

LIDGATE PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th July 2019**

Councillors present: Paul Watchman, Steve Child, Chris Stembridge, Carol Sharp and Hayley Mableson

Also present: Joanne Kirk (Clerk) and two members of the public

In the absence of the chairman, Paul Watchman chaired the meeting.

Open Forum

The following issues were raised during the Open Forum:

- Work has started on cleaning the war memorial cross. The Friends of Lidgate Churchyard help maintain the churchyard and are able to fund most of the recommissioning which includes adding four more names. They will notify the village of any shortfall once the exact figures are known. The suggestion is to try and raise the money through donations by 15th January 2020 which is when the war memorial is going to be recommissioned. A donation from the Parish Council would be welcome.
1. **Acceptance of apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from John Whitefield and Laura Perry.
 2. **Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda and dispensation requests**
No councillors declared an interest in any items on the agenda and no dispensation requests were made.
 3. **Approval of minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 15th May 2019**
It was resolved that the minutes were correct. The chairman then signed them.
 4. **County Councillors Report**
 - Road closures is one of the biggest sources of complaint by residents and in particular poor signage. Suffolk County Council will expect contractors to provide specific details about road closures in future.
 - Mary Evans chairs the Suffolk Road Safe board. There is currently a trial in North Suffolk where a parish purchased an ANPR scheme. The Police do not want to run an ANPR scheme, but Mary Evans is investigating whether Suffolk County Council could run a scheme with a mobile ANPR. Offenders would be sent a letter by the Police. The Police will only enforce speeding in areas where there is an accident history.
 - Verge cutting has improved this year. There is a view that a larger area of verges should be left uncut until later in the year to allow wild flowers to grow. This would not affect junctions and visibility splays.
 5. **District Councillor's report**
District Councillor Mike Chester emailed a report ahead of the meeting which was circulated to councillors. The key points in the report were:
 - **Barley Homes.**
A development company now wholly owned by West Suffolk Council has planning permission for two sites in Haverhill.
 - **Housing and land supply**
West Suffolk Council is one of the few Councils to achieve housing targets and have an adequate land supply (6.5 years).
 - **Development**
Of the eight villages within this ward, most are constrained from development (other than infill) by the Policy of Rural vision 2031. He is seeking parish council's views of their vision in terms of potential and acceptable growth.
 - **Rough Sleeping**
The door to private sector housing for rough sleepers has been unlocked thanks to a successful bid for £290,000 of Government funding. More than 150 St Edmundsbury households required council support for homelessness in the run up to last Christmas.
 - **Plans for a new mosque in Newmarket**
Newmarket Islamic Cultural Centre has applied to West Suffolk Council for permission for a change of use to a mosque for building it owns in St Mary's Square.

- **County Lines**

There are now more active drug lines in western Suffolk than in Ipswich. This a growing problem nationally. Everyone needs to be vigilant and report suspicious behaviour.

- **Cuts to bus services**

Suffolk County Council are to axe bus service subsidies to save £340,000. He believes local bus services must be protected.

- **Parking on exit parking in Bury St Edmunds**

Pay-on-exit car parking is up and running in Bury St Edmunds. A recent reduction in car park use has been reversed although several people living in the ward have complained of high parking charges. A number of questions were asked about the new system in the St Andrew's Street car park in Bury.

- **Visitors to Bury St Edmunds town centre are spending more and staying longer according to a recent survey**

The town's car parks are also busier than they have been since the survey began in 2012 and 90% of respondents welcomed West Suffolk Council's Pay on Exit parking trial which started this month, although car parking was also highlighted as a "negative issue" alongside public toilets.

- **Campaign to stop parents idling in their cars outside schools**

West Suffolk Council has this week launched a no idling policy because of the harmful effects on children's health from vehicle fumes.

- **Rural Task Force**

It is proposed that Cabinet establish a Rural Taskforce to identify the key issues, assets and challenges in rural communities. Mike Chester will be chairing the committee.

A question was asked about the timescale for providing feedback on Lidgate Parish Council's vision for potential and acceptable growth. Mike Chester confirmed that it would be acceptable to submit Lidgate Parish Council's response after the September meeting. Concern was raised about the lack of infrastructure in communities to support large scale development.

Mike Chester was asked what initiatives the District Council is running to help tackle drug problems and knife crime. He agreed to find out and report back to the Parish Council.

6. Police issues

No police issues were raised.

7. Update on list of actions agreed at the last meeting

There were two outstanding councillor actions.

8. Finance

a) Approval of any payments and signing of schedule of payments

It was resolved that the following payments would be approved:

- J P Kirk - expenses - LGA 1972, s111 – **£13.78**
- HMRC – PAYE - LGA 1972, s111 – **£142.20**
- Risby Parish Council - 1/6 of the cost of a print cartridge - LGA 1972, S111 - **£6.82**

Steve Child and Chris Stembridge signed the schedule of payments and invoices.

b) Approval of payments authorised between meetings

No payments were authorised between meetings

c) Receipts and Payments (including online payments) made since the last meeting

Receipts		Details	Amount	
04/06/19		Santander - with apologies payment following formal complaint	£150.00	
24/06/19		Transfer from Santander following closure of Santander account	£3,087.13	
Payments	Minute reference	Details	Method	Amount
30/04/19	218/9f	Staff costs	Online	

10/05/19	219/9g	Risby PC - pension payment	S/O	£15.00
16/05/19	227/13a	J P Kirk - expenses	Online	£45.60
16/05/19	227/13a	Lidgate Village Hall - donation	Online	£500.00
16/05/19	227/13a	Friends of Lidgate Churchyard	Online	£150.00
16/05/19	227/13a	Lidgate PCC	Online	£150.00
16/05/19	227/13a	Mrs C Whitaker - internal audit	Online	£65.00
21/05/19		Transfer to reserve account as new reserve account opened	Online	£3,000.00
30/05/19	218/9f	Staff costs	Online	
10/06/19		Transfer to reserve account following closure of Santander account	Online	£3,087.13
10/06/19	219/9g	Risby PC - pension payment	S/O	£15.00
28/06/19	218/9f	Staff costs	Online	

It was resolved that the statement of receipts and payments would be approved.

d) Bank balances as of 30th June 2019 and confirmation of bank reconciliation

Current account: £4,849.56 **Barclays Reserve account:** £6,087.13 **Santander reserve account:** £0.00

Steve Child and Chris Stembridge verified and signed the bank statements.

e) Signatory to complete the checklist of Internal Controls

Steve Child completed and signed the checklist of internal controls.

f) Update on the Santander account

The Santander account has now been closed and the funds transferred to the Council's new Barclay's reserve account.

g) Donation towards the cost of cleaning and adding new names to the war memorial

The Parish Council is awaiting details from the Friends of Lidgate Churchyard about the exact cost of the work on the war memorial and what their shortfall is likely to be. It was resolved that this item would be postponed until the next meeting.

h) Email from Community Action Suffolk about their new Parish Protect insurance policy

Community Action Suffolk in conjunction with RSA (Royal and Sun Alliance Insurance Group) now offers a policy called Parish Protect. It was resolved that the Council would switch to this policy as the cover offered meets the needs of the parish council better.

9. Planning

No applications were received.

10. To review the following policy documents

a) Financial Regulations

It was resolved that no amendments were necessary.

b) Standing Orders

It was resolved that no amendments were necessary.

c) Equal Opportunities Policy

It was resolved that no amendments were necessary.

11. Highways/Rights of Way/Tree Issues

a) Quote for Three Villages footpath leaflets

The cost of 1,000 leaflets is £295. It was resolved that Lidgate Parish Council would request a third of the leaflets and pay a third of the cost (£98.33).

b) Proposals for two new permissive paths on Wills Estate land

The Council has received informal confirmation that the Will's Trust has approved the formation of the short walk around the back of the castle and down a new path along the edge of the sheep meadow and through the allotments. This includes two new permissive paths. They have not agreed to the request for a permissive path from Croyley Park down to Upend Road. John Whitefield has left a message with the Wills Trust asking them to contact him so that he can request a formal response.

c) **Email from a resident about parking on the verge opposite his property**

Mary Evans said she has taken advice from Highways. It is unlikely that Highways would approve a request for a parking space. It was resolved that the information from Mary Evans would be passed on to the resident.

d) **Provision of grit bins now that the suggested locations in Church Hill and Bury Lane have been approved by Suffolk County Council**

Mary Evans has submitted the request for locality funding. It was resolved that the clerk would be authorised to buy two yellow grit bins at a cost of up to £150 each, once the locality funding has been received.

e) **Email from Anglian Water about their "Greens"- Water Network Improvement Scheme**

There has been a high burst rate on the existing main causing low pressure and interruptions to supply. Anglian Water will be installing a new water pipeline to ensure a more consistent water supply in Lidgate with the work expected to take place in September 2019 for approximately 16 weeks. Traffic management is likely in Lidgate, but dates are yet to be confirmed and Anglian Water will update the Parish Council once these have been confirmed. Advanced warning signs will be put in place two weeks before they start work.

Concerns were raised about the impact on The Star pub. The clerk was asked to forward the email to Mary Evans and to let the editor of the newsletter know about work.

f) **Suffolk County Council's Green Access Strategy consultation**

It was resolved that the clerk would email the information to councillors and that Hayley Mablesen would respond on behalf of the Council.

14. Playing field issues

a) **Play inspection reports**

No new issues were raised.

12. Village issues

a) **To discuss possible grants for the refurbishment of the village hall toilets**

Chris Stembridge notified the Parish Council that he has resigned as treasurer from the Village Hall Committee with effect from the next annual meeting. He will also be stepping down from the Village Hall Committee.

b) **Emails from a former resident about George Pulham**

A request has been received from a former resident asking the Parish Council to consider erecting a small plaque in memory of George Pulham who lived in Lidgate until 1832 when he was arrested, tried and convicted of setting fire to a bean stack. For this offence he was duly tried and executed at Bury Gaol despite pleas for leniency by the farmer whose stack he destroyed, and by the Village Rector. His body was brought back to Lidgate on a tumbrel and it is thought he was most likely to have been buried in an unmarked grave in the Church graveyard.

Views about providing a plaque were mixed. It was resolved that the clerk would ask the former resident if he would be willing to provide a copy of his play to give councillors a bit more background information about George Pulham before a final decision is made.

13. Correspondence

a) **Email from neurology charity Headway Suffolk hosts its fifth annual Neuro Conference on Wednesday 16th October at Wherstead Park, Ipswich from 9.30am - 4.30pm**

No councillors were able to attend.

14. Any other business for noting or including on the next agenda

The following items will be added to the next agenda:

a) Dog and litter bins

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.58pm.

Signed (Chairman) Dated