

MINUTES OF LYMPHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 14/09/2020

Councillors Present: Mrs. A. Bennett, (Chairman), Mr. B. Gooding, Mr J. Hinton, Mr R. Leveridge & Mr. G. Tuttiett.
Also Attending; Mrs S. Ferguson (Clerk) & District Cllr A. Gilling.

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

62/20 Apologies and Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

County Cllr B. Filmer, Cllr H. Allsopp & Cllr N. MacLeod sent their apologies.

-It was resolved to accept the three apologies –Unanimous.

63/20 To resolve to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20/07/ 2020.

--It was resolved to approve the minutes of 20th July 2020- Unanimous.

64/20 Planning Applications for consideration: None received.

65/20 To approve Clerk point increase on completion of CiLCA Qualification.

-It was resolved to approve increase- Unanimous.

66/20 To approve refund to Clerk for purchase of Council Laptop.

-It was resolved to approve the refund to the Clerk- Unanimous.

67/20 To adopt General Power of Competence (GPC).

-It was certified that all criteria have been met and it was resolved to adopt GPC-Unanimous.

68/20 Finance Report and to approve payments for August & September 2020.

Finance report sent to all Councillors before remote meeting.

C/A £4784.59 S/A £1439.90 Player Mason A/C: £2406.15

VAT (To reclaim) £339.56 CIL £176.21 VE75/H.H. £1625.00

Cheques issued since July meeting from C/A.:

101259 £44.99 Malwarebytes 2-year subscription; 101260 £485.00 Tasker Printers (Lympsham News) ;101261 £120.00 Whitehouse Kennels (Dog bin service) ;101262 £63.16 Grass mats for play area; 101263 £706.80 Lympsham Concrete (Admin error paid to PC by mistake) ;101264 £553.52 Clerk salary September '20; 101265 £208.40 Clerk N.I ;101266 £250.00 Laptop ;101267 £170.00 CJT Handyman Services (Install picnic bench);101268 £600.00 PGC Contracting (2nd of 3 Grounds Maintenance).

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

69/20 To approve Grants Awarding Policy.

-It was resolved to approve the Policy- Unanimous.

70/20 To consider Community Logo Competition.

A discussion was held and it was agreed to hold a competition in the Christmas edition of the Lympsham News.

Action: Clerk to discuss with the Editor regarding Categories etc.

71/20 To consider White Paper on Planning & Consultation.

-The White Paper was discussed & it was decided to pass the document on to all Councillors for their comments, after which the Clerk will collate answers.

72/20 To consider request from Editor of Lympsham News.

-It was resolved to offer a sum of £60.00 for prizes per year, to be paid to the Editor in December in addition to the sum of £200.00 for ink & associated costs. -Unanimous.

73/20 To consider request from Clerk to attend Virtual National Seminar in October (£25+VAT).

-Cllr Leveridge proposed that the fee paid by the Clerk to upgrade to PSLCC (Principal Member of Society of Local Council Clerks) should be paid by the Council and that the Clerk should be allowed to continue her development by attending the Seminar. This was agreed by the other Members – Unanimous. The Clerk recorded her thanks for this.

74/20 Reports; (to receive reports on the following matters):

N.W: Break in at Manor Livery/farm. A horse trailer and a separate partition taken as well as bales of bedding. Email scam requesting fixed penalty payment. Loft insulation scam.

Lympsham Academy & Pre-school: All pupils now back at school with Covid-19 precautions on place.

Sports Club: Very successful end to cricket season, and bar takings have been buoyant. Award from Somerset Playing Fields Association to be presented on 18th September at ceremony.

Manor Hall: New lighting has been installed. What do the new restrictions of only 6 people meeting socially mean for the re-opening of the Hall?

Highways: Email from worried resident concerned about the speed on A370 past the Ferry Lane area. New sign ordered for Boat Lane as reported missing. Spillage of loose stones on road near Slade Lane, reported and cleared.

Play Area: Train has new bell & picnic table and springer tractor have been installed. Thanks were given to Lympsham Concrete who generously donated the concrete to install the Springer. Additional tree work required and carried out.

Grounds Maintenance & General Maintenance Issues: Regular GM taking place.

Drainage Issues: None reported. Ditch outside Manor Farm has now had a new pipe installed.

Footpaths; Withy tree blocking bridge on footpath at Manor Farm has been removed.

Village Events; All currently suspended.

Lympsham in Bloom: With the help of volunteers, Jim Hamner & Julia Carr plan to revitalise certain planters in October to cover the Winter /Spring period. They are also preparing a planting scheme for next year's entry for the RHS 'Britain in Bloom' competition. This may lead to a request for funding at a later date.

