

LAPFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 15th December 2020 ay 7-30pm via Zoom.

PRESENT

Cllr S Briant-Evans, Cllr J Down, Cllr H Hassett, Cllr P Heal, Cllr A Shapland

IN ATTENDANCE Cllr C Eginton (MDDC), Cllr M Squires (DCC)

Members of the public 3

In the absence of Cllr I. Hemsworth Cllr Briant-Evans took the Chair

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

20.350 Apologies were received from Cllr I Hemsworth and Cllr D Egan

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

20.351 There were no updates to the register of interests, no declaration of personal or disclosable pecuniary interests and no requests for dispensations from Councillors on matters in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATON SESSION

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

The following issues were addressed:

- A query as to whether the agenda for the meeting had been posted correctly and in a timely manner. The Chair replied that she had been assured by Cllr Hemsworth that paper copies of the agenda had been posted in the usual places on Thursday 10th December and notices also placed on the village website. The usual posting on the Parish Council website had not happened because the website was in a state of error that day and no posting had been possible. She was satisfied that the legal requirements for holding the meeting had been met.
One member of the public left the meeting.
- Leave to speak on agenda item 14, Correspondence received. Leave was sanctioned by the Chair.

Standing Orders were suspended

4. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

20.353 Devon County Council

Cllr Squires stated that she had emailed her report earlier and she had nothing to add to it. As it appeared to have gone astray, she would re-send it via Cllr Briant-Evans for distribution.

20.354 Mid Devon District Council

Cllr Eginton reported on the trial arrangements in Mid Devon for the collection of recycling and refuse to be carried out in 2021. One thousand homes in a mixture of urban and rural areas would be part of the trial of five options for collections in the future. For instance, one option would be to collect refuse three-weekly rather than once a fortnight, but to balance that with a weekly recycling collection. It was not yet clear which communities would be part of the trial. The results would be analysed and used to inform future arrangements.

In answer to a question, he stated that MDDC were responsible for administering business relief grants and some community support during the Covid crisis. Relief to the wider community would come via Devon County Council.

5. LOCAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTS

20.355 Lapford Church Green Trustees.

The report via Cllr Briant-Evans had been received ahead of the meeting, see below:

The Trustees held their AGM on 24th November 2020.

The annual accounts 2019/2020 and the Chair's annual report were accepted.

Sue Briant-Evans was elected to serve as Chair, with Peter Heal as Vice-Chair.

Sue Briant-Evans was confirmed as the Trustees' representative on H4L.

An ordinary meeting followed the AGM.

A revised estimate for work to refurbish the bank separating the Green from Lower Town Place was awaited following a remeasuring of the bank and the agreement to make a gated opening through to Lower Town Place.

The Remembrance Sunday event on the Green had been well attended with people observing social distancing rules. It had been lovely to see the village's RBL flags paraded.

A meeting with the Trustees of the Community Church to be arranged in order to clarify proposals to make the Green more accessible from the Ark.

It was hoped that a Christmas tree would be put up on the Green as usual.

The Melissa Lake shelter had been in use as a parish exchange point during the Covid emergency.

However there were issues around this and it was decided to explore the possibility of using the redundant phone box instead.

20.356 Heart for Lapford Strategy Group.

Cllr Hassett stated that there was nothing to report.

20.357 Heart of Lapford Development Board

A report had been sent to Councillors ahead of the meeting, see below:

- A meeting of Directors was held on 4th December 2020

- Insurance quotes were being considered. A cheaper insurer than the current one had been found. That quote will be accepted unless the present insurer can match it. All invoices have now been paid. The VAT claim still to be processed via the Parish Council.
- The group liaising with the Victory Hall Management Committee was making progress towards siting the storage containers on Lower Town Place. A licence agreement has been drawn up.
- Solutions re the treatment of the fence between the carpark and Lower Town Place to be agreed with the Parish Council.
- The West boundary of the LTP site has been made more conducive to wildlife. More discussions around wildlife in the centre of the village will take place involving the PCC & LYPFT.
- The Trustees supported the idea of a public Carol singing event on Lower Town Place as long it could adhere to regulations in place at the time. The liaison group could arrange for the Victory Hall toilets to be open but not the rest of the hall.
- The Directors will next meet on January 8th 2021.

20.357 Wallingbrooke Patient Participation Group

Mr Bill Graham reported that it was hoped that a meeting to discuss Covid vaccinations would be held during the following week. A local strategy would be put in place and a vaccination hub site identified and set up.

The meeting reconvened under Standing Orders.

6. CONFIRMATION OF THE MNUTES.

20.358 Meeting held on 3rd November 2020

The draft minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd November 2020 were considered and were approved as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Heal, seconded by Cllr Hassett, and all in favour. The Chair signed a copy. The Action Grid was reviewed in detail and actions noted.

