

MINUTES OF LYMPSHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 17/06/2024

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

Also Present Mrs S. Ferguson, Clerk, Unitary Cllrs. B. Filmer and T. Grimes and Mr. D. Smith (Chairman of Shop Committee).

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

LPC35/24

There were no apologies for absence or Declarations of Interest and Dispensations received.

LPC36/24

It was resolved to approve the Minutes of 20th May 2024- Unanimous.

LPC37/24

Public Speaking –The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.02 pm to allow the Chairman of the Shop Committee to update the Council on recent developments with the change to a community-owned shop and Post Office. The opening hours were now back to normal following a period of limited hours due to staff sickness. The accounts for the last financial year showed a loss of £4,000.00, and it is expected there was a loss of approximately £5,000.00 in sales due to the limited opening hours recently. The Nuttall Trust has awarded a grant to pay for more energy-efficient chillers which will reduce electricity usage. The proposed change from a Ltd Company to a Community Benefits Society was launched this month and an explanation was available in detail in the Lympsham News Summer edition which is published this week. Shares will be offered to encourage the community to have an interest in the new venture. The Shop Committee Chairman explained that under the new regime, the Post Office would pay a salary to the Shop Committee who would then use this money to pay the sub-postmistress and other part-time Post office-trained staff. Cllr White suggested that an Indemnity Policy might be advisable and advice on this would be obtained from the Plunkett Foundation. Chairman Leveridge thanked Mr. Smith for the presentation. Mr. Smith left the room and the meeting opened at 7.24 pm.

LPC38/24

Planning Applications-

- 31/24/00005/LE Batch Nurseries, Rectory Way, Lympsham, Weston-super-mare, Somerset, BS24 0ES. Boundary extension and change of use of land to the West of the existing site to create 20no. additional touring pitches to include erection of facilities building, demolition of outbuildings, creation of bund to the North boundary and associated landscaping. It was resolved to object to this application. The objections from Highways and the Drainage Board were noted. The site proposal was thought to be too large and would generate increased traffic on a road which was already prone to subsidence. There is a narrow railway bridge and the route is used as a rat run from Weston super Mare to Brean in summer months. The site is on Floodplain Three, and it was felt that the drainage would not cope with the water from so many extra pitches.
- 31/24/00010 6 The Crescent, Lympsham, Somerset. BS24 0BH. Erection of a single-storey (NW) front extension. It was resolved to support this application as it is in keeping with other properties in the Crescent in appearance and character.

LPC39/24

The Clerk updated the Councillors on the Bank Mandate which had been adjusted.

LPC40/24

It was resolved to set the Chairman's Allowance at £200.00 for 2024.

LPC41/24

It was resolved to put forward a Nomination for the Chair's Award.

LPC42/24

The quotation for Cyber Insurance was discussed and it was resolved to accept the quotation from Gallagher Insurance.

LPC43/24

It was resolved to obtain a quotation for a solar light in the historic Lantern at the Manor Hall and the repair of the light over the Hall porch. Action: The clerk to contact an electrician as soon as possible as the latter is a matter of health and safety to be fixed before the darker months.

LPC44/24

It was resolved to support the Lithium Battery Safety Campaign. Action: Clerk to write in support.

LPC45/24

It was resolved to ask for the 'For Sale' signs at the entrance to the village to be removed. Action: Clerk to write to the Estate Agencies involved and ask for the unauthorised signs to be removed following several complaints from residents.

LPC46/24

The Clerk gave an update on Speed enforcement following a visit from the Speed Van. Chairman Leveridge also spoke about the recent Highways Working Group meeting he had attended and there was an agreement to decide on the three priority areas of concern within the Parish, which he would take to the next meeting in September. It was agreed that the Copse Corner junction on the A370 was a great concern, followed by speed reduction and road resurfacing.

LPC47/24

FINANCIAL REPORT AND EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING:

It was resolved to approve all June payments below:

- a. Whitehouse Kennels =£96.00
- b. Nichols Facilities (Speed Indicator Device Management) = £114.00
- c. Clerk Salary = £793.90
- d. HMRC (Tax/N.I.) = £188.85
- e. Brackets for Play area = £56.20
- f. PATA (Payroll provider) = £61.05
- g. Dogs on Leads Signs for Sports Ground= £31.12
- h. PGC Contracting (Grounds Maintenance) = £532.80
- i. Postage/ stationary = £16.45
- j. Lympsham in Bloom = £16.00
- k. Hewish Printers= £514.00
- l. Gallagher Insurance (Cyber Policy) = £192.64

The following are balances after June Payments. (Please note Nichols Facilities Ltd is paid from CIL money).