Village Signpost Sub-Committee: Following County Councillor Filmer's helpful intervention, a Somerset Highways Engineer is currently checking regulations & procedures re possible new signs. Once she has reported back to Cllr Leveridge, we can consider plans.

St. Christopher's Church Re-ordering: There has been some positive feedback from the Diocesan Committee that oversees church buildings, so over the next few weeks there will be further discussions with the Church Architect in order to work up scheme drawings for more formal discussion before the end of the year.

County and District Report:

From County Cllr B. Filmer.

Corona Virus Update: Whilst every death is undoubtedly an absolute tragedy, the situation in Somerset has been throughout the pandemic relatively quiet compared to the rest of the Country. As at 25th August, the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 1,373 and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 203. There was one further Care Home death in late July and the current number of total deaths across the County is currently 4% below the 5-year average. The latest R value for Somerset is between 0.8 and 1.1.

Return to School: Children of all ages are expected to return to school over the next two weeks with the clear message from Somerset's head teachers that they are ready and can't wait to welcome the pupils back. Measures being put in place vary from school to school but include: Year group or class group bubbles; one-way systems; regular hand sanitizing and cleaning of spaces; desks organised in rows all facing the front and spaced out; outside areas divided into 'zones', which are allocated to specific groups of children plus staggered start and finish times.

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Signed:

Chairman

Date:

Return to School and College Transport: SCC is following current Government guidance in relation to school and college transport. Parents and students are being advised to walk, cycle or be driven to school or college where possible. For those that use school transport Students are advised to sit with their year group and are strongly advised to wear face coverings on the bus. For college transport, routes where additional capacity is needed, SCC are laying on approx. 20 additional buses at peak times. Details are at: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/schooltransport>

One Somerset: The business case to move to a Single Unitary authority across Somerset is available on www.onesomerset.org.uk and details the reasons for the recommendations and the substantial benefits to the residents of Somerset. The business case was approved by Full Council on the 29th July for submission to the Secretary of State. Engagement and consultation activities on One Somerset will continue through the later summer and autumn.

District Cllr A. Gilling spoke briefly about the proposal for a Unitary Council in Somerset. The County is the fifth largest in the U.K. which could be a challenge to manage geographically. He also mentioned the housing element was very buoyant in the County at present.

Clerk Report.

The village website has been made accessible by Decision Power and now has an Accessibility Statement attached to explain any discrepancies as required by new legislation coming in this month on 23rd.

Clerk has prepared the Meeting Calendar for 2021 and has issued a draft copy.

Monies from Advertising in L.N are steadily coming in. To date £1675.00 has been received.

The new email address for the Clerk is working well. It is recommended that Councillors set up a separate email address for Council business. With this in mind, the Clerk has removed the information on the website showing individual Councillor email addresses.

The Accessibility rules coming in this month will mean that scanned PDF documents are not able to be loaded, as they cannot be read properly by people who are using a device to read. Therefore, the Minutes will be loaded without a Chairman signature, and will have a note to say Minutes signed on (the meeting date), at (time).

A resident contacted the Clerk to ask if and how consideration could be given to a footpath from the A370 into the village, as more people are using the road to walk to school etc and the road is very busy and narrow. The Clerk was asked to pass on the request to Members and District Councillor Filmer. The history of this much wanted project would be explained to the resident, the Clerk sends thanks to Cllr Leveridge for providing this historical information.

The Clerk has been approached by a charity 'Centre for Sustainable Energy Information' (Safe & Warm Somerset) who offer help for people and families struggling with energy bills or having issues with their heating systems. They offer free advice and can help with emergency pre-payment meter top-ups, room heaters and home energy improvements. The Clerk has details and has displayed posters should any resident need this service.

The W.I. have sent a letter which the Clerk has forwarded to Councillors and (with the permission of the W.I.), to the Chairman of the Sports Club.

75/20 Items for discussion at next meeting;

- Letter from W.I.
- Ideas for Climate Change Fund Application

[Next meeting Monday 19th October 2020.](#)

**** Following Meeting of the Manor Hall Management Committee.

Planning Application Decisions by SDC this month;

31/20/00010 Land at Delhorn Lane, Lympsham, Somerset, BS24. Erection of agricultural storage building. Mr Johnson.

Decision Date :08/09/2020. Decision: Granted Permission. Decision Level: Delegated

The meeting closed at 8.46 pm.

Minutes signed as a true record at 8.02pm 19th October 2020.

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Signed:

Chairman

Date: