

Lapford Parish Council

Lapford Parish Council Meeting 2nd February 2022

There was a meeting of Lapford Parish Council on Tuesday 2nd February 2022 at 7.30pm held in the Victory Hall, Lapford

Members Present: Cllrs Peter Heal (Chairman); Sue Briant-Evans; Roy Andrews; Pat Gowie; John Parsley; Alex Shapland; Abigail Whittaker; Stacey Lumsdon.

Also Present: County Cllr. Margaret Squires (from 8.30pm onwards)

In attendance: Rob Martin (Locum Clerk)

Others: 8 members of the public.

MINUTES

2122-186 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Parish Councillors Julie Down

Apologies were also received from District Councillor Clive Eginton.

The Chairman stated that now that David Davenport had not attended a parish council meeting for 6 months he had ceased to be a councillor and that the clerk would undertake the procedure for recruiting someone else to take the position.

2122-187 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY)

There were no declarations of interest.

Standing Orders were suspended and the Chairman declared the meeting closed

2122-188 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Niall McAreavy had emailed the Locum Clerk requesting Section 106 finance for Lapford Football Club. This had been discussed with the previous Chairman and the club were looking for £18,500 to pay for new Shower and Changing facilities. The Locum Clerk would liaise with the Club and get more details in order to put it in a list of potential Section 106 financed projects.

It was stated that the request for finance towards the provision of a video link for Ian Hemsworth's funeral (item 2122-193 below) was not now required.

The telephone box owned by the parish council was in disrepair and needed work done to make it safe. Further windows had been broken and the box covering the power connection had also been damaged. Cllr. Andrews would treat this as first priority in village maintenance tasks and would start by chaining the door to stop incursions and arrange for the power supply to be made safe, which might involve employing an electrician. The resident offered to volunteer for village maintenance work if needed and Cllr. Andrews

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would contact him to take up that offer.

The Lapford Lookout representative would be passed details of the councillor vacancy advertisement when the Locum Clerk had it available.

2122-189

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

The District Councillor was not present and had not submitted a report.

County Cllr. Squires had submitted a report, as follows:

This time of the year Councils are preparing the budget for the coming financial year. This year it is not easy to get a balanced budget. Adult Social Services and Children's services have a shortage of carers and social workers - which is the case nationwide. Using agency workers cost more than those employed directly. Please see below to see a promotion drive.

Our rural areas always seem at a financial disadvantage. SPARSE a national organisation representing rural authorities have over many years been working to persuade government that we need Fairer funding. Services cost more to deliver in a rural area. Yet as many of you will know the funding that goes straight to schools from government leaves Devon schools at a disadvantage to the tune of approx. £250 per child.

Chance for people out of work in Devon to become keyworkers

Proud to Care Devon has launched a campaign to recruit 2,000 more Care Workers urgently in the county, particularly in domiciliary care and care homes. The campaign is encouraging those looking for training opportunities to consider if their skills and values are suitable for a career in care.

Proud to Care is offering free one-to-one telephone support to find out if a job in care is right for you. You don't necessarily need qualifications or previous experience. What's important are your core skills, values and your attitudes towards working with people who need care.

Furthermore, thanks to the European Social Fund, there are free and flexible courses to support people to find the right role, or to take a step up, in health and social care. The courses are being offered by partners across Devon including Learn Devon, City College Plymouth, South Devon College, Exeter College and Petroc.

The Find Your Calling campaign aims to mobilise an army of new care workers in Devon, encouraging people with the right values and core skills to apply. The campaign calls for people to register their interest by completing a quick online form at www.proudtocaredevon.org.uk/findyourcalling/.

Applicants will get a call back and the offer of free one-to-one support to find out if a job in care and health is right for them.

Need some help or advice?

The Proud to Care Devon Team are happy to help or offer advice. Please contact us if you have any questions about how you can help promote the campaign:

proudtocare@devon.gov.uk

As you will know there is a Parish Review launched in Mid Devon and this could affect



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parishes as we know them. Parishes will have been contacted and I would urge all to comment with their thoughts during the consultation period – consultation started on 16th December for eight weeks. Parish Councillors know their parishes and boundaries better than others and now is the chance to voice any concerns you have. Further info can be parishreview@www.middevon.gov.uk or write to Parish Review, Electoral Services, Phoenix House, Phoenix Lane Tiverton EX16 6PP

I will be more than happy for you to copy your response to me. I will also be commenting during consultation.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting in line with Standing Orders

2122-190 MINUTES

Cllr. Briant-Evans had identified a number of corrections to the draft minutes of 18th January 2022, which were all incorporated in writing into the official version.

