

LIDGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the planning meeting held on Wednesday 9th December 2020

Councillors present: Chris Stembridge (Chairman), Carol Sharp (Vice-Chairman), Laura Perry, Hayley Mableson, Paul Watchman, John Whitefield and Annie Lee.

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

Open Forum

The following issues were raised during the Open Forum in response to West Suffolk Council's Issues and Options consultation:

- The categorisation of Lidgate as a type B village which the resident supported.
- Concerns about possible future development in Wickhambrook and the impact on Lidgate residents who use the services in Wickhambrook.
- Ensuring that the rural communities are able to evolve in the future. Whilst we currently enjoy a vibrant community, including both young and old, we must maintain the status quo over the medium/long term, therefore future planning assumptions must make efforts to retain and attract the younger members of our community.

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

2. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda and dispensation requests

No councillors declared an interest in any items on the agenda. No dispensation requests were made.

3. Planning

a) DC/20/1938/FUL – Bloomfield's Farm, Newmarket Road, Cowlinge – Roof over existing menage

It was resolved that no comments would be submitted.

4. To discuss Lidgate Parish Council's response to West Suffolk Council's Issues and Options consultation

It was resolved that a response would be submitted supporting West Suffolk Council's proposed settlement hierarchy and the categorisation of Lidgate as a type B village as Lidgate has very limited services and poor accessibility to public transport. *See appendix one for the full response.*

5. Sunnica consultation on the new solar farm in West Suffolk

It was resolved that the Parish Council would submit a response voicing concern about the loss of a large amount of agricultural land at a time when we should be trying to become more sustainable and about the environmental impact in the use, storage and disposal of lithium batteries.

6. To discuss the quote for the additional work on the playing field

It was resolved that the Parish Council would accept the quote from L&L Creative Places of £824 + VAT to carry out additional work on the play equipment including replacing the affected timbers on the balance beam and the safety matting on the zip wire ramp. The cost of the work will be covered from allocated funds and by using £400 of the money earmarked for calibration of the speed gun.

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

The village walks leaflet has been submitted to Suffolk County Council. They have confirmed that they would like to complete the leaflet before the end of the financial year on 31st March 2021. Councillors agreed to provide some additional information requested by SCC.

Annie Lee updated councillors about the progress of the Quiet Lanes initiative. The response across Suffolk has been very positive with a large number of possible quiet lanes nominated. The timescale for the first round is quite tight. Details of the two proposals would need to be uploaded and followed by a public consultation. She suggested circulating something in the newsletter. Creating a quiet lane along Upend Road may be more difficult as it crosses the county border with Cambridgeshire, but it may be possible to propose a quiet lane up to the Suffolk boundary. A legal order would need to be prepared and signs provided at each end of the lane and possibly midway to remind users that it is a quiet lane.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed (Chairman) Dated