

MINUTES OF LYMPSHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 21/10/2024

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

Also Present Mrs S. Ferguson, Clerk, and one visitor, Cllr. K. Bray

Minutes were taken by the Clerk. The meeting opened at 7. 15 pm.

LPC73/24

Cllr. White sent her apologies which were accepted. Cllr Allsopp declared an Interest in Planning 31/24/00014 as an immediate neighbour and Cllr Gooding in 31/24/00016 as the tree work is on his property.

LPC74/24

It was resolved to approve the Minutes of 9th September 2024- Unanimous.

LPC75/24

Public Speaking –The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.17 pm to allow Cllr K. Bray, Chairman of East Brent Parish Council / Chairman of the Burnham Local Community Network (LCN) to speak. Cllr. Bray is attending all Parish Council Meetings in the Burnham Group to promote awareness of the Community Health and Wellbeing Grants available from SALC and to encourage those Parish Councils in the group who had not attended LCN meetings to do so. Lympsham Parish Council has sent a representative to all meetings so far and has benefitted from a SALC grant for Chatty Hour. Chairman Leveridge invited questions from Members and thanked Cllr Bray for his time. It was decided that the Chairman and Clerk would look to provide a Community Needs Assessment similar to the one East Brent Parish Council had produced. Cllr Bray left the meeting at 7.23 pm and the meeting reopened.

LPC76/24

Planning Applications-

- 31/24/00014/LE. Batch Farm, Batch Lane, Lympsham. BS24 0EX.Outline planning permission with all matters reserved, for the erection of an agricultural worker's dwelling. It was resolved to support this as necessary for a local business.
- 31/24/00016/SR. Becks Farm, West Road, Lympsham. Bs24 0EG.Pollard all Ash within group G1(approx. 17 trees) to a finishing height of 2.5-3m from the ground. It was resolved to offer no objection.

LPC77/24

The Clerk updated the Council on the recent grant obtained and the purchase of the defibrillator and cabinet for installation at Whitehouse Kennels in Eastertown.

LPC78/24

The Clerk produced prospective Meeting dates for 2025. It was resolved to approve the Meeting Dates with any objections to be notified to the Clerk before the next meeting.

LPC79/24

It was resolved to purchase some winter flowering bulbs from Mole Valley Farmers. Cllr Tuttiett to pursue this.

LPC80/24

It was resolved to proceed with organising the tree work needed on two diseased Withy trees on the edge of the cricket field for health and safety reasons.

LPC81/24

It was resolved to purchase a Christmas Tree for Memorial Corner. Cllr Gooding to action this. There was a discussion on the wall which had been damaged, and Cllr. Collings offered to look for a tradesman to repair this as soon as possible.

LPC82/24

There was a discussion on the uncovered A370 footpath, the Clerk advised caution on laying any surface without consulting Highways Somerset. The Chairman agreed to raise this at the next meeting of the Highways Working Group.

LPC83/24

The Clerk updated the Council on Spending against Budget and there was a further discussion on the Budget for 2025-2026. She produced a prediction of spend until 31/03/2025 which currently showed a carry-over figure of £5,200.00 with a reserves figure of £16,000, amounting to roughly six months' budget. This was a significant improvement on previous years, however the Chairman reminded the Members that there was much uncertainty in the Somerset Council devolution plans for the next few years and to be mindful that more may be passed to the Council to take responsibility for.

(Unitary Cllrs. B. Filmer and T. Grimes joined the meeting at 8.17 pm).

LPC84/24

FINANCIAL REPORT

It was resolved to approve all October payments below:

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

- Whitehouse Kennels (dog bins) =£120.00
- Clerk Salary September = £ 793.90
- HMRC (Tax/N.I.) = £188.85
- PGC Contracting = £532.80
- Printer (refund to Clerk) =£38.99
- Stamped addressed envelopes for letters to residents –postage= £28.05
- London Hearts (Defibrillator and cabinet) = £900.00*
- Julia Rosser (Chatty Hour expenses) = £137.70
- Sports Club/café (Chatty Hour subsidies) = £128.00
- Nichols Facilities Ltd (SID Management) = £114.00*
- Somerset Council (play area bins) = £104.21

The following are balances after October Payments:

- C/A £1715.21
- D/A £38, 737.23 Breakdown: Lymsham in Bloom Funds £528.94. Gardening Club Funds £517.20, CIL £ 7,232.84, Chatty Hour £1,676.13, Old Photos Group £350.00, Capital Reserves £16,000.00 and remaining 2024 Precept £12,432.17
- VAT (To reclaim) = £1272.75
- Player –Mason =£2415.39

LPC85/24

Clerk Report

Whitehouse Kennels advised their prices will be increasing from 1st January 2025 from £5.00 per bin service to £7.00. The Clerk will adjust the figure in the Budget to reflect this increase.

PATA Payroll will also be increasing their charges from 1st January 2025 from £10.35 to £12.45 per month.

The Traffic Officer has issued new agreements from Somerset Council to be completed for SID locations and there is a new Memorandum of Understanding to be completed. The Clerk has to complete forms for all 12 locations. This is proving very time-intensive having to provide photographs with what3words location detail, the direction each location faces and having to write to residents of properties close by to ask for their permission to have a device located there. The Clerk will hand deliver the letters with a stamp addressed envelope for replies. In the light of extra work expected by Somerset Highways updating procedures pertaining to our SIDs, the PC requested the Clerk to claim for additional hours needed to complete such activities over and above her normal duties.

A Resident in Wick Lane has reported that some fencing along the railway line has been taken down and the line of the footpath is blocked with a high fence and laurel trees making access to the railway pedestrian gate difficult. This has been reported to the Footpaths Officer and the railway.

The Clerk has prepared proposed meeting Dates for 2025. The dates are all the third Monday of the month, bar April to avoid Easter Monday and September which is a week earlier due to no meeting in August. These will be agreed at the meeting.

An application for match funding for the new defibrillator and cabinet has been successful and ordered. This needs to be installed within four weeks of receipt and registered with the Circuit (Ambulance service).

The café hours are now reduced to Tuesdays only from 9 am – 2 pm. The Sports Club Committee announced the news on 9th October with immediate effect.

Unity Trust Bank paid interest of £303.55 for the quarter ending 30th September 2024 and there was a bank charge of £18.00 on the Current account. Going forward a £6.00 charge will be taken every month, rather than quarterly.

There are willow trees on the edge of the Cricket pitch that need attention. Two appear diseased and some branches are touching overhead wires and are over the Highway.

There was an incident at the end of South Road and the wall surrounding the red water fountain was knocked down. The Clerk has been in communication with the Company and Hauliers involved to discuss repairs. A goodwill payment has been made as there was no conclusive proof of fault.

GENERAL REPORTS.

- Unitary Councillors – Cllr Filmer spoke about the Somerset Council Budget which was on target for this financial year due to using reserves and selling off assets, but in reality was £80M overspent. The latest round of redundancies was taking place, and together with the recent voluntary redundancies about 1,000 positions would be lost in total. He mentioned a devolution proposal merging Somerset, Wiltshire and Dorset recently in the Press. Recycling plants are now in Winter hours. He warned to be wary of parking scams.
- Shop Committee: Interest in shares has been slow at this stage.
- LCN: The Chairman was present at the last meeting, but there were not many attendees.
- Highways Working Group: Chairman to attend next meeting. He gave a short update on the last meeting. Copse Corner was not considered by Highways as a priority for improvement.
- N.W: It was apparent that not all crimes were being passed on to the local coordinators and therefore the Community. It was discussed if a stronger approach to the Crime Commissioner should be tried as the process is breaking down.
- Lympsham Academy and Pre-school: No report.
- Sports Club/Café: Café now only open on Tuesdays. The SPFA Awards Ceremony was on Friday 4th October. Lympsham was Highly Commended. On the same evening, the Clerk attended the Somerset Chair's Awards with members of Chatty Hour who won an Award for services to the Community.
- Manor Hall: Meeting of Committee on 21st October.
- Highways: See Clerk report.
- Play Area and Defibrillator: Visual Checks were carried out by the Clerk, and some litter was picked up. The defibrillator has been checked and reported to the Circuit.
- Grounds Maintenance and General Maintenance Issues: None reported.
- Drainage Issues: Flooding of drains following heavy rain.
- Footpaths: See Clerk report.
- Village Events: There is a Halloween party on 31st October and a Christmas Fair planned in December.
- St. Christopher's Church Re-ordering: Approval has been given for the repairs to the damaged pinnacle. Consultants specialising in securing grants for the next stage of the process may be beneficial as the funds needed would be substantial.

LPC86/24

Items to take forward to the next meeting on Monday 18th November 2024:

- Further consideration of Budget 2025-26.
- Plaques for recognising Field of the Year and Lympsham in Bloom achievements.
- To add Memorial Corner and Ploughs to the Asset Register.

The meeting closed at 8 .51 pm. These Minutes were signed as a true record on 18th November 2024