

LONG ITCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2009 AT 7.30 pm IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, STOCKTON ROAD, LONG ITCHINGTON

Present: **Cllrs:** Barbara Atkins (Chair)
 Ian Briggs Christopher Hancock
 Don Loughman Adrian McNally
 Christopher Spencer David Williams

Parish Clerk: Sue Jack

Members of the public: 1

1. **Apologies accepted:** Councillors Cobleby (holiday), Pails (work), Stevens (PACT meeting) and Mrs. Hughes (PACT meeting)
2. **Questions from members of the public:** none.
3. **Declaration of interests:** Councillor Atkins declared an interest in item 6.1.1.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 7th October 2009**
Councillor Williams proposed that the minutes, having been circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting, were signed as a correct record. Councillor McNally seconded this proposal and it was agreed.
5. **Police Report:** no attendance. **Neighbourhood Watch:** Councillor Loughman reported that a property in Russell Close had been entered, a windscreen wiper had been broken off a Ford Fiesta in Leigh Crescent and a hired large forklift truck had been stolen from the building site at Manor Farm.
- 6 **Reports from committees:**
 - 6.1 **Planning**
 - 6.1.1 **Monthly report** – see attached. Councillor Hancock reported that notice of the intention to plant a 46-acre forest around the Bickleys Bridge area had been forwarded to the Parish Council by the tree officer at the District Council. There was no right to object but it was possible to comment on the plan. It was agreed to inform nearby residents and write to the Forestry Commission expressing concern about any impact on residents' views.
 - 6.1.2 **Cemex - Climafuel application:** the County Council Regulatory Committee was to meet on 17th November at 10am at Shire Hall. The agenda was not yet known and there had been no confirmation that the planning officers would be making a recommendation. Councillor Hancock said that it was hoped that Mr. Barton, who had written an expert paper criticising the application, would be available to speak at the meeting. The Parish Council was to object on three grounds: the impact on traffic, the incremental changes caused by changes in routing and the proximity of the Primary School (850 metres). It was agreed to register an intention to speak at the meeting and put the information in the Parish Diary.
It was also agreed to make a contribution of £115 towards the cost of transporting residents to Warwick to attend the meeting.
 - 6.1.3 **Housing Needs – meeting 29th October:** Councillor Briggs reported that there was an agreement in principle to release some land and a draft layout had been worked up for comment. The need for a footpath for children travelling to school was to be included and the possibility of lighting and a crossing was to be raised with the County Council. Once the plan was finalised it could go out to public consultation, with details being publicised in the Parish Diary in January. Councillor Atkins offered to speak to the head teacher to inform her of developments.

