

MINUTES OF LYMPHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 21/12/2020

Councillors Present: Mrs. A. Bennett, (Chairman), Ms. H. Allsopp, Mr. B. Gooding, Mr J. Hinton, Mr R. Leveridge, Mr. G. Tuttiett.

Also Attending; County Councillor R. Filmer, District Councillor A.Gilling two residents and Mrs S. Ferguson (Clerk)

Minutes were taken by the Clerk. The meeting opened at 7.30 pm.

97/20 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 30th November 2020

It was resolved to approve the minutes of 30th November –Unanimous

98/20 Apologies and Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None received

99/20 Co-option of Councillor (Casual Vacancy):

Two candidates came forward. Both were proposed for consideration. (The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.35pm to allow the Candidates to address the Council).

A vote was taken and Mrs White was successful on this occasion. The meeting opened and the Clerk thanked the other Candidate on behalf of the Council, and will ensure all documentation is completed before the next meeting in January 2021.

County Councillor R. Filmer left the meeting before the next item.

100/20 Planning Applications for consideration:

31/20/00020 Wharf Farm, Wharf Side, Lympsham, Somerset, BS24 0EZ, Erection of a first floor extension to existing dwelling.

County Councillor. R. Filmer re-joined the meeting.

101/20 To consider Lympsham Self Build:

The Clerk gave an overview of the information received from the Landowner. The Members asked the Clerk to give feedback to the Landowner during the next month.

102/20 To consider New Residents Pack:

It was resolved to update the pack in January 2021, and the Clerk suggested leaving some copies at the village shop with a reference to be made to this in each edition of the Lympsham News.

103/20 To consider Budget for 2021-2022 and set Precept Requirement:

The Clerk presented a draft Budget to the Council and it was evident that there would need to be an increase in the Precept to continue to improve services and community benefits whilst maintaining and building a level of reserves for financial security.

The Members debated the Budget and it was resolved to accept a 9 per cent increase (£1500.00). This will translate as an increase to a band D property of £3.89 per annum or 32 pence a month.

104/20 To consider donation to Alzheimer's Society:

It was resolved to donate £50.00

105/20 Financial Report and approval of payments schedule for December 2020.

Finance report sent to all Councillors before remote meeting.

(These figures include cheques shown below).

101786 PGC Contracting £695. 00, 101787 Tasker Printers £521.00; 101788 CPRE £36.00; 101789 Clerk salary December £562.56; 101790 Christmas Tree £55.00; 101791 Alzheimer's Society £50.00 ; 101792

HMRC (N.I.) £259.00; 101793 Somerset Playing Fields Association £15.00; 101794 Whitehouse Kennels (dog bins) £120.00; 101795 Scribe Accounts (set up and three months)£442.80; 101796 Unity Trust Bank initial deposit £500.00 (Not deducted from below figures).

- C/A £7381.46
- S/A £ 1440.61 (new deposit account will be set up with Unity Trust Bank)
- VAT (To reclaim) £ 518.43
- CIL £176.21
- VE75/ H.H. £1625.00
- Player –Mason A/C £2406.15

It was resolved to approve the Financial Report & payments for December 2020 – Unanimous.

106/20 Reports; (to receive reports on the following matters):

Clerk Report

No further response has been received from the Somerset Climate Emergency Fund regarding the Funding application sent in by the Clerk

We have now received advertisement payments for Lympsham News to the value of £2455.00, there are still some to respond, and a final reminder will be sent out as soon as the new Bank Account is live.

Covid -19 cases have been confirmed this month in the village.

The Clerk has received requests from a number of residents organise Christmas Carol singing This is a difficult thing to fit in with the Covid-19 regulations, but a compromise has been reached and many roads in the village will be taking part in a ten-minute sing- a long on their own doorsteps on Christmas Eve at 6pm.

General Reports

Neighbourhood Watch: Farmwatch reported various break ins with the loss of agricultural machinery and red diesel. Telephone scam reported by Avon and Somerset Police, residents defrauded of money.

Lympsham Academy and Pre-school: Head teacher liaised with Clerk to arrange for decorations made by pupils to be hung on the Sports Club Christmas tree.

Sports Club: Still closed (as not able to serve substantial food with alcohol as required under Tier two restrictions.)

Manor Hall: Clerk has paid in cheques received from LPC and W.I. for hall hire in January and February.

Highways: Clerk has reported damaged sign in village and flooding opposite Manor Farm.

Play Area: To remain open during Tier 2 as per Government regulations. Inspection carried out by Clerk, nothing to report.

Grounds Maintenance and General Maintenance Issues: Last work now carried out until Spring.

Drainage Issues: Blocked drain opposite Manor Farm, see Highways above.

Footpaths: No issues reported.

Village Events: All currently suspended.

Lympsham in Bloom: Despite the RHS South West in Bloom competition being cancelled, we've just received a certificate congratulating 'Lympsham and Eastertown in Bloom on continuing to excel during COVID19' and we have been automatically entered into the proposed 2021 event.

Regardless of whether the competition is able to proceed or not, plans have been prepared to provide for a Spring / Summer display through key areas of our village with a colour co-ordinated theme. Although many villagers seem to appreciate the results, not many volunteers have come forward to help with digging, planting, watering, etc.

Village Signpost Sub-Committee: Still awaiting some feedback from County, but the Sub-Committee Chairman will be 'chasing' this up in the New Year.

St. Christopher's Church Re-ordering: Revised floor plans have been drawn up to include all positive suggestions so far to refurbish our Church.

Heating consultants have been engaged to offer advice to support future community use, but what can ultimately be achieved will depend on grants obtained and local funding support.

County and District Report: County Councillor B. Filmer spoke to the Members about the rising pressure on local hospitals with the Covid-19 infection rate increasingly recently, although the death rate was surprisingly lower than this time last year.

It is highly likely that Somerset will go up to Tier Three shortly with the emergence of the new variant of Covid-19.

He also mentioned that the Climate Change Fund applications would be decided by the middle of January 2021.

Cases of Domestic Abuse have risen alarmingly during the Pandemic. Last year there were 2,000 calls for help, this has risen to 10,000 during 2020.

The proposals by 'One Somerset' and 'Stronger Somerset' are now with the Secretary of State. It is expected that there will be a consultation period around February – March 2021. This may mean that Elections due in May 2021 will have to be postponed. Holding Covid secure Elections may also mean postal votes are used.

District Councillor A, Gilling spoke about Coastal Erosion after a question from Councillor Tuttiett.

107/20 Planning Application Decisions by Sedgemoor District Council this month:

No decisions made this month.

Items to take forward to next Agenda:

Grant requests from Lympsham on Bloom and Girl guiding Association

Next meeting Monday 18th January 2021 at 7.30pm following AGM of Manor Hall Management Committee

The meeting closed at 8.43 pm.

These Minutes were approved and duly signed on 18th January 2021.