On a proposal by Cllr. Gowie, seconded by Cllr. Andrews the amended minutes of the meet of 18th January were **Agreed** and signed by the Chairman.

2122-191 COUNCIL ADVISORY GROUPS

- a) Lapford Emergency Action Plan Committee – Cllr. Briant-Evans reported that LEAP had met that morning and the following matters were discussed:
- Some Road Warden training issues are still outstanding
 - The new Snow Warden cannot operate until he can access training. This leaves the village with no active Snow Warden at the moment
 - The group is anxious to know the outcomes of contact with Steve Tucker re the following matters; unrepaired potholes, the unfenced hole in the hedge by the railway bridge, flooding and drainage issues, additional grit bin locations, lengthsman funding, the dangerous drop created by the felling of Ash trees along the A377 (there was a car off the road recently just a little further along from there) and Snow Warden training.
 - It was suggested that other Parish Councils affected by the non-action/communication from a particular Highways Officer be contacted to make a concerted approach to have similar issues sorted out.
 - It is hoped that first-aid/defibrillator training will begin again soon. Sessions will be advertised in the Lookout.
 - The issue of sewage discharges into the river has been pursued with little satisfactory result
 - The railway bridge was inspected by an officer that morning.
 - The next meeting will be arranged as and when required.
 - A report from the Food-Bank was received. The Bank was under pressure with more visitors and potentially fewer donations given the cost of living crisis.
- b) Regeneration Working Group – not meeting


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2122-192 LOWER TOWN PLACE GRANT REQUEST FROM HOLD

The request from HOLD for the remaining £2,667.68 of the PWLB funds to be paid had been re-analysed within a report from the locum clerk. Councillors expressed concerns about whether these payments had been made in compliance with the HOLD/Parish Council Grant Agreement.

On a proposal by Cllr. Andrews, seconded by Cllr. Parsley it was **Resolved** by a vote of 6 for and 1 against to withhold payment and reconsider the matter following the confidential item, the Lower Town Place Report, 2122-201 had been concluded.

2122-193 IAN HEMSWORTH FUNERAL VIDEO LINK

Finance for this was not now required.

2122-194 PLANNING MATTERS

a) APPLICATIONS NOTIFIED

The following comment was **Agreed**

Reference	Location	Proposal
None		

b) APPLICATIONS AFTER THE AGENDA WAS ISSUED

To consider responses to applications notified after the agenda had been set.

c) MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL DECISIONS

The following MDDC planning decision was **noted**.

Reference	Location	Proposal	Decision
19/01801/FULL	Yeo Vale Hotel	Erection of 7 dwellings following the demolition of a public house	Full Permission Granted

d) APPEAL DECISION

The following appeal decision has been issued since the last meeting.

Reference	Location	Proposal
None		

2122-195 RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS SCHEDULE

On a proposal by Cllr. Gowie, seconded by Cllr. Andrews the invoices on the schedule below for the period since the last meeting, were unanimously **Approved**.


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PAYMENTS

Payment to	Services	Amount £	Payment No.
2021/2022			
Southern Electric	Orchard Centre Electricity	79.29	DD
RJ Martin	Locum Clerk January 2022	866.40	212218
S. Hemsworth	Cleaning – January 2022	52.00	SO
1&1 Ionos	Village Website Hosting	14.44	DD
1&1 Ionos	Email Access – February 2021	2.40	DD
BT Group	Telephone & Broadband February 2021	41.28	DD
Sue Briant-Evans, Morrisons	Toilet Rolls for Orchard Centre	6.70	212219

RECEIPTS

Receipt from	Services	Amount £	Method
2021/2022			
None			

2122-196

MATTERS RAISED BY THE CHAIR

The Chairman had spoken to Angharad Williams about the Bank Project and was awaiting a decision on whether planning permission was needed. This would hold the project up until that decision was received in writing.

He had also spoken to Sara Jenkins about Eastmere Farm and the Slurry Pit and a response was awaited. Planning Enforcement resources were tight