- C/A £2,848.07
- D/A £48,691.30- (Comprised of Lympsham in Bloom funds £757.66, Gardening Club funds £517.20, Chatty Hour Grant £1,864.28, Old photos Group Grant £350.00, CIL £9,707.33, General Reserves £10,000.00 and remaining Precept 2024/2025 of £25,494.83).
- VAT (To reclaim) = £405.04
- Player –Mason =£2415.39

LPC48/24 Clerk Report

The Clerk submitted a revised grant application for Chatty Hour after feedback from SALC on a few of the criteria.

The application was successful and an award of £1,000.00 was made.

The tree work in the Play area will take place on Monday 24th June in the afternoon. The school has been informed.

The Local Government Pension Scheme has accepted Lympsham Parish Council as a member, training has been undertaken and the Clerk has opted out which has been noted.

The D-Day commemorations were enhanced by a flypast by three historic planes from Navy Wings which was a great honour. Thanks to Councillor Tuttiett for organising the beacon, Anna James for assistance with the beacon risk assessment, Jim Bishop for the wonderful memorabilia display, and Sarah Davis for her hard work organising the Choir, historic vehicles and spam sandwiches! The event was well attended and enjoyed by all.

It was reported that a tractor got stuck in Church Road on Thursday 6th June and some damage was caused to the railings of the Manor. A resident emailed the Clerk to say these had been left on the pavement opposite. The owners of the Manor arranged for these to be collected as they were a hazard to pedestrians.

The Annual play area inspection will be carried out this month.

The Lympsham News has gone to the Publishers and will be delivered this week. The Clerk wishes to thank Chairman Leveridge for his dedication and time in producing the Summer edition. The future of the Lympsham News will be on the Agenda in July for discussion.

There has been more vandalism to a Harvest Home bench to the right of the Pound. Also, damage to railings at the Manor has been reported to the Clerk. The railings were dumped onto the footpath opposite and the owners of the Manor were not informed by the perpetrator. These have since been moved back to the Manor.

General Reports:

- Somerset Council Report: Unitary Cllr. B. Filmer reported on Unitary matters. The voluntary redundancies mentioned last month had been voted through costing £12M. A restructuring of all tiers is taking place with many roles being merged. Consequently, morale is low amongst the workforce as a whole.
- LCN- No updates.
- Highways Working Group- see Min. 46/24 above.
- N. W: Theft of farm vehicle on 11th/12th June in Middlezoy. Theft of a quadbike and electric bike from a farm in Lympsham. Damage to a bench on the sports field and railings (see Clerk report).
- Lympsham Academy and Pre-school: The Clerk has informed the School that tree works will be carried out in the play area on Monday 24th June.
- Sports Club/Café: WhatsApp group for events set up.
- Manor Hall: Possible booking for a regular yoga group.
- Highways: Further pothole patching has taken place.
- Play Area and Defibrillator: Visual Checks were carried out by the Clerk, and there was nothing to report this month. The defibrillator has been checked and reported to the Circuit.
- Grounds Maintenance and General Maintenance Issues: See Clerk report re vandalism
- Drainage Issues: No issues.
- Footpaths: Nothing new this month.
- Village Events: The D-Day 80 event went well on 6th June. There are Open Gardens on 29th and 30th of June, and the Church Fete will be held in the Manor gardens on Saturday the 6th July.
- St. Christopher's Church Re-ordering: Cllr Leveridge updated the Council following his attendance at a meeting of representatives of The Parish of Three Saints and the parishes of Berrow and Brean; a combined Benefice Profile is being prepared as part of the process to appoint a new vicar, possibly in Spring 2025. Further to last month's update, an alternative contractor has been approached re lighting proposals at our church.

LPC49/24

Items to take forward to next meeting on Monday 15th July (to follow the Manor Hall Committee meeting at 7.00 pm):

- Co-option of Parish Councillor if Candidates come forward.
- Recruitment of ad-hoc Handyman

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm.