

LAPFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd November 2020 At 7-30pm via Zoom

PRESENT

Cllr. Ian Hemsworth (chair), Cllr S Briant-Evans, Cllr J Down, Cllr H Hassett, Cllr P Heal, Cllr A Shapland

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr C Eginton (Mid Devon District Council)
Members of the public 7

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

20.214 Apologies were received from Cllr David Davenport and Cllr Donna Egan

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

20.215 There were no updates to the register of interests

20.216 **Personal Interests**

The following personal interests in items on the agenda were declared:

- Item 18; Cllr Briant-Evans declared a personal interest on any discussions relating to the Heart of Lapford Development project as she is a member of the Board of Directors as an individual.
- Item 18; Cllr Hemsworth declared a personal interest on any discussions relating to the Heart of Lapford Development as he is a member of the Board of Directors as a representative of the Parish Council.

20.217 **Disclosable pecuniary interests**

- Item 8.1.1; Cllr Heal declared a disclosable pecuniary interest as he lives in proximity to the property under discussion

20.218 **Dispensations**

No requests were received for dispensations from councillors on matters in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

20.219 The Chair invited representations from members of the public. He reminded them that only three minutes would be allowed for each speaker.

The following issues were addressed:

- The draft agreement between the Parish Council and Heart of Lapford Development had been considered by the Hold board and a formal letter written to the Council putting four points forward. This would be discussed later in the meeting under Part 2 after which the document would go to the Council's solicitor for a final draft to be produced. Once the agreement

had been signed by both parties it could be made public. The public had not been asked for comments, the document was the responsibility of the Parish Council. Risk assessments re the safety of the funds had been carried out, and the YCMC agreement with Hold had been considered as part of the process.

- The arrangements for Remembrance Sunday would be considered later in the meeting. Mr Graham asked to be part of that discussion.

Standing Orders were suspended

4. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

20.220 Devon County Council

In the absence of Cllr Margaret Squires there was no report.

20.221 Mid Devon District Council

Cllr Eginton reported that the MDDC budget showed a shortfall into seven figures. A revised budget was being drawn up and a meeting would shortly be held to debate it.

Concerning the second Covid lockdown small business grants would be available through MDDC. He clarified that self-employed income was dealt with by HMRC and that he was awaiting information as to when the business grants would become available. He had no information to hand as to what had happened about the kick-start grant for businesses but would make enquiries.

He requested leave to speak on the Boundary Commission recommendations for this Ward.

5. LOCAL ORGANISATIONS' REPORTS

20.222 Lapford Church Green Trustees

Cllr Briant-Evans reported that the annual insurance payment had increased due to the amount of cover having been raised and additions made to the items covered. The Trustees had agreed that an entrance way could be created between the Church Green and Lower Town Place. The contract for the refurbishment of the bank had been placed and volunteers had come forward to help. The Trustees wished to record their thanks for the generous donation received to help with the cost of this work. The Conservation Officer MDDC had been informed. The AGM would take place via Zoom on Tuesday November 24th at 7-30pm.

20.223 Heart for Lapford Strategy Group

Cllr Hassett reported that there had been no meeting

20.224 Heart of Lapford Development Board

Cllr Hemsworth reported that the Lower Town Place site was now open to the public and is being used. The YCMC was of the opinion that HOLD has now

reached 80% of the target set in the agreement between them. The AGM had been postponed due to Covid but would take place when feasible.

20.225 Wallingbrook Patient Participation Group.

Mr Bill Graham reported that information concerning the practice had been posted on social media. The practice was open for business and patients were encouraged to make contact over any concerns they might have.

The meeting reconvened under Standing Orders

6. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

20.226 Meeting held on 22nd September 2020

The draft minutes of the Council meeting held on 22nd September 2020 were considered and were approved as a correct record proposed by Cllr Briant-Evans, seconded by Cllr Down and approved with two abstentions – Cllrs Hassett and Heal had not been present. The Chair signed a copy. The Action Grid was reviewed in detail and noted.

7. COUNCIL ADVISORY GROUPS

20.227 Lapford Emergency Action Plan Committee

Cllr Briant-Evans reported that Lert responses were down a little but all working well. There were 14 active serving volunteers with 28 signed up to the team. The foodbank was still holding a healthy sum from its grant, and was now well-supplied. It was exploring ways of connecting with people who might need its services over the coming months. She drew attention to the DCC Local Outbreak Management Plan. A grant for Covid-related safety signage and items had been applied for. DAAT had been approached to help with the request to DCC to extend winter gritting operations as far as the school where the DAAT night landing site is situated. The issue of raw sewage discharge into the river by SWW under certain conditions was being followed up.

