

LONG ITCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6th JANUARY 2010 AT 7.30 pm IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, STOCKTON ROAD, LONG ITCHINGTON

Present: **Cllrs:** David Cobley (Chairman)
 Barbara Atkins (Vice-Chairman)
 Ian Briggs Christopher Hancock
 Donald Loughman Adrian McNally
 Christopher Spencer David Williams

District & County Cllr: Robert Stevens

Parish Clerk: Sue Jack

Members of the public: none

1. **Apologies accepted:** Councillor Pails (work) and Councillor Stevens.
2. **Questions from members of the public:** none.
3. **Declaration of interests:** none.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2009**
Councillor Hancock 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. **Neighbourhood Watch:** Councillor Loughman reported that the parish had been quiet recently apart from the raid on the Co-op where four men had tied up the staff and taken money.
- 6 **Reports from committees:**
 - 6.1 **Planning**
 - 6.1.1 **Monthly report:** see attached planning report and schedule of current applications and recent decisions.
 - 6.1.2 **Cemex:** no report.
 - 6.1.3 **Housing needs:** it was agreed to hold a public consultation meeting on Saturday, 30th January between 10 and 12 noon and publicise the details in the Parish Diary, the school newsletter, the website and by putting posters on parish notice boards. Mr. Ward was to be asked what equipment he needed. Councillors Briggs, Cobley, Hancock, McNally and Williams and the Clerk all agreed to attend.
 - 6.1.4 **Enforcement matters:** a) The Buck and Bell extractor - no decision had been made. Clerk to contact planning officer. b) Fox Farm – Clerk to get an update from Mr. Thatcher about outstanding issues.
 - 6.1.5 **Stratford Planning Committee Meeting 16th December and 11th January:** no items from Long Itchington.
 - 6.1.6 **Planning Rota:**
January - Cllrs. Loughman and Spencer February – Cllrs. Briggs and Pails
 - 6.2 **Street Lighting/Highways**
 - 6.2.1 **Faulty Lights:** none to be reported. Councillor Loughman mentioned a new type of light that used less electricity. The Clerk agreed to find out about it before ordering any new lights.
 - 6.2.2 **Highways Working Party meeting:** the December meeting had been cancelled. The next meeting was arranged for 18th January at 7.30pm at The Harvester.
 - 6.2.3 **Model Village:** the state of the road and pavements needed to be raised again with the Highways department. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with Mr. Byrne.

- 6.2.4 Icy conditions/grit bins:** it was agreed to publicise in the Parish Diary that the public could use the grit in the five bins around the parish to make roads and junctions safe, but not private drives. A reminder to check on elderly or vulnerable neighbours was also to be included. Councillor Briggs said that the cold weather would cause extensive damage to roads and it would be a good idea to inspect the roads in the parish once the weather improved and report any problems to the Highways Department.
- 6.2.5 Gated road, Stonebridge Lane:** a report was to be requested from Mr. Byrne.
- 6.2.6 Tree hanging over Welsh Road West:** to be checked and reported if dangerous.
- 6.3 Playing Fields/Open Spaces**
- 6.3.1 LILAC project:** no action at present.
- 6.3.2 Open Spaces Working Party meeting:** the December meeting had been cancelled. The next meeting was arranged for 18th January at 8pm at The Harvester.
- 6.3.3 Smell at Leigh Crescent:** the Clerk reported that a complaint had been made to Severn Trent about the lack of resolution to this problem. A reply had been received saying that an inspection would be carried out and the findings reported back to the Council but nothing had been heard yet. Clerk to chase up again.
- 6.3.4 Footpaths/bridge at Two Boats:** Councillor Hancock had been speaking to the landlady of the pub who had accepted that the bridge was her responsibility. It was agreed in principle that the Council would decide on a contribution to the cost of replacing the bridge once quotes had been obtained.
- 6.3.5 Fly-tipping at gate to old sewage works, Stonebridge Lane:** Clerk to report to District Council.
- 6.3.6 Training goal for playing field:** Councillor McNally said he would speak to Councillor Pails about getting it installed.
- 6.3.7 Christmas tree:** Councillor McNally said recent vandalism of the lights had been fixed but he was looking into buying I.e.d. lights for next year as replacements for the existing lights were no longer available. The Chairman thanked Councillors McNally and Spencer for erecting the tree and it was agreed to write to Mrs. Reeve to thank her for donating the tree.
- 6.3.8 Litterbin at Galanos:** the Chairman had received a request for a new bin. It was agreed to get a price for a bin on a pedestal and to check with the District Council that it could be added to their refuse collection round.
- 6.3.9 Pond overflow:** Councillor Hancock said that the overflow was being blocked by tree roots and there was poor water circulation. It was agreed to ask Mr. Byrne if the County Council permit the overflow to be ducted into the nearest road gully.
- 6.3.10 Dog fouling:** the Chairman agreed to put an item in the Parish Diary.
- 6.3.11 Dog Training Classes:** Helen Clarke had reported that attendance was not great.
- 6.3.12 Parish Tree Preservation Orders:** The Clerk agreed to get more detailed information.
- 6.4 Emergency Planning**
- 6.4.1 Flood pump:** as a matter of urgency it was agreed to purchase a trolley for the pump and get both installed as soon as possible at the Green Man.
- 6.4.2 Fire extinguisher training:** a date was still to be arranged.
- 6.4.3 Environment Agency river scheme:** letter of thanks sent.
- 6.4.4 Church Road Drain Replacement:** awaiting confirmation of committee approval of the scheme. Councillor Stevens to be asked to find out.
- 6.4.5 Sand, tabards etc.:** the Clerk agreed to check the number and whereabouts of the sandbags and fluorescent tabards provided by the County Council.
- 6.4.6 Parish Emergency Booklet:** The Clerk will complete this.

6.5 Community Centre

Councillor Hancock reported that the plans for the Spring Show on 27th March were in place and entry details would be sent round with the Parish Diary.

Mrs. Sheasby, the Centre keyholder, was to be away on holiday from mid-February until mid-May. Mrs. Fincham was to carry out her duties in her absence.

A grant had been applied for to insulate the building and replace the emergency doors, making the building more energy efficient and reducing energy costs. A decision was expected in January. The Council agreed to make a grant of up to £500 match funding for the project.

6.6 Finance

6.6.1 Monthly report: see attached.

6.6.2 Payments for approval: Councillor Briggs proposed that the accounts were approved and Councillor Williams seconded the proposal. All agreed.

6.6.3 Budget 2010/2011: Councillor Spencer reported that orders for open spaces items needed to be made out of this years budget, including the pump trolley, Christmas lights, footbridge contribution etc. He proposed a precept of £48,900 for 2010/2011 in accordance with the attached details. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Atkins and agreed by the Council.

6.6.4 Computer for office: Councillor Spencer reported that he and the Clerk had met Mr. Richards of Nova Networking who had looked at the Council's equipment and made recommendations for improvement and updates. Councillors Hancock and Spencer had looked into the recommendations and were now proposing that the Council purchased a new PC for the Clerk with relevant software, some new memory for the old PC (for the future use of an assistant) and installation at a cost of £800. This was agreed.

7. Reports from meetings attended:

WALC/Warwickshire County Council Focus Group meeting with parish councils on 14th December 7 – 9pm at Leek Wootton Village Hall – “We Can Do Better Together”: The Chairman reported that the WALC Chairman Cllr William Lowe saw this meeting as the first in a new series of initiatives to bring the county, WALC and the towns and parishes closer together to solve common problems and improve efficiency – all in the spirit of the Local Councils' Charter.

Though this meeting was not well attended by local councils, the presentations i.e. “The Local Councils' Strategy” (WCC and WALC), “Involvement of Local Councils in WCC Highways Maintenance” (WCC and Carillion) and “A Local Council Adding Value to Highway Maintenance” (Bidford P.C.) were interesting and informative.

This would seem to be a good platform for us to make our views known and get results.

8. Attendance at future meetings:

8.1 Community Forum meeting 22nd February at Southam Primary School: the Chairman and Councillor Atkins agreed to attend.

8.2 Community Centre Management Committee meetings 10am on 11th January and 1st March.

9. Correspondence in for information:

9.1 Fieldwork - CPRE Magazine

9.2 Parish Talk magazine

9.3 Ways to tackle climate change booklet

9.4 Local councils and youth provision booklet

9.5 Local Council Review magazine

9.6 Poetry competition - CPRE

- 10. Other Items:**
- 10.1 Parish Plan:** the Chairman reported that the District Council's East Area Committee had adopted the Parish Plan and been very complimentary about its' content. Councillor Hancock proposed that the Parish Council formally adopt the Plan. Councillor McNally seconded the proposal and it was agreed. Councillor Hancock thanked the Chairman for getting the Plan through the process. The Plan could now be printed and circulated with the March Dairy.
The Chairman and Cllr Atkins would draft an information insert to go with the Plan.
- 10.2 LIPC Website:** the Clerk reported that Linda Clark was in the process of putting a calendar of events, meeting dates and minutes on the site.
- 10.3 Clerk's Performance Targets:** Councillor Spencer said that a meeting would be arranged to complete this by the end of March.
- 10.4 Parish Council Election 2010:** the Clerk reported that because the date of the General Election was not yet known it was possible that the Parish Council election would be on 27th May, rather than the 6th. Ten candidates were needed to bring about an election. It was agreed to publicise the election in the Parish Diary, on the website, on posters and by councillors raising the subject with individuals who have shown an interest in the past. All present were asked to canvas potential candidates for discussion at the next meeting.
- 10.5 Communications Working Party meeting 15th December:** Councillor Atkins reported - see attached notes.
- 10.6 Date for Annual Parish Meeting:** 24th April was agreed.
- 10.7 Annual Parish Dinner:** agreed 26th February at The Harvester. Ten guests were to be invited and a Chairman's allowance of £200 was agreed to cover the cost.
- 10.8 Parish Diary items:** it was agreed to announce Mr. Buchholz's appointment as bookings secretary at the Community Centre, explain the use of grit bins, recycling updates etc.
- 10.9 Annual Timetable:** the Clerk and Councillor Hancock agreed to produce a further draft for the next meeting.
- 11. Date of meetings all at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre, Stockton Road.**
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| 3 rd February 2010 | 3 rd March 2010 | 7 th April 2010 |
| 5 th /12 th May 2010? | 2 nd June 2010 | 7 th July 201 |

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.40 p.m.

Signed...D. Cobley...

Date.....3rd February 2010...

LIPC PLANNING REPORT for December 2009

Sub-Committee: Cllr. McNally + Cllrs. Williams

09/02276/TREE Mr. Hobbs, Gordons Barn, Church Road, Long Itchington

T1 Willow: pollard back to previous pollard points. T2 Sycamore: 20% crown thin. T3 Sycamore: 20% crown thin.

No objection to this application.

09/02334/LBC Mr. R. Harrison, Stoneythorpe Hall, Leamington Road, Southam

Proposed internal and exterior renovations

No objection to this application.