

LIDGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th November 2017

Councillors present: John Whitefield (Chairman), Chris Bliss, Stuart Crosby, Steve Child, Chris Stembridge and James Wreathall

Also present: Joanne Kirk (Clerk) and three members of the public. County Councillor Mary Evans arrived at 8.30pm

Open Forum

The following issues were raised during the Open Forum

- Waitrose is looking for good causes for their Community Matters scheme
- Plans by the PCC to raise money to build a flint wall round part of the closed churchyard
- The Sport Relief mile which is due to take place in March 2018.
- The rector, Bryn Singleton, is moving on so there will be another interregnum. This will mean a reduction in the number of services in Lidgate

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

Sue Sage sent her apologies. Clive Pollington also sent his apologies.

2. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda

No councillors declared an interest in any items on the agenda

3. Approval of minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th September 2017

It was resolved that the minutes were correct. The Chairman then signed them.

4. Written report from Borough Councillor Clive Pollington

- St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council have decided to merge and will be called West Suffolk. There will be a reduction in councillors in the whole area.
- The planning application for the West Suffolk Operational Hub has now been approved.
- He has a small amount of locality money left.

5. Police issues

a) Feedback from meeting with Chief Inspector Danny Cooper on 10th October

The meeting was very helpful. Inspector Cooper explained the challenges facing the Police with their current resources. He would like to improve links with parish councils, if only by email and explained the best way to contact the Police. Speeding is a police priority and he accepted that villages would like to see more effective enforcement to tackle offenders. He acknowledged that there have been a lot of problems with the 101 number with waiting times of over 20 minutes. The Police and Crime Commissioner is aware of this and the current system is changing.

Since the meeting two speed checks have been carried out in Lidgate.

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

There was one outstanding councillor action.

7. Finance

a) Approval of any payments and signing of Schedule of Payments

It was resolved that the following payments would be approved:

- Community Action Suffolk – website hosting fee – LGA 1972, s111 - **£60.00**
- J P Kirk - expenses – LGA 1972, s111 – **£11.70**

The clerk was also authorised to pay the invoice for the installation of the swings now that the height of the swings has been adjusted. Chris Bliss and Chris Stembridge signed the Schedule of Payments. The Chairman countersigned it.

b) Approval of payments authorised between meetings

The following payment was authorised by the Chairman between meetings as the decision had been made at the September meeting to purchase the defibrillator (minute reference 185/12):

- 05/10/17 - Community Heartbeat Trust – defibrillator - 185/12 - **£2,424.00**
- 17/10/17 – CAS Insurance – insurance for the defibrillator - **£44.90**

c) Payments made between meetings but previously authorised

11/09/17	Fidelity Funds Network	£15.00
29/09/17	J P Kirk - salary	£174.18
29/09/17	CAS Insurance	£781.98
10/10/17	Fidelity Funds Network	£15.00

30/10/17	J P Kirk - salary	£174.18
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d) Approval of the record of online payments made since the last meeting

Chris Bliss checked and signed the record of online payments.

e) Signatory to complete the checklist of Internal Controls

Chris Bliss completed and signed the checklist of internal controls.

f) Draft budget and budget report

It was resolved that the draft budget would be approved and that the precept request would be £6,068. This is an increase of 2.61% which equates to £1.53 per annum per band D household. The parish council element for a band D household will be £60.23 per annum an increase from £58.70

g) Bank mandate form

John Whitefield and Steve Child signed the Bank Mandate form removing Chris Morley as a signatory and adding Chris Stembridge.

8. Planning

a) DC/17/2274/TCA - The Forge, The Street, Lidgate - TCA application (i) remove 4/5 lower lateral branches from one mountain ash (ii) coppice to a 6-inch stump 2 hazel and one apple (iii) Fell one hedge

It was resolved that details of this application would be emailed to councillors as it arrived after the agenda had been published.

9. Highways/Rights of Way/Tree Issues

c) Water running down the B1063 near Cobbold's View

This has been reported. One of the drains was blocked and has now been cleared.

b) Overgrown section of the Ousden – Lidgate – Dalham footpath in Ousden

The farmer has agreed to clear this section.

10. County Councillors Report

Mary Evans spoke about the following:

- Suffolk County Council will be consulting on the entitlement to free school transport
- Children's Services has recently been rated Good by OFSTED
- Suffolk County Council's fostering campaign and respite care for parents who foster.

11. Playing field issues

a) Play inspection report

The following issues were raised in the latest report:

- The side mats on the zip wire are loose and should be monitored.

12. Village issues

a) Possible Fit Villages course

A Pilates course has been arranged starting with a free taster session on Tuesday 9th January followed by 8 weeks at a reduced rate. Participants can pay weekly or in a block payment for the 8 weeks but for the cost of 7 weeks. After this initial period the instructor will take on the class as their own if it proves popular. The instructor will then take on the hall hire and cost to participants will increase by no more than £2 per class to allow for this.

It was resolved that:

- Steve Child would ask Hilary if she would be willing to be a point of contact in the village
- The clerk would contact Hollie Woods to find out how many flyers she is able to provide.
- Bob Hall would deliver the flyers
- The clerk would ask if the start time could be amended to 6.30
- The clerk would find out how many people would be needed for the course to run and what the maximum number is

b) Proposal to rent part of the village hall garden

The clerk has spoken to the VH Chairman who has clarified the situation re ownership. The Parish Council is a custodian trustee. This means that the parish council holds the deeds to the village hall but has no powers to make management decisions and must act of the lawful instruction of the managing trustees. She has suggested that the VHMC contact the Charities Commission to check that there would be no conflict with the charity's governing document before it makes a decision.

c) The future of the village hall if there is no village hall committee

The Parish Council cannot manage the village hall. As it is a charity, Lidgate Village Hall has to be run by managing trustees.

d) Update on the defibrillator project

The defibrillator has now been purchased and two residents have agreed to arrange for it to be installed outside The Star Inn. John Whitefield agreed to ask a resident if she would be willing to carry out regular checks and update them on the Webnos system.

14. Preparations for the new General Data Protection Regulations in May 2018

It was resolved that this item would be deferred until the next meeting.

13. Correspondence

a) Email from SEBC re their new dog fouling orders

It was resolved that information about the new dog fouling orders would be put in the next newsletter along with contact numbers so that residents can report dog fouling.

b) Letter from SARS requesting a donation

It was resolved that no donation would be made.

c) Information about the Lidgate oil club

It was resolved that clerk would find out how many residents are registered as none of the councillors had heard of the group.

d) Email re new church warden and new fence for the churchyard

St Edmundsbury Borough Council has agreed to install a chestnut fence around the churchyard from left of the main gate to the East Window. When the PCC gets enough money, they will install a flint wall behind Woodhills. The Borough Council is applying for the Faculty and will be doing the work as soon as this comes through.

e) Letter from Countess of Euston re the Centenary of the Armistice on the Western Front in WW1

It was resolved that the letter would be passed on to Anthony Foreman.

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

It was resolved that the following items would be included on the next agenda:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed (Chairman) Dated