- 6.1.4 Enforcement matters:** The Buck and Bell – extractor - a new application had been made. The Clerk was asked to find out what would happen on the enforcement notice deadline of 16th December now that an application was pending.
- 6.1.5 Stratford Planning Meetings 29th October and 4th November:** no items.
- 6.1.6 Planning Rota:**
November – Cllrs. Atkins and Spencer
- 6.2 Street Lighting/Highways**
- 6.2.1 Faulty Lights:** the light outside 25 Leigh Crescent had been reported. The light opposite the Co-op appeared to be leaning. Councillor McNally agreed to check it. The street light survey had still not been forwarded by E.ON. Councillor Spencer was concerned about the potential number of lights which might need replacing in the near future and whether the sinking fund would be adequate.
- 6.2.2 Bus Shelters:** approval from Highways and Planning was required before the shelter could be installed.
- 6.2.3 Highways Working Party meeting 19th October:** see notes attached. The next meeting was arranged for Wednesday, 18th November at 7.30 pm at The Harvester.
- 6.2.4 Street and pavement cleaning:** the Clerk had requested a calendar of visits from the District Council.
- 6.2.5 Bascote Heath:** Mrs. Hughes, a resident, had written to her neighbours asking for their views on traffic calming and additional street lighting. The overwhelming response had been against any traffic calming measures or lights, although concern was expressed about speeding.
- 6.3 Playing Fields/Open Spaces**
- 6.3.1 LILAC Project:** it was agreed to disband the group and contact the remaining members to thank them for their work on the project and ask if they wished to be on a newly formed group. Also to advertise in the Parish Diary for new volunteers to bring the project to fruition.
- 6.3.2 Open Spaces Working Party meeting 19th October:** see notes attached. The next meeting was arranged for Wednesday, 18th November at 8 pm at The Harvester. Re item 1. of the notes Councillors Hancock and Williams expressed their disagreement with allowing the playing field to be used for dog obedience classes. Ms. Clarke had been asked to use the new field if possible or the top end of the playing field if it was not suitable. Councillor Atkins offered to contact Ms. Clarke regarding the discussion and to discuss the status of any adverts going into the Parish Diary.
- 6.3.3 Smell at Leigh Crescent:** it was agreed to write to the District Council and raise the issue as a public health matter as a matter of urgency.
- 6.3.4 LIFE tree project:** it was agreed to pay £250 for BCTV (British Conservation Trust Volunteers) to plant trees.
- 6.3.5 Footpaths – SM2 at Galanos:** residents at Galanos were threatening to withhold payments to Greenbelt because of the excessive cost of what appeared to be very little maintenance. It was agreed to check with the County Council who was actually responsible for the tarmac surface of the footpath.
- 6.3.6 Christmas tree for the Green:** Mrs. Reeve had offered a tree again. It was agreed to install it on 19th December. Councillor McNally to check the lights to see if replacements were required.
- 6.3.7 Resting seat:** the Calendar Group wanted to donate a seat but needed suggestions for a site. It was agreed to put an item in the Parish Diary.
- 6.3.8 Grasscrete by bus stop at pond:** it was agreed to ask Mr. Byrne, County Highways, if an improved surface could be provided.

6.4 Emergency Planning

6.4.1 Flood pump: Councillor McNally to chase up pump trolley.

6.4.2 Fire extinguisher training: a date had been agreed but then cancelled by the company. A new date was to be agreed.

6.5 Community Centre:

6.5.1 Energy Review: An energy efficiency review was to be carried out by Mr. Round and Mr. Glare to reduce costs and the carbon footprint of the building. It was hoped that grants would be available to cover the cost of any work required.

6.5.2 Retirement of Mrs. Watt: Mrs. Watt was retiring at the AGM on 23rd November after thirty years as Lettings Secretary. As a token of the Council's gratitude for her unstinting efforts over these years it was agreed to contribute £50 for a present, with the presentation at 11am on the day. All councillors were encouraged to attend.

6.6 Finance

6.6.1 Monthly report: see attached

6.6.2 Accounts for approval: Councillor Spencer proposed that the accounts were approved and Councillor McNally seconded the proposal. All agreed.

6.6.3 Budget 2010/2011: it was agreed to organise a Finance Committee meeting after the Highways and Open Spaces Working parties had taken place.

6.6.4 Clerk's computer: Councillor Hancock offered to price a new computer and software for the next meeting.

7. Reports from meetings

Clerk's Liaison Meeting 28th October at Stratford DC: the Clerk had been unable to attend.

8. Attendance at future meetings

8.1 Community Forum (to include PACT meeting) 4th November at 6pm at Southam Primary School.

8.2 Warwickshire County Council Annual Pension Fund meeting Tuesday 24th November at 9.30 am at Shire Hall.

9 Correspondence in – for circulation

9.1 Gritting routes for Warwickshire 2009/10

9.2 Age Concern Warwickshire – leaflet

9.3 Local Council Review

10 Report from County and District Councillor Stevens:

The Community Forum meeting in Southam had discussed the monitoring of speeding on the A423, alternative energy and speed reduction at Bascote Heath.

The hearing of the Cemex Climafuel application would be moved to the Council Chamber at Shire Hall if large numbers of the public attended.

The County library review had been sent back for further consultations.

