

LODDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Loddon Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 14th December 2017
at 7.00pm in The Library Annexe, Loddon

Present:

David Bingham	(DB)	
John Bussens	(JB)	
John Coupe	(JC)	
Sophie Garrett	(SG)	
Ray Lumley	(RL)	Vice Chair
Michael Roe	(MR)	
June Strickland	(JS)	
Margaret Wallace	(MW)	

In Attendance

Colin Gould	(CG)	District Councillor
Howard Keeling	(HK)	Finance Officer
Kay Mason-Billig	(KMB)	District Councillor
Anne Panella	(AP)	Parish Clerk
Barry Stone	(BS)	County Councillor

WELCOME

320 Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and confirmed that no-one wished to record the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

321 Were received from P Clemence, S Colman and G Knights. In the absence of SC, RL will chair the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

322 None were declared

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2017

Resolved: to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2017.
Proposed by JS, seconded MR. All in agreement.

MATTERS ARISING

333 Minute 302: Bollards outside fast-food restaurants: motorists are now parking on the double yellow lines on George Lane to access these food outlets. Police will only intervene if an obstruction is being caused and SNC have very limited Parking Enforcement Officers with which to oversee inconsiderate and illegal parking.

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

334 Bungay Road/Dulls Road: The Highways Manager has now introduced some safety measures on this road but will do nothing further as according to official NCC guidelines the road does not warrant anything further.

- 335 Roundabouts on the A146: work on the Hales roundabout will commence on 18th January 2018 and work is expected to take three months. With regard to George Lane roundabout there has been a large volume of correspondence between NCC/SNC/MPs and LPC. Work should commence in the summer if, as hoped, the siting of the roundabout can be moved so as to avoid the need to re-direct the gas main.
- 336 A query was raised as to whether the planning permission offered a guarantee that the roundabout would be built. BS confirmed that it is likely the developer will commence works but no guarantee can be provided. There was many rumours surrounding this issue and suggested that none can be considered until official notification is received from SNC and/or NCC.
- 337 Broadband and Mobile coverage: coverage is so poor, particularly at times of bad weather, this has been raised with the MP, Richard Bacon. A second pre-application consultation is on the agenda for this meeting to provide a mast at the junction of George Lane/A146. CG confirmed that the previous application was refused but, going forward, if the Planning Dept at SNC is minded to refuse such applications they will be invited to attend the Planning Committee to detail reasons for Refusal
- 338 Permit Parking: CG noted that SNC is holding a consultation on the introduction of Permit Parking in a number of villages. In Loddon, the High Street and Church Plain will be considered; however, this will only result in cars moving to other nearby roads causing congestion. In addition, it is unclear how Permit Parking will be enforced as SNC have insufficient resource (see Minute 333). It would appear this initiative is designed to raise funds rather than improve parking and access. Such parking restrictions have been introduced in Great Yarmouth during working hours but this has had a negative impact on local shops and businesses.
- 339 Play Areas maintained by SNC: a consultation will commence in January with a view to inviting Parish Councils to take over responsibility for play areas in their villages. No further details are available at this point.
- 340 Street Lights maintained by SNC: there are nine parishes affected by this proposal to offer/invite Parish Councils to take on responsibility for streetlights in their village currently owned by SNC. Most streetlights are owned by NCC, some by Saffron Housing and the remainder by SNC. SNC have yet to provide a comprehensive list of the conditions and location of their lights in Loddon. Many are coming to the end of their useful life but SNC have no funds to provide replacements although Loddon residents pay the running costs through a Special Expenses item on Council Tax bills. The total cost for the District is in the region of £1.4 million to replace up to 1000 streetlights although noted that this figure includes a large discount that SNC is able to obtain through the high volumes purchased in the past.
- 341 KMB, Cabinet Member for the Environment and Recycling at SNC, confirmed research has indicated that crime levels are not adversely affected by the removal of streetlights. Areas where lights should remain have been identified such as accident blackspots and areas where vulnerable people live (residential and care homes). New housing developments, such as George Lane, are no longer required to provide street lighting. The SNC Cabinet will receive a report in January and the consultation will roll out to the nine Parish Councils from February.

PLANNING

- 342 A) 2017/2666: The Angel Inn plus Listed Building consent: remove internal walls, brick up external doors and replacement windows and doors. Add new disabled access ramp at rear.

Proposed by JC, seconded by SG to approve. All in agreement.

- B) Harlequin group: pre-application consultation for a mobile phone base station at George Lane

No comments to add and noted the new site is clear of the school and further away from the roundabout than the previous application.

- C) 2017/2754: 24 High Bungay Road: single storey rear extension and alterations

Proposed by MR, seconded by MW to approve. All in agreement.

- 343 **The following application has been approved:**

2017/2387: 25 High Bungay Road: reduce southern crown spread of Scots Pine from 7m to 3.5m and Field Maple from 4.5 m to 2.5m

PUBLIC FORUM

- 344 Church Plain Car park: who is responsible for the gritting in this area? SNC owns and maintains the car park yet during the recent bad weather it was extremely icy and potentially dangerous. Shops received numerous complaints from customers. CG to raise with SNC why this area was missed during the gritting process. **CG**

- 345 George Lane roundabout: noted that traffic lights would probably be more effective in allowing Loddon motorists to access the A146 although noted that this would impact on the flow of traffic on this main road. The planning conditions are very unlikely, at this stage, to be reconsidered.

- 346 Barclays: no update is known on whether this building has been sold or leased.

CHURCH PLAIN TOILETS

- 347 The report provides details of usage and costs since January 2017. However, it is not possible to separate Loddon residents from visitors in the usage figures; it was noted that comments in the Parish Plan stated that residents would like a second set of public toilets to be provided but were not prepared to pay for them through their Council Tax bills.

- 348 KMB stated that SNC is the only District Council in Norfolk to still maintain public toilets. In Harleston a high spec facility was provided with a 20p cost for each visit; this has not been successful and will now be removed. The new facility will become the responsibility of Harleston Town Council and they will be provided with five years revenue costs from SNC. After that period all costs – maintenance and running – will be the responsibility of the Town Council. However, LPC has been informed that SNC will not provide any revenue costs for Church Plain. KSB stated that this decision could be revisited

- 349 Other options that were raised:
- the unisex option; a cost is associated with this and the door unlocks automatically after 15 minutes.
 - place an ATM in the current building with one/two unisex toilets
 - SNC provide funds to the church to provide a public toilet
- 350 Noted that the Co-op has an ATM at the back of the shop, which is open long hours. Need to promote this facility, as well as the Post Office, far more to inform shoppers and visitors.
- 351 KMB will provide more information for LPC to consider prior to confirming Precept figures.
- 352 The recent incident of a visitor becoming locked in these toilets was discussed; an unfortunate series of events led to this and agreed that more robust closing process should be put in place whereby visible checks are carried out into every cubicle to confirm the building is empty. Agreed, after discussion, not to leave these toilets open 24/7 although both SNC and insurance have no issue if this were LPC preferred action.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

353	GraphixBank	Playing Field Sign	£45.00
	Eon	Electricity - Pyes Mill	£7.38
	Saffron Housing Trust	Garage rental	£52.00
	South Norfolk Council	Dog Bin Emptying	£1140.00
	LCPAS	Data Protection Training	£200.00
	Society of Local Council Clerks	Membership (A.Panella)	£147.00
	Apogee	Photocopying charges	£58.45
	David Greeves	November Salary	£220.65
	Anne Panella	November Salary	£1026.77
	Howard Keeling	November Salary	£520.53
	Norfolk Pension Fund	November Contributions	£324.54
	HMRC	November Contributions	£258.46
	See The Difference!!!	Toilet Cleaning	£1382.35
	South Norfolk Council	Pyes Mill SLA with Broads Authority	£1800.00
	Loddon Garden & DIY	Grounds Maintenance & light bulbs	£329.50
	Npower Ltd	Electricity Staithe Toilets	£57.76
	Cunningham Builders	Emergency call out to CP toilets	£178.42
	TalkTalk	Telephone & Broadband	£40.07
		TOTAL	£7,788.88

- 354 Invoices received after despatch:
- | | |
|--|-----------|
| Cozens UK Ltd: Christmas Lights | £1,693.22 |
| Disclosure Scotland: DBS application | £25.00 |
| Playing Field Committee (transfer of fees) | £40.00 |
| GRAND TOTAL £9,547.10 | |

- 355 Christmas lights: Loddon Business Association to be invoiced for this expenditure

356 Cunningham Builders: following the incident of a visitor to Loddon becoming locked in the Church Plain toilets, Saffron Housing were contacted and arranged for their emergency call-out service to attend. However, on arrival the person had already been released.

Resolved: to approve all the expenditures above. Proposed by DB, seconded by MR. All in agreement.

PRECEPT 2018/19

357 The second draft was received and will be updated on receipt of outstanding information on Business and water Rates for the toilets and update on grounds maintenance.

358 Date of Parish Councillor meeting: 4th January 2018 at 7.00pm

REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

359 Play Area Inspection: the Information sign has been vandalised again. This is now becoming a regular occurrence and replacements cost £45 each. Agreed to now place the sign on the railing but towards the top bar so as not to provide additional footholds over the fencing. Exposed screws/nails have been sawn down and made safe on the multiplay equipment.

360 Jubilee Hall:

- one more Trustee has resigned leaving four in total. JHMC is actively seeking new Trustees
- a new football contract has been drafted and will be presented to the club shortly
- contract with the Social Club is significantly overdue. A temporary extension has been granted to March 2018 while a new contract is prepared
- the new boiler is working well
- a new Accountant has been appointed and Accounts for year ending 09/17 will be available early 2018. QuickBooks software has been recommended to be used
- the Trustees would like to accept the £10K interest-free loan from LPC which was offered to purchase the boiler. An application will be completed and forwarded to LPC for consideration

361 TIC meeting: the previous date was cancelled at short notice; a new date to be found convenient for those attending. **AP**

SIGNIFICANT CORRESPONDENCE and agree any necessary actions

- 362
- Parking on junction of George Lane and Bridge Street: this has been discussed (Minute 333)
 - 48 Bridge Street: a quote has been sought for works to these premises if LPC were to relocate
 - Bins at the Staithe: carried forward to the Precept meeting for discussion/agreement
 - Taylor Wimpey Public Open Space: a draft Transfer Deed will be available shortly from the solicitors. TW will pay LPC solicitor costs. Agreed the area outlined in red is that to be transferred to LPC; however, clarification would be welcome as to which organisation will be responsible for the area bordering Beccles Road that is planted with trees. A number of other issues

have already been raised such as ensure the issues identified in the Ofsted inspection of the playarea are made good; that all trees in the area are healthy; that the public footpath along the beck is cleared (reports indicate this has become impassable in recent months)

- Skatepark: an update has been provided and initial draft plans have been received and forwarded to all Parish Councillors. The contractor is now seeking to meet with LPC to gather information and comments on the proposals

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS: all at 7.00pm in LPC office

- 363
- Thursday 11th January 2018. Agenda items to Clerk by 4th January
 - Thursday 8th February: Agenda items to Clerk by 30th January
 - Thursday 25th January: Data Protection Training

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm