

MINUTES OF LYMPSHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 09/09/2024

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

Also Present Mrs S. Ferguson, Clerk, and three members of the Public.

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

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Collings to his first meeting since his co-option in July.

LPC61/24

Unitary Cllrs Filmer and Grimes sent their apologies. There were no declarations of Interest.

LPC62/24

It was resolved to approve the Minutes of 15th July 2024- Unanimous.

LPC63/24

Public Speaking –Three members of the Public were present. The Chairman suspended the meeting at 7:02 p.m. to allow them to speak on drainage issues affecting their properties opposite the Car Base garage on the A370. The houses all had similar problems with their drainage into septic tanks/Cesspits. The residents had exhausted all avenues and come to the Parish Council for advice. The Council offered some suggestions and asked to be kept informed of progress. The three residents thanked the Council for their time and left the meeting which reconvened at 7.17 pm.

LPC64/24

Planning Applications-

- 31/24/00015 Broad Leys, Rectory Way, Lympsham. BS24 OEW. Erection of a single-storey garage. It was resolved to support this application as it was in keeping with neighbouring properties.

LPC65/24

The Chairman agreed to continue as acting editor of the Lympsham News for the next two issues and to review his position then.

LPC66/24

It was resolved to continue the Grounds Maintenance Contract at the 2024 rate for an optional third year, as both the Contractor and Parish Council were happy to do so.

LPC67/24

It was resolved to purchase a second defibrillator and cabinet. The Clerk was asked to follow up and facilitate the purchase and installation. The location would be in Eastertown and would be publicised when available.

LPC68/24

A planning breach had been brought to the attention of the Council. The Clerk was asked to report to Planning Enforcement.

LPC69/24

The Clerk produced Predictions of Expenditure to the end of the Financial Year and a draft Budget for 2025-2026. This would continue to be reviewed monthly and the Budget would be finalised in either December or January of 2025.

LPC70/24

FINANCIAL REPORT AND EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING:

The following agreed payments were made in August after the last meeting:

- Wi-Fi Manor Hall £495.00
- External Audit PKF £252.00
- Lympsham in Bloom (paint) £61.43

It was resolved to approve all September payments below: Items marked * are from Community Infrastructure Levy money (CIL).

- Whitehouse Kennels (dog bins) =£96.00
- Clerk Salary September = £ 793.90
- HMRC (Tax/N.I.) = £188.85
- PGC Contracting = £532.90
- Nichols Facilities Ltd (SID Management) = £114.00*
- Lympsham News Puzzle Prize (reimburse Clerk) = £14.00
- Play Area (mats and pegs) = £73.49*
- Lympsham in Bloom (paint brushes etc.) =£28.69
- Mr J Ford (Lympsham in Bloom painting of two ploughs) = £200.00
- PATA Payroll Services = £31.05
- Hewish Printers -Lympsham News = £527.00
- SALC (Annual Membership fee) = £275.27
- SPFA (Play area annual Inspection) = £85.00

The following are balances after September Payments:

- C/A £2,025.70
- D/A £40,933.73 (Comprised of £528.94 Lympsham in Bloom funds, £517.20, Gardening Club funds, £1,941.83 Chatty Hour Grant, £350.00 Old photos Group Grant, £8,096.84 CIL, £16,000.00 General Reserves and remaining Precept £13,498.92).
- VAT (To reclaim) = £990.08
- Player –Mason =£2415.39

LPC71/24

Clerk Report

The Clerk has prepared the Invoices for the advertisers in Lympsham News to go out in October. The Acting Editor of Lympsham News has produced another fine issue at a better price using an alternative paper, which will mean a saving of £87.00 per issue. The Chairman of the Parish Council has now produced two issues, and the future of this quarterly magazine is on the Agenda for discussion this month.

Members agreed to extend the initial two-year Contract for Grounds Maintenance for another year subject to both the Council and Contractor being happy with this. The Contractor is happy to continue; this is on the Agenda for consideration this month.

The bookings at the Manor Hall have picked up, and there are now weekly Yoga classes on Wednesday evenings and a Sound Bath evening on Thursday, September 26th. The two switches for the over door light have been replaced and the timer now works.

The clerk will update the members at the meeting with an offer of support from a local business owner.

As promised, the Clerk has started looking at predictions of spending until the end of the financial year. She will produce these in advance of the meeting so Councillors can be familiar with the figures before the meeting. She has moved £6,000.00 into general reserves, as shown below in the deposit account breakdown, which means the Parish Council holds six months of reserves.

Unless there are significant new projects or other unexpected expenditures not covered by CIL, the predicted Current account carry-forward figure in April 2025 looks likely to be more than £5,000.00. This will include the VAT reclaim and interest earned on the deposit account.

GENERAL REPORTS

- Somerset Council Report:
 - Winter Fuel Payments:** The announcement by the new Labour Government to stop paying Winter Fuel Payments to those pensioners not receiving Pension Credits will impact over 110,000 residents in Somerset. This together with the rise in the fuel cap will have a significant impact upon a large proportion of them.
 - Commercial Investments:** Somerset Council has completed the sale of another Commercial Investment - its property at Aztec West, Bristol. The building is one of many commercial assets that the Council is disposing of as part of its property rationalisation programme established in response to the financial emergency. Other commercial assets recently sold include the Steelite factory in Stoke-on-Trent and Howdens in Bromsgrove.
 - Bridgwater Celebration Mile:** Work on Bridgwater's Celebration Mile has now commenced. The pedestrian and cycle route will connect the railway station and the Northgate Docks which are also in line for regeneration. Both are funded by money from the Government through the Bridgwater Town Deal.

The closure of Eastover is expected to be in place until November when construction moves to the next phase. The scheme aims to re-energise the centre of Bridgwater by improving footfall and encouraging visitors to spend more time in the town centre. The route will include coordinated quality public realm materials, street furniture, shared surfaces, paving, lighting, street trees, interpretative material, public art, and improved wayfinding. **Reducing carbon emissions:** Somerset Council is encouraging businesses to reduce their carbon emissions by registering for the Go Green Scheme. Part of the scheme will enable businesses to take advantage of a free carbon reduction plan, which will improve energy efficiency and is likely to reduce running costs. The Go Green Scheme is funded by the UK Government to support businesses transition to a cleaner, greener economy. **Trading Standards:** Businesses across Somerset are being warned that they are putting their livelihoods at risk by not asking for identification when selling age-restricted goods such as vapes, tobacco and alcohol. This follows the prosecution of a shopkeeper from Bridgwater who has been ordered to pay more than £3,500 after being caught selling vapes to a 15-year-old girl. The girl was a volunteer in a test purchasing exercise on behalf of the Trading Standards Service. **Green Flag Awards:** Four of the Councils managed open spaces have been awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award for 2024 – Ham Hill, Yeovil Country Park, Wellington Park and Blenheim Gardens in Minehead. Somerset Council had taken the decision not to enter their parks into the Green Flag Award competition this year due to budget constraints but the four which retained their green flag status were entered by local voluntary groups and Minehead Town Council. **On Your Bike:** A new initiative with SUEZ and charity, On Your Bike means that bikes collected via the council's bulky collection service will now be donated to On Your Bike. Bikes are often collected and although previously recycled as scrap metal, they will now go to new homes.

- LCN: The next meeting will be held on 24th September and Chairman Leveridge will attend.
- Highways LCN: The next meeting will be on 17th September and Chairman Leveridge will attend and put forward safety concerns at Copse Corner.
- Shop Committee- Shares have been launched.
- N.W: The Chairman was concerned the number of alerts received did not match the amount the Co-ordinator said had been sent out so far this year.
- Lympsham Academy and Pre-school: Term commenced on 5th September.
- Sports Club/Café: New reduced café hours in place from 1st September. The SPFA Awards Ceremony is on Friday 4th October. Lympsham has won an award. Cllr Gooding will attend to receive the presentation. On the same evening the Clerk will attend the Somerset Chair's Awards with members of Chatty Hour who have won an Award for services to the Community.
- Manor Hall: Switches replaced on the outside timer light.
- Highways: Potholes and missing manhole covers were reported. Cllr Gooding asked the Clerk to report the broken sign at the junction of Brean Road /Rectory Way.
- Play Area and Defibrillator: Visual Checks were carried out by the Clerk, some litter and graffiti removed. The performance area with stage and benches has been installed. Thanks were given to Cllr Gooding for facilitating this. The defibrillator has been checked and reported to the Circuit.
- Grounds Maintenance and General Maintenance Issues: The two ploughs have been repainted and are ready for replacing as part of the Lympsham in Bloom displays.
- Drainage Issues: None reported apart for resident's concerns in Public speaking session.
- Village Events: 'Lympics' competition at Sports Club. There is a Christmas Fair planned in December.
- St. Christopher's Church Re-ordering: Following a recommendation, advice is being sought from a representative of 'Heritage and Community' which has been involved with several comparable projects requiring similar funding.

LPC72/24

Items to take forward to the next meeting on Monday 21ST October 2024:

- To agree on meeting dates for 2025.
- Further consideration of Spending 2023-24 and Budget 2025-26.

The meeting closed at 8.44 pm.

These Minutes were signed as a true record on 21st October 2024.