7. COUNCIL ADVISORY GROUPS

20.359 Lapford Emergency Action Plan Committee

A report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, see below:

The Committee last met on 3rd November. The December meeting has been postponed until early January.

Alex Gator and Sue Briant-Evans attended an MDCC Covid response meeting via Zoom on 4th November. Notes are attached to this report.

The Devon County Resilience Forum met via Zoom at the end of November. Notes re the sessions dealing with Emergency Shelters, the preparation in place by the Highways

Dept for winter services and DCC Community Services are in preparation but all the sessions can be accessed via the Devon Communities Together website.

A further letter has been written to Meg Booth (18th November) repeating the request for winter gritting services to the village to be extended as far as the school to protect access to the DAAT night landing site. DAAT and the Primary School have been co-operating with Leap over this matter. The correspondence was copied to Steve Tucker – DCC Highways, Mel Stride MP, Toby Russell – DAAT, Margaret Squires, Clive Eginton and Clare Wilmot at the School. To date there has been no response.

A grant application for £221.03 submitted to DCC in respect of Covid related signage and other equipment for the designated emergency shelters at the Ark and Victory Hall was successful.

Of the original Covid Emergency grant received (£4752) £2153.80 has now been spent leaving £2598.20 in the fund.

20.360 Regeneration Committee

A report had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting, see below:

- The Committee has not met but work re the railway has been ongoing.
- Following several meetings and much correspondence Network Rail is now engaged with the problem of providing safe pedestrian access to the station. A new pathway adjacent to the railway line has been proposed. The only problem being a safe exit from the path to the road at the Lapford end. Possibilities are being considered and Network Rail will prepare an engineering feasibility study by January with a view to bidding into this year's Community Rail Funding Budget.
- The DCC Planning, Transportation and Environment team is involved in talking the Network Rail re the possibility of providing lighting by the rail bridge on the A377.
- Other news re rail timetables has been published in the Lapford Lookout and on social media.
- Many thanks to Steve Munday for all his hard work on behalf of the community.
- It is hoped that the Committee can meet physically in the New Year to discuss other matters as well as those outlined above.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

No planning applications had been received for consideration.

20.361 Two Planning decisions were noted:

20/01497/HOUSE erection of detached garage/studio and garden room; alterations to porch at Broomsmead Farmhouse – approved

20/01728/HOUSE alterations to fenestration Blossom Court – approved

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

20.362 Receipts and account balances.

There was no update from the report at the previous meeting.

20.363 Payments

The payments in respect of £468.75 two years' subscription to DALC, £3000 for grass cutting and £75 for lighting the path to Eastington Lane were approved. Proposed by Cllr Heal, seconded by Cllr Down and all in favour.

Payments in respect of the rebuilding of the wall by Lower Town Place were deferred pending more information.

10.The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

20.364 It was noted that these would take place nationally between 2nd and 5th June 2022. It was felt that a village celebration could be organised nearer the time when more information would be available.

11.ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

20.365 There was no information to hand

12. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2019/20

20.366 There was no information to hand

13.Website

20.367 There was no new information to report

14.CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES RECEIVED

20.368 letter from a member of the public regarding the replacement of bollards in the roadway outside her property. The matter was deemed to be outside the remit of the Parish Council, but the MOP, who was present, was given pertinent advice by Councillors.

20.369 proposal for hedge planting by the fence separating the car Park from Lower Town Place received from Heart of Lapford Development Ltd. The Council accepted the proposal in theory but asked for a more definite list of costings to be brought to the next meeting for formal approval.

20.370 request via Tristan Peat (MDDC) from the Chawleigh Community Group for support for its application to the S106 fund towards an affordable housing project. Cllr Eginton explained that the 106 fund in question was not the open space one concerned with village amenities such as benches, but was a dedicated, separate fund. Any payment from it to the Chawleigh project would not jeopardise any future application from Lapford parish. A site for the affordable housing had been identified and planning permission applied for. Cllr Heal proposed, seconded by Cllr Down, that the application be supported. All were in favour. *Response action Cllr Briant-Evans*

15.MATTERS RAISED BY THE CHAIR

20.371 There were none

16. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

20.372 Footbridge across the river. Cllr Shapland reported that planks in the footbridge across the river were rotting leaving the bridge in a dangerous condition. The village Parish Paths Partnership Co-ordinator to be contacted as the bridge was believed to be a DCC responsibility. *Action Cllr Briant-Evans*

17.DATE OF NEXT MEETING

20.373 This was arranged for Tuesday 12th January at 7-30pm via Zoom.

A note was made that future meetings might revert to Wednesday evenings. This to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

18. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

20.374 The Chair moved that the meeting move to part 2 (confidential) session. She thanked members of the public for attending and wished everyone a very happy Christmas.

19.CLOSE OF MEETING

20.375 The meeting closed at 8-30pm