20.228 Regeneration Committee.

Ian Hemsworth reported that the railway issues were still being pursued, especially the lighting on the A377 and DC Highways' responsibilities following the coroner's report following the fatality on the bridge. Extra rail services were now in place and might be further improved when the new timetable came into operation in December. The village website had been active through the Covid emergency and there had recently been a meeting to discuss how it could be even more useful in the dissemination of information and spreading local messages.

8. PLANNING

20.229 20/01155/HOUSE Alterations to East & West fenestration and alterations to flat roof, Blossom Court, Lapford EX17 6AE

Cllr Heal left the meeting at this point. (See declarations of interest)

The meeting agreed to support this application. Proposed by Cllr Briant-Evans, seconded by Cllr Shapland and all in favour.

Cllr Heal returned to the meeting.

- 20.230 **20/01119/HOUSE Erection of detached garage/studio and garden room; alterations to porch. Broomsmead Farmhouse, Lapford EX17 6NA**

20.231 The meeting agreed to support this application. Proposed by Cllr Heal, seconded by Cllr Down and all in favour.

19/01801/FULL Erection of 7 dwellings following demolition of Public House (revised scheme) Yeo Vale Hotel, Lapford, Crediton EX17 6QT

Cllr Heal reported this to be an improvement on the former scheme in that it reflected the nearby architecture. The meeting felt that there was an ongoing issue re road safety with development on that side of the A377 particularly with the proposed houses being aimed at families with children. Cllr Eginton's opinion was that the developer could be asked to contribute to road safety measures on the A377. He would investigate this. With this in mind the meeting agreed to recommend approval proposed by Cllr Heal, seconded by Cllr Down and all in favour.

20.232

Planning decision 20/01155 Retention of garden room at 3, Bridge Cottages, Lapford EX17 6QS.

Refused. This to be monitored and looked at again in six months' time.

20.233

Planning applications received after the agenda was issued.

There were none.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

20.334 Receipts and Account Balances

Cllr Hemsworth reported that the current account balance stood at £59.341 including the remaining PWLB funds.

20.335 Payments

A list of payments would be available at the next meeting.

Cllr Hassett enquired whether the National Savings account was still active. The reply affirmed that it was, and a balance would be available at the next meeting. Cllr Down felt that the signing mandates for all the accounts should be looked into. She would be happy to look into the NS&I card position. The matter to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

10. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 20.336 The risk assessment for the Remembrance Sunday event on the Church Green was approved. Bill Graham confirmed the arrangements. Approval was proposed by Cllr. Heal, seconded by Cllr Hassett and all in favour.

11. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2019/20

- 20.337 These had not been received despite promises made

12. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN

20.338 These had not been received despite promises made.

13. WEBSITE

20.389 This was being reviewed with the intention that it would become much more user-friendly and make access to Parish Council and other relevant information much easier for people.

14. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES RECEIVED

20.340 Boundary Commission Consultation.

Information had been sent out to Councillors re the proposed change to include both Wembworthy and Nymet Roland in Taw Vale ward. It was proposed by Cllr Briant-Evans, seconded by Cllr Hassett that the change be supported. The meeting voted in favour. Cllr Hemsworth to respond online by Monday 9th November. It was also open to individuals to

20.341 respond.

MDDC response re the fence separating the car park from Lower Town Place.

This had re-iterated that the fence was now the responsibility of the Parish

20.342 Council.

DALC

Correspondence pointing out that the annual subscription had not been paid. A new invoice would be forwarded, and payment made.

20.343

Lapford Youth Club Management Committee

A statement from the Chair was read out.

15. MATTERS RAISED BY THE CHAIR

20.344 No matters reported

16. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

20.345 Dog Poo

Cllr Briant-Evans pointed out that people failing to pick up after their animals was an issue again. Cllr Hemsworth to download posters from the MDDC site for distribution.

20.346 Allotments

Cllr Heal reported that the allotments were now in the ownership of the Allotment Society. This meant that annual fees could be reduced. The plots were all currently occupied and there was a full waiting list.

Streetlights

20.347 Cllr Hassett reported that some lights in the village were not working. She undertook to find out which these were and report on line to DCC.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

20.348 The next meeting was set for Tuesday 1st December 2020 at 7-30pm via Zoom. The deadline for agenda items is midday on the Friday two weeks

preceding the meeting.

18. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

20.349 The Chair moved that the meeting move to Part 2 (confidential) session.
He thanked the members of the public for their attendance.