

MINUTES OF LYMPSHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 18/11/2024

Councillors Present: Chairman Mr. R. Leveridge, Ms H. Allsopp, Mr T. Collings, Mr B. Gooding, Mr J. Hinton, 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.

LPC87/24

Unitary Cllr. T. Grimes sent his apologies. Chairman Leveridge declared an Interest in Item 6 (request for a grant for Churchyard grounds maintenance. Cllr. Tuttiett declared an interest in item 5 (request from the Cricket club for a grant towards ground maintenance of the Outfield).

LPC88/24

It was resolved to approve the Minutes of 21st October 2024- Unanimous. These were duly signed by the Chairman.

LPC89/24

Public Speaking –There were no members of public present.

LPC90/24

Planning Applications- None received.

LPC91/24

A discussion took place. It was stated that the Cricket Club originally took on the maintenance of the whole field in return for not paying ground fees. The Parish Council took on the maintenance of the outfield from the lime trees to the pathway two years ago when it was mentioned that branches from the trees were damaging the Cricket Club's machinery. The Council has also paid for an uplift to the lime trees this year responding to resident requests, and as a health and safety measure, so that the benches underneath the trees could be used. In addition, the Council has given permission for sponsorship boards to be placed on the field to raise funds for the Cricket Club. With all of these extras in mind, it was resolved to grant a one off payment of £100.00 for each of the planned aerations of the field, a total of £200.00. This will be paid in December 2024.

LPC92/24

It was resolved to offer a grant of £850.00 towards the Churchyard grounds maintenance for 2024, an increase of £50.00 from last year.

LPC93/24

It was resolved to continue to support the Shop Committee as the shop made the transition from a limited Company to a Community Interest Company.

LPC94/24

It was resolved to add two ploughs (for flowerbed decoration) and the area known as 'Memorial Corner', West Road, to the Parish Council Asset Register. The Clerk was asked to update the Insurance policy to cover these. The work to reinstate the wall would be paid by CIL money as an improvement to a Community Asset.

LPC95/24

The national pay increase for Clerks was noted. An increase of 62p per hour was awarded and backdated to 1st April 2024.

LPC96/24

There were two quotations for the rebuilding of the wall around the water fountain at Memorial Corner. These were discussed and Mr. J. Ford's tender was accepted.

LPC97/24

An offer of match funding from a resident to install a third defibrillator in Purving Row was discussed. The Clerk confirmed the cost of the second with match funding from London Hearts, had come to £1250.00 including installation costs. The Councillors applauded the suggestion and asked the Clerk to thank the resident, but after much discussion, it was decided the location was probably not the best, as population density is very low and emergency vehicles might struggle to access the area. A third defibrillator was not ruled out in the future.

LPC98/24

It was resolved to purchase two brushed aluminum plaques to commemorate the achievements of Lympsham in Bloom and placings in the Somerset Field of the Year competitions.

LPC99/24

The Clerk updated the Council on Spending against Budget. She produced a prediction of spend until 31/03/2025 which currently showed a carry-over figure of just over £4,000.00.

LPC100/24

FINANCIAL REPORT

It was resolved to approve all November payments below:

Items marked * are from Community Infrastructure Levy money (CIL).

- Whitehouse Kennels (dog bins) =£96.00
- Clerk Salary November + back pay = £ 1033.60
- Clerk Quarterly Expenses = £100.00
- HMRC (Tax/N.I.) = £316.41
- PGC Contracting = £532.80
- PGC Contracting (tree works) = £594.00
- Locksmith and lock upgrade Manor Hall = £104.99 *
- Nichols Facilities Ltd (SID Management) = £114.00*
- CPRE = £36.00
- Repayment to Cllr. Leveridge for plants for village displays= £84.89

The following are balances after November Payments:

- C/A £2365.57
- Deposit Account £38,737.28. Breakdown: Lympsham in Bloom Funds £444.45, Gardening Club Funds £517.20, CIL £ 9,954.68, Chatty Hour £1,676.13, Old Photos Group £350.00, Capital Reserves £16,000.00 and remaining 2024 Precept £9794.82.
- VAT (To reclaim) = £1559.92
- Player –Mason =£2415.39

LPC101/24

Clerk Report

Lympsham News advertisers received invoices and the payments have started to come in. There has been £1065.00 received so far. There has been a CIL receipt of £3,357.68 from the three house development at Lympsham Manor Farm. The interest rate on the Unity Bank deposit account has gone down from 2.76% to 2.60 %.

The Clerk attended a lecture on Tree consultancy and found it very informative. An inspection of all trees on Parish Council maintained land should be carried out every two to three years.

The Chair attended online training re 'Evaluating the Impact of Health & Wellbeing Projects'.

The Chairman and Clerk attended the Somerset Parishes Conference on 13th November and reported back to the Council at the meeting.

The lock at the Manor Hall had been a challenge to say the least. The door sticks, so this interfered with the first lock the Clerk asked the locksmith to fit and it prevented the Academy from opening it from the inside on the latch. On his second visit, the locksmith suggested an alternative Yale lock with a new barrel as the exiting one was badly worn. He adapted the lock by disabling the snib button. This will prevent anyone accidentally locking the door from the inside. The costs can be paid with CIL money as an improvement to a community asset.

The new defibrillator is now installed and live at Whitehouse Kennels in Eastertown. It is registered with the Circuit which connects it to the Ambulance Service.

Quotes have been obtained for the work to reinstate the wall at Memorial Corner. The Clerk thanks Cllr Collings for his help with this. This can also come from CIL funds.

GENERAL REPORTS.

- Unitary Councillors – none present
- Shop Committee: Interest in shares had been slow.
- LCN: There had not been a further meeting but the Chairman spoke about the Somerset Parishes Conference on Wednesday 13th November. There are 272 Councils in Somerset but only 90-100 were represented. Devolution would be ongoing for the next 4-5 years and it was felt that consultation with the Parishes had been poor. How do Parishes know what to plan for in Budgets when they do not know what services might disappear? With extra responsibilities some Parish Councils would struggle to recruit and/or retain Councillors and Clerks. Engagement with our Community is vital to find out what residents perceive as priorities.
- Highways Working Group-The Chairman encouraged the Councillors to read and digest the information sent to them via the Clerk.
- N.W.: The Chairman is now sent all updates. As currently there are only three Co-ordinators remaining from the original local scheme, it was agreed to highlight the need for more volunteers and perhaps arrange a meeting in the new year.

- Lymsham Academy and Pre-school: No report.
- Sports Club: No report.
- Manor Hall: Lock replaced on entrance door. There was a successful book launch by the family of the biography of the Late Rev. Stanley Price.
- Highways: All defects reported.
- Play Area and Defibrillator: Visual Checks were carried out by the Clerk. The defibrillator has been checked and reported to the Circuit.
- Grounds Maintenance and General Maintenance Issues: None reported.
- Drainage Issues: Tanker spotted in The Boundaries and work in South Road where there had been effluent seepage from a cracked pipe.
- Footpaths: Nothing to report.
- Village Events: There is a Christmas Fair planned on 7th December.
- St. Christopher's Church Re-ordering- PCC Meeting this evening.

LPC102/24

Items to take forward to the next meeting on Monday 16th December 2024:

- Further consideration of Budget 2025-26 and a decision on Precept demand.
- Consideration of the provision of defibrillator training.
- Report from the Clerk on response from Live West to enquiry on Grounds Maintenance in Sedgemoor Close.

The meeting closed at 8 .49 pm.