

MINUTES OF LYMPSHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 18/03/2024

Councillors Present: Chairman Mrs. A. Bennett, Ms. H. Allsopp, Mr B.Gooding, Mr. R. Leveridge, Mr. G. Tuttiett and Mrs H. White.

Also Present Mrs S. Ferguson, Clerk.

Minutes were taken by the Clerk. The meeting opened at 7.00 pm.

LPC130/23

Cllr Hinton sent his apologies which were accepted.

LPC131/23

It was resolved to approve the Minutes of 19th February 2024- Unanimous.

LPC132/23

Public Speaking –There were no members of the Public present.

LPC133/23

Planning Applications-

- 31/24/00002 The Barn, South Road, Lympsham. BS24 0DY. Erection of a Pole Barn. It was resolved to support this application as a necessity for a local business.

LPC134/23

The Clerk gave an update on Martyn's Law and suggested the item be raised on the Manor Hall Agenda in April. This was agreed and a reassessment of numbers was suggested due to less space whilst storing Academy furniture.

LPC135/23

It was resolved to join the Local Government Pension Scheme as required by legislation

LPC136/23

It was resolved to apply to the SALC Health and Wellbeing Grant Fund on behalf of Chatty Hour

LPC137/23

Footpath Clearance Quotations -It was decided to wait until the April meeting in order to receive a third quotation which was outstanding.

LPC138/23

Zebra Crossing/ Traffic calming request from a resident. This was discussed and it was resolved to show an interest in possible solutions by joining a register managed by Somerset Council known as the Improvement Delivery Scheme.
Action: Clerk to make initial contact.

LPC139/23

The Clerk suggested the Bank Mandate be changed to add Cllr. White as a signatory for the online accounts. It was resolved to do this.

LPC140/23

The move to GOV.UK email addresses was discussed and the Clerk has expressed her interest in training sessions leading to changing to a Gov.UK email for the Clerk/Council only. It was resolved to continue with a domain for this email only at this point.

LPC141/23

Eastertown Common- Two more Public Consultation was to take place, and further information was now available on their website.

LPC142/23

The Asset Register 2024 was presented for scrutiny and it was resolved that was a true record.

LPC143/23

It was resolved to award the Clerk a one-point increase in salary grade for satisfactory performance from 1st April 2024. This would be an increase of 27p per hour or £16.38 per month.

LPC144/23

All correspondence had been sent by email to Councillors.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING:

It was resolved to approve all March payments below:

- a. Whitehouse Kennels =£96.00
- b. Nichols Facilities (Speed Indicator Device Management) = £114.00
- c. Clerk Salary (please note higher amount is due to tax code change) = £935.12
- d. PGC Contracting (Grounds Maintenance) = £234.00
- e. HMRC (Tax/N.I.) = £418.97
- f. Dog bin stickers = £17.87
- g. Somerset Council (play area bins) = £97.66
- h. Annual Parish Meeting Expenses = £127.83

Figures below are after March payments. There will be a payment of Interest on 31st March into the Reserves account. Figures include the Nuttall Trust Grants which came in on 18/03/2024. (Please note the payments to Nichols Facilities Ltd are paid from CIL).

- C/A £2225.26
- Deposit Account £21,744.68

Breakdown: £773.66 Lympsham in Bloom Funds, £517.20 Gardening Club Funds, £920.42 Chatty Hour Grant, £350.00, Old Photos Group Grant, £8,200.07 CIL, £7,483.33 General Reserves and £3,500.00 remaining 2023-24 Precept.

- VAT (To reclaim) = £80.26
- Player –Mason =£2415.39

LPC146/23 Clerk Report

The Clerk has been preparing reports and finances in preparation for year end. The Asset Register has been updated to reflect purchases this year and will need to be approved. The VAT reclaim was sent in on 29th February and has been paid already.

The website has been updated with useful information on how to access Avon and Somerset Police departments online.

Speed through the village continues to be an issue and The Clerk has been liaising with residents, Traffic Management at Somerset Council, the school and the Police to gauge opinion and ideas to combat the worsening problem. This will be an item on the March Agenda, but may need further debate as the meeting is shortened to one hour, to be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Clerk attended the webinar on Gov.uk domains and websites. While it is not yet compulsory to have Gov. uk email address, it will be at some time in the near future, but most likely only for the Clerk/ Council. It is highly recommended for Councillors, but not thought to be made compulsory.

It was suggested to include as an item in the Budget for 2025-26, as although the email address cost is not too significant (£250-£400 annually), if current websites are not compliant with SSL certificates, do not have a Server that is UK based, are not WCAG2.1 compliant, do not have an Accept Cookies feature and so on, then a switch to a compliant new website may be needed. The cost of a new compliant website may be less than trying to update an

existing one in this instance. It was mentioned that Parish and Town Websites have to meet GDPR criteria and this is getting more complex each year. Security of information is more protected with a Gov.uk domain.

The Clerk emailed our website provider for his opinion on this. He replied that he doesn't use cookies, so that should not be an issue, he thinks he has a SSL Certificate, but will need to ask the Hosts. The Server is UK based and the website should be WCAG 2.1 compliant (this updated to WCAG 2.2 in October 2022). If Lympsham Parish Council was to consider a GOV.UK domain website, he would not be able to help with this as it needs a regulated approved registrar (JISC –Joint Information Systems Committee).

The dog waste bins are being used by residents to deposit large black bags of their animal waste which is causing a problem for the waste collectors, as this makes the bins difficult to empty. The Clerk will have some stickers made for the bins and has placed a notice on Social Media to ask for the bins to only be used by dog walkers, not to dispose of bulk quantities.

The Clerk has liaised with the Sports Club re the lighting of the Beacon on D-Day, 6th June 2024. It need to be established if Insurance is in place and a risk assessment carried out. The Beacon should be lit at 9.45pm. The Clerk has set up new Social Media pages for both the Café and Sports Club so that the Club Manager can effectively advertise events.

Landbased Services has put the Application into Planning for the work in the play area trees.

The Clerk has now heard back from Peninsula Pensions and taken advice. The Parish Council needs to pass a resolution to join the LGPS, and then send a copy of the Minutes showing this to them. Once the Council is registered then the process can be properly executed and letters sent out. This is on the Agenda.

No one has yet come forward to ask to take on the role of Editor to Lympsham News. The Spring edition goes out just before Easter and will hopefully prompt someone to volunteer.

General Reports:

- Somerset Council Report: Not available
- N.W: More rural crimes reported
- Lympsham Academy and Pre-school: Speeding issues past school reported
- Sports Club/Café: Going well
- Manor Hall: Nothing to report
- Highways: Clerk met with Traffic Management to look at signs needing changing and straightening.
- Play Area and Defib: Visual Checks carried out by Clerk. Defib reported to the Circuit.
- Grounds Maintenance and General Maintenance Issues: None
- Drainage Issues: None
- Footpaths: Clerk reported two blocked footpaths.
- Village Events: Easter Egg Hunt at Sports Club on Easter Sunday. Litter pick on Easter Monday.
- St. Christopher's Church Re-ordering: Cllr Leveridge gave an update, tenders have now gone out to five Companies.

LPC147/23

Items to take forward to the next meeting on 15th April 2024-Footpath Clearance Quotations on A370

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm.

These Minutes were signed as a true record on Monday 15th April 2024.