

LODDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Loddon Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 11th January 2018 at
7.00pm in The Library Annexe, Loddon

Present:

Sarah Colman	(SC)	Chair
David Bingham	(DB)	
John Coupe	(JC)	
Gary Knights	(GK)	
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 & Projects Officer
Anne Panella	(AP)	Parish Clerk

WELCOME

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

365 Were received from J Bussens, P Clemence, S Garrett and B Stone.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

366 None were declared

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14th DECEMBER 2017

- 367
- Minute 342: should be MW, not HW
 - H Keeling attended the meeting; has been omitted from 'In Attendance'

Resolved: to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2017 with the above amendments. Proposed by RL, seconded MR. All in agreement.

MATTERS ARISING

368 No additional issues were raised.

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

369 Report from BS circulated; comprised the negotiations on setting the County Council budget: 4.9% (1.9% for general services and 3% for adult social care). The Government has now announced that councils can levy an additional 1% for general services. A 5.9% rise would increase Band D Council Tax by £74.74 per annum.

370 District Councillor: The SNC street lighting reports have been circulated; SNC will be consulting shortly with the nine parishes affected by the proposal to hand responsibility for this facility to parishes. Loddon has 33 lights provided by SNC: only 5 are deemed by SNC to be 'needed' – at Davy Place and Drury Lane. All will need to be replaced

within the next five years at a cost, at today's prices, of £5,100 per light. This does not include running costs, insurance or maintenance. However, it was noted that some/all of the five 'needed' lights may be the responsibility of Saffron Housing. Clarification is required as there does not appear to be a definitive list of which organisation is responsible for which lights.

- 371 Cllr Mason-Billig had queried the refurbishment costs for the Church Plain toilets but confirmed that these, conservative estimates of costs, were based on surveyors report (recommended by SNC) and knowledge of costs incurred over the past 12 months.

372 There is no further update on the proposal to introduce Permit Parking to many villages within South Norfolk.

PLANNING

- 373 A) 2017/2885: 1-6, 10-20 Davy Place 5,7,9 High Bungay Road 3, 13, 5-11 Low Bungay Road plus Listed Building consent: Saffron Housing Trust: Replacement of windows and door frames. Approve. Proposed by JS, seconded by MW. All in agreement.
- 374 B) 2017/2900: Land at George Lane: telecommunications installation of 20 metre elara street pole with three antennas and two equipment cabinets. Approve with comments on vital facility required in Loddon due to exceptionally poor mobile reception. Proposed by JC, seconded by DB. All in agreement.
- 375 **The following applications have been approved:**
- a) 2017/2673 18 High Street, Loddon: Reduce Acers by 1-2 metres; reduce Silver Birch to ground level; reduce Beech by 1 metre
 - b) 2017/2600: 66 High Bungay Road: construction of front porch; demolition of rear porch and construction of single storey side extension

PUBLIC FORUM

- 376 River Chet/Sluice Gate: there has been some disagreement amongst those residents who live near the river with regard to the cause and consequences of recent heavy rainfall and the operation of the small sluice gate under Loddon Mill.
- 377 The Environment Agency confirmed they have no concerns with regard the operation of the sluice. The rising water levels experienced during the Christmas period were the result of exceptionally heavy rainfall. Flooding was reported throughout South Norfolk although no properties in Loddon were flooded. It was noted that the land to the rear of the Loddon Arts Centre is marshland/water meadow and known to regularly flood.
- 378 A number of suggestions were made to monitor water levels but the Parish Council is not the expert in matters pertaining to the County's waterways and advised those affected to contact the Environment Agency for advice. It is understood the issue has been escalated to the MP, Richard Bacon. The response to the MP from the EA is awaited.
- 379 Allotments: the de-silting exercise has resulted in the allotments along the river edge being covered in silt and, for the foreseeable future, they are not accessible for cultivation. Agreed that a Working Party of LPC Parish Councillors and volunteers from amongst the Allotment Holders to meet asap to agree a solution acceptable all concerned.

AP

- 380 Bungay Road/Dulls Road: the traffic management safety measures that the Highways Manager was going to introduce are not apparent. Clerk to confirm with Highways what measures have been implemented and where.
- 381 George Lane Roundabout: work on the Hales roundabout was already commenced and expected to last 18 weeks. CG reiterated that commencement of works on the Loddon roundabout should be sometime after completion of Hales. Funding is in place; a plan to slightly move the roundabout so as to avoid the gas main will be agreed; the developer is responsible for the building of this roundabout before the 125th house is built.

CHURCH PLAIN TOILETS

- 382 Further maintenance was required when discovered water leaking over the floors. The plumber also inspected the cisterns and found poor workmanship that would require replacement over and above that already detailed in previous reports, if LPC were to take on permanent responsibility for these toilets.
- 383 The annual running costs will require a 24% increase in the Precept in addition to refurbishment costs already presented at previous meetings. This is an unacceptably high increase for the provision of a facility that residents have already stated they do not wish to pay for through their Council Tax. CG stated that SNC may be able to assist with annual running costs from Member Ward Budgets but this would amount to no more than £3,000 and confirmed budget requirements are £15,000 per annum for this facility. CG also requested that if LPC make the decision to hand back the toilets to SNC that this be done at the end of the current financial year, ie: 4th April 2018.

