Carpet: The carpet is being replaced on the 19th of April.

7.1.4 Grant for Spring show: Confirmation that £50 grant for the spring show had been approved at a previous meeting.

7.1.5 LCD project: There is a plan to buy an LCD projector.

7.1.6 Lettings system: There is a plan to replace the letting system so it is less reliant on Chris Hancock and it will separate it from the finance system and be easier to use. Residents will be able to look at availability on the website.

7.1.7 Next Meeting: Of the community centre will be the 25th April

7.2 Communications

7.2.1 The Diary: Information will be sourced from other villages for new ideas for the diary. This will be discussed with villagers at the Annual Parish meeting. Cllr Briggs feels we need to get it back to a more local feel so people will get involved.

7.2.2 Social Media: Cllr Briggs raised the topic of social media in relation to communication of events. The majority of the council feel at this time we do not have the man power to successfully manage an interactive page such as Facebook or Twitter.

7.3 Emergency Planning

7.3.1 Meeting: Needs to be scheduled soon with all involved.

7.3.2 Floods: Cllr Briggs informed us he is still waiting for some acknowledgement from his recent meeting with Severn Trent (see March minutes).

7.3.3 Grit Bins: Grit bins have been filled well this year, Clerk to arrange quote for new bin at Stonebridge Lane.

7.4 Finance

7.4.1 March Expenditure: Cllr Atkins proposed this was approved for payment and Cllr Clark seconded this proposal.

7.4.2 Current position: Cllr Clark gave a report on the finances. Due to lack of bank statement the meeting was not able to finalise the end of year for 2012. The general picture is of an overspend on Open Spaces and Community Centre but under spent on Highways with General Council coming in close to budget. The decision was made to hold back on some lighting improvements due to concerns about lack of clarity of the financial picture. This may well leave us under spent.

7.4.3 Finance meeting: Proposal for a finance meeting to be held as soon as possible with Cllr Spencer giving the council a refresher. Clerk to arrange this soon. The Chairman felt it was important that all councillors are familiar with the accounts before each meeting and also felt that we must start the New Year in clarity.

7.4.4 Thanks: Is given to Cllr Clark and Spencer for all time spent on the accounts.

7.5 Street Lighting/Highways

7.5.1 Faulty lights to be reported:

7.5.1 Rhine Hill: The Parish Council needs to establish who is responsible for the light replacement on Rhine Hill. It was placed by WCC due to refuge in road, this has since been removed so WCC have removed the light and left half a post. Clerk to contact highways. Cllr Wheatley suggested looking into solar lighting as a way of reducing costs and being more environmentally sound. Clerk to look into costs and compare. Lots of fallen trees on hill, Cllr McNally to clear.

7.5.2 E ON: Clerk still investigating charges.

7.5.3 Highways meeting: Confirmed for 15th April.

7.5.4 HS2: A possibility that a base for workers will be in Southam near the football ground.

7.6 Playing Fields/Open Spaces

7.6.1 LILAC Project: Cllr. Wheatley informed the council that 200 trees have been planted on the new field. He had received a letter of support from the school in connection to the grant LILAC wanted. He reminded the council that it needed to be the Parish Council who applied for LILAC. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Wheatley. A meeting had been arranged with Warwickshire wildlife trust, as they can offer support with planting. Warwickshire college are going to help with some design work on Matty's bridge. A meeting has been arranged with Codemasters but this purely to raise awareness at this time. The Big Lottery grant decision has been delayed. Cllr Wheatley also mentioned the Annual Parish meeting, Christopher Purser would do a presentation for LILAC. Cllr Wheatley wanted the decision ratified for the council to pay the 11% upfront fee for LILAC's grant. Cllr McNally proposed this to be voted on, Cllr Atkins seconded the proposal and all present agreed. Cllr Briggs commented on the new planting and felt it was noticeable and something to be proud of.

7.6.2 Open Spaces meeting: Confirmed as 15th April.

7.6.3 Footpaths: No report

7.6.4 Pond clearing day: Planned for Sat 6th of April, 10-3:30, at present 12 volunteers and 2 new families. A simple lunch planned.

7.6.5 Village Maintenance day: Cllr Briggs suggested a day for villagers to get involved and clean up, the village has lots of winter debris. It is too much for Tom on his own. Suggestions included making contact with the probation team to get help, a road sweeper for the village. A discussion at the next Open Spaces meeting would be appropriate. Cllr Stevens suggested making contact with a community forum so we can see how other areas manage.

7.7 Planning

7.7.1 Monthly report: see attached.

7.7.1 4 Church Road: The proposal is to change the former newsagent shop into a flat. Until this becomes a formal proposal there is not a lot for the PC to discuss but in principle the council has no objection. It was felt that the PC can acknowledge that the Church Road location is a difficult place for a business to thrive. It makes sense for the owner to make a change of use. Subject to the details of the application we have no grounds to object.

7.7.2 Cemex: No news

7.7.3 Enforcement Matters:

Marton Road Farm: The number of caravans and the issue of people living in a holiday let is being looked into.

Lilac Cottage: Cllr. Spencer met with highways and although they own the road it is felt there is no further place to go with enforcement.

7.7.4 Stratford Planning Meeting 3rd April 2013: no items.

7.7.5 Planning Rota: Cllr Jackson and Cllr Wheatley.

8. Meetings attended/forthcoming meetings

8.1 WALC Liaison Meeting Tuesday 25th June: 5.30pm at Elizabeth House

8.2 Rural Housing Enabling Event: Tuesday 30th April 3:45pm- 6:15pm at Wilmcote Village Hall.

9. Correspondence for circulation

10. Other Items

- 10.1 Parish survey: action plan to be drawn up – Cllr. Atkins, this has been done
- 10.2 Post box for Stonebridge Lane/Short Lane: update from Clerk, still in progress.
- 10.3 Annual Parish dinner: feedback, lovely food but it was too cramped for comfort. Thanks have been received from Sue Jack and Christopher Hancock.
- 10.4 Annual Parish Meeting 27th April: speakers/format etc. to be agreed, Cllr. Briggs and Cllr. Atkins to meet soon to assign roles and decide on plan for meeting.
- 10.5 Beer Festival: No issues as yet but it has been confirmed that glass collectors will be employed.
- 10.6 Long Itchington Education Foundation: reappointment of trustees, the council are happy to reappoint for the current trustees for a further 3 year term.
- 10.7 Grant Request: Chloe Brown girl guiding trip. The Council discussed this and felt it was not appropriate to offer a grant to an individual but Councillors may donate personally. It was suggested that Chloe may attend the Annual Parish meeting with a display and accept donations from the parish.
- 10.8 Cap on Parish Council precepts proposal - a response is required: Cllr Briggs will write a letter on behalf of the Council.

11. Any other business – for information only

- 11.1 **Car Park Signs:** Cllr McNally asked for an update. Clerk is still investigating.
- 11.2 **Resignation:** Cllr. Heales will be resigning soon from the council. Cllr Briggs thanked her for her work.
- 11.3 **Pot holes:** Cllr Reeves wanted to draw attention to a pothole on Shakers Lane. Cllr Briggs will add this to the pothole survey.
- 11.4 **House signs:** Still a problem. Clerk to write to the estate agents.
- 11.5 **Pond day costs:** Cllr Atkins request £25 for a wood chipper. Cllr Jackson proposed this motion and Cllr. McNally seconded the proposal.

12. Date of meetings all at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre, Stockton Road.

1st May 2013 3rd June 2013 3rd July 2013 4th Sept 2013

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:30 p.m.

Signed..... **Date**.....

Planning Report

Application(s) reference: 13/00342/FUL

Proposed : Proposed erection of detached two bay open fronted garage

At : Snowford Crest, Snowford, Long Itchington, Southam CV47 9QQ

For : Mr Denis Welchman

DRAFT PAYMENTS LIST : Cheques 3434 to 3448

Cheque					
1	3434	32	Print5	Diary	81.75
2	3435	41	E.ON UK	Street Lighting maintenance	675.97
3	3436	56	Michael Jerome Carpets	CC Carpet	1,712.80
4	3437	48	Stratford District Council	Rates	386.22
5	3438	36	E.ON UK	Gas & Electricity	13.00
6	3439	27	I-CRE8	Domain names	63.74
7	3440	51	Colin Constable	Jogging track	5,702.47
8	3441	21	Mrs J Brown	Toilet cleaning	100.00
9	3442	21	Mr M Pails	Football Pitch maintenance	100.00
10	3443	22	Mrs F Sheasby	CC Keyholder	450.67
11	3444	20	Mrs J Fincham	Village Maintenance	0.00
12	3445	20	Mrs E Bonney	Clerk's Salary	782.58
13	3446	23	HMRC	Tax & NI	121.11
14	3447		Broker Network Ltd	Insurance	1,210.57
15	3447	45	Broker Network Ltd	Insurance	539.97
			Subtotal No. 3447		1,750.54
17	3448	34	Mrs J Fincham	Village Maintenance	75.31
				TOTAL	12,016.16

N.B. The following Cheque numbers were issued after the Parish Council meeting on 6th March;

1	3431	800.00	Michael Jerome Carpets	Deposit for CC carpet
2	3432	100.00	Mrs. J. Brown	Replacement cheque
3	3433	141.00	The Buck and Bell	Dinner guests x6