11. Other Items

11.1 Parish Plan: awaiting approval from the District Council.

11.2 Website: Linda Clark had agreed to manage the site and look at making it more attractive and accessible to users.

11.3 Clerk's Performance Targets: previous target details to be provided to Councillor Spencer.

11.4 Parish diary items: Councillors Atkins, Hancock and the Clerk to write items.

11.5 Parish Council Election 2010: an item on the forthcoming parish council election to be written by the Clerk to encourage people to stand for election.

11.6 Communications Working Party: Councillor Atkins suggested splitting this working party into two elements - Communications and Community. Councillor Briggs volunteered to be on the Community Committee and Councillor Hancock volunteered to be on the Communications Committee.

12. Date of meetings all at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre, Stockton Road.

7 th October 2009	4 th November 2009	2 nd December 2009
6 th January 2010	3 rd February 2010	3 rd March 2010

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10 p.m.

Signed.....David Cobley..... Date.....2nd December 2009.....

9 LIPC PLANNING REPORT for OCTOBER 2009

Agreed by whole Council at Parish Council meeting 7th October 2009

09/01962/FUL Dr. M. Read-Jones, Crabtree Cottage, Leamington Road, Long Itchington

The Parish Council object to this application on the following grounds:

1. There is no need for this type of development in our parish

There are already 4 sites in the parish where holiday lets have been developed using redundant agricultural buildings:

- **None** are being used for the purpose intended
- **Three** have been the subject of enforcement notices
- **Two** continue to give problems and abuse the system

In short, it is our experience that this type of development is used to secure residential development, which would not otherwise be granted, or to circumvent the current moratorium

2. Reduction in development rights

The council assumes that the applicant has a financial forecast and business plan justifying the investment. If there is a mind to grant this application then presumably the applicant would not object to a reduction in development rights to disallow any change of use, from holiday let to residential, for at least 10 or 15 years.

Highways Working Party meeting 19th October 2009 – notes

Present: Cllrs. Briggs, Loughman and McNally and Spencer and the Clerk

- 1. Land opposite the Co-op** – bollards installed. Co-op has paid £250.
- 2. Bascote Heath** speed reduction/traffic calming request. County Council had said this area did not meet criteria for a village scheme at present. Mrs. Hughes had received a negative response from the County Council. Clerk to send a letter from PC supporting the request.
- 3. Buck and Bell/Village Hall car park** – Mr. Evans, WCC, had confirmed that signs had been ordered. Clerk to check.
- 4. Leigh Crescent** - lay-by to improve parking – to be looked at by Orbit, Heart of England Housing Association.
- 5. Highways signs:** Clerk to chase up
 - a) Sign, Southam Road - knocked over by a car - reported
 - b) Height restriction signs needed for bridge at Snowford Hill near pond and weight limit on river bridge, Leamington Road and at the Fosse end of the road – requested from WCC
 - c) Height sign at Stonebridge Lane between sewer works and railway bridge – just post left.
- 6. Name signs:**
 - a) Pudding Bag Lane, Bascote - sign removed by Mr. Morley. To be replaced when Bascote Speed Review is installed.
 - b) “The Green” - Clerk to request a sign for the green by the notice board in Church Road.
- 7. Bus shelters – 1) Southam Road** – Shelter installed. Clerk to invoice WCC.
2) Short Lane – No objection from residents. Highways and Planners to be consulted.
- 8. Jetting etc.**– idea of sharing a jetter or other services with other villages? Legal considerations to be taken into account. Clerk to contact Parishes Liaison Officer.
- 9. Grit bin for Bascote crossroads** - delivered (10% voucher obtained). Mr. France will liaise with WCC re installation and filling.
Clerk to provide a list of locations of grit bins to WCC.
- 10. Smell at Leigh Crescent** - meeting to be arranged. Severn Trent was looking into it again.
- 11. Bus stops suggestions from WCC** – for different areas of village - agreed.
- 12. Idea of a zebra crossing by Buck and Bell** – put to Highways Safety Team.
- 13. Damaged drain at Church Road** – Highways have agreed to replace.
- 14. Bascote Road canal bridge** – chevron missing – report to WCC.