Resolved: to hand back Church Plain toilets to SNC at the end of the current financial year. However, if an opportunity arises to consider alternative toilet facilities within Loddon in the future this will be considered. Proposed by SC, seconded by DB. All in agreement.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

384	EON	Electricity Pyes Mill	£7.38
	Saffron Building Trust	Rent - Garage	£52.00
	Information Commissioners Office	Data Protection Registration Fee	£35.00
	See The Difference!!!	Toilet Cleaning	£1419.82
	G W Townsend	Church Clock Winding	£150.00
	Norfolk Pension Fund	December contribution	£324.54
	David Greeves	December Salary	£220.65
	Anne Panella	December Salary	£1026.57
	Howard Keeling	December Salary	£520.53
	HMRC	December contribution	£258.66
	TalkTalk	Telephone & Broadband	£40.90
	LBPT	Fire Extinguisher Service	*£110.10
	Disclosure Scotland	Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS: A. Panella)	£25.00
		TOTAL	£4191.15

- 385 Invoices received after despatch:

NPS Property Consultants: external socket for Christmas lights	£330.00
Eon Electricity (Direct Debit)	£ 6.86
Norfolk Playing Fields Association: annual membership fee	£ 30.00
Holy Trinity Church, Loddon: lighting for public path	£365.00
GRAND TOTAL	£4,293.01

386 *this payment appears high for only a service for one extinguisher; payment to be delayed until clarification is received on exactly what this invoice covers.

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

PRECEPT 2018/19

387 Following a second Budget meeting the revised papers were presented showing the removal of costs for Church Plain toilets, recommending a Precept of £73,793.00, an increase of 3.1% on the previous year. This equates to £77.27 for a Band D property (down from £78.13 for 2017/18). Reserves of £6,500 already held was confirmed.

Resolved: to approve a Precept for 2018/19 of £73,793 and Reserves of £6,500. Proposed by MW, seconded by MR. All in agreement.

REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

388 A146 Flooding: by the garage at Yelverton causing significant delays and inconvenience to motorists. Flooding in this area has caused problems in the past when works were carried out to alleviate the problems. However, the solution has been short-lived. Check with BS and the Highways Engineer if any further remedial work is programmed in the near future.

389 The volume of traffic on this road has been steadily increasing; the tail backs from Norwich during morning rush hour are now often to Bergh Apton.

390 Play Area: A number of issues have arisen: split plank that could cause splinters, sign has been further vandalised. Agreed that signs will be removed they are continually vandalised. Split plank to be made good.

391 Jubilee Hall: the old boiler must be removed from the rear of the building as a matter of urgency. This is a potential hazard if children try to climb on it. There are still only four Trustees; one new person was appointed followed by resignation of a long-standing member of the Committee. RL confirmed that he will remain as the Representative of the Playing Field Committee and does not wish to be a Trustee. The Football Club has received an amended contract but understand the conditions are not very different from the earlier version.

392 St. Johns Hall: the Police were called to a disturbance on Saturday 6th January at these premises as a result of vandalism: a window and door were damaged

393 Loddon website: the LPC website requires updating and the Business Association have indicated they have access to funds which could be used for an over-arching website for all the clubs, organisations and LPC within the village. DB to liaise with Business Association and report to next LPC meeting.

DB

394

Drain on Church Plain carpark: the repairs are scheduled for week commencing 15 January but will necessitate the closure of the carpark for one/two days.

395

Greater Norwich Plan: CG noted that this refers to '200 houses for Loddon'. It is not clear if this refers to George Lane or if a further site has been identified for new housing.

SIGNIFICANT CORRESPONDENCE and agree any necessary actions

396

- i. Church Plain Car Park: CG has informed NSC of the requirement to repair the hole/drain at the entrance and clear leaves from blocked drain at Co-op end of carpark. These have been escalated to High Importance
- ii. Greater Norwich Local Plan: a Briefing for Parish Councils to be held on Tuesday 16th January, 5.30-6.30 pm at SNC offices. The consultation period is from 8th January to 15th March. (see www.gnlp.org.uk)
- iii. Church Plain Toilets: reply from Cllr K Mason-Billig regarding options for refurbishment.
- iv. Proposed roadworks in Loddon area: email from First Eastern Bus Company regarding proposed major disruptions to traffic through Loddon and on A146 (NCC has not sent formal notice of these works to LPC).
- v. Allotments: Environment Agency will be de-silting part of the Chet and placing the material on the bank of the Allotments. Any damage caused by the machinery will be made good.
- vi. Loddon Mill: a number of emails from residents of the Mill and Well Being Centre regarding recent high water levels. Parish Councillors invited to view.
- vii. Public Open Space by Taylor Wimpey site: LPC confirmed the extent of the land that will be transferred. Clarification requested as to ownership/management of land and trees in front of the development that will not be transferred to LPC. Solicitor will provide draft Transfer Deed for LPC to consider
- viii. Letter/email sent to all Allotment holders informing of work to be carried out on River Chet to de-silt and impact on some allotments

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

397

- Thursday 18th January: meeting with Freestyle Skatepark to consider draft designs
- Thursday 8th February: Agenda items to Clerk by 30th January
- Thursday 25th January: Data Protection Training
- Thursday 8th March: Agenda items to Clerk by 27th February

The meeting ended at 9.40 pm