Items reported to Mr. Byrne

- 1. Pot hole on access road to Two Boats**
- 2. Southam Rd, opposite Diner** – the path has been cut back but drains are blocked and verge drains on to path causing flooding. Gully has been emptied. Drainage grips have been installed in the wrong place (by the Two Boats)
- 3. Stonebridge Lane** – road breaking up – danger to cars
- 4. Grey dust can now be seen as far as Rhine Hill**
- 5. Drain blocked** - by horse chestnut opposite the Buck and Bell
- 6. Refuge opposite Marton Road Farm** – road is collapsing

Street lights

1. New street lights - The light opposite the Co-op to be replaced to improve the area. Short Lane to be checked as same age as Odingsel/Sabin.

2. SL5 Galanos – resident has requested a shield to prevent light shining in his house – now adopted.

3. Lights on signs - 40mph sign past Tollgate Cottage and junction of Leamington Rd/pond – Clerk has reported. Mac to check.

4. E.ON – standard criteria for inspecting streetlights for electricity connection and structure of post – result of survey awaited, which will include condition of lights. Order of replacement to be prioritised. Councillor Briggs said there was to be 10% public sector energy saving by the end of 2011. It may be necessary to consider switching off alternate street lights in the future. Results of survey to be chased up, including age of columns.

Budget for next year – any reasons to change provision for replacement lights?

Open Spaces Working Party meeting 19th October 2009 – notes

Present: Cllrs. Williams, Briggs and McNally, Mr. Purser and the Clerk

Apologies: Cllr. Pails and Mr. Purser

1. Dog obedience classes – Helen Clarke, a dog trainer, asked to use the playing field for 5 weeks on Saturday mornings. It was suggested that the new field was used if it was suitable. It was agreed to allow the use for the trial period of 5 weeks.

2. Marton Road - Sign “Gate this way”. SJ has ordered.

3. The Pond & The Green - T & J to strim.

4. Footpaths

SM2 spur to Leamington Road – roots breaking up surface - WCC to be reminded.

SM2 rear of Galanos - Greenbelt had cleared and would be resurfacing.

SM2 Short Lane to Whitehall Farm - WCC had left chippings too deep. T & J have been asked to tidy it - **also strim triangle by White House**

5. Leigh Crescent

Safety surface under swings needs repair - DC's report – SDC asked to replace fence. EA informed of smell.

Springer to be replaced - T & J to be asked (DW has springer)

New notice board – Clerk to get more information.

6. Short Lane Play area

Replacement of “springers” - Grant approved.

Hedge to be reduced to 5ft - Agreed - Footpath Group to do.

Fence around green needs inspecting - T & J

Re-design green area? – Clerk to contact garden designer.

7. Green End

Doors for Pavilion - Clerk to ask Mr. Dawson.

Slide to be checked/wood needed - T & J/Mac.

Mole problems - Mr. Jukes has been asked again.

8. Bins

Dog bins - Dog Group to report.

Bin at Blue Lias lay-by has been broken - T & J to inspect

Bin at Chaters Orchard/SM2 has been damaged - T & J to inspect

9. Trees – Mr. Purser, the Tree Warden, to report. LIFE project – it was agreed that the PC would pay for trees and then be reimbursed. PC to pay for BCTV to plant trees - £250 – recommended to PC – agreed by Parish Council on 4th November 2009.

Plan a new tree survey –last one was done in 2002. Tree at Wulfstan Drive needs checking (opposite Mrs. Salt). Clerk to get a quote.

10. Village maintenance – this topic was raised at the Southam Area WALC meeting on 19th January. SJ to liaise with surrounding parishes re sharing a contractor? Items to be agreed first.

11. Pump – Mac is waiting for a trolley to enable the pump to be moved, as it is heavy.

12. LILAC – IB gave information on a Community Trust. Mr. Purser agreed it was a good idea.

13. 73 Leigh Cres – bins on grass – tipped over by kids. SDC to be asked to send a warning letter.

14. Footpaths – SM3 area around kissing gates gets very muddy when wet - needs hardcore/chippings laying. T & J to look at it.

Budget for 2010 – ideas for expenditure? Tree Survey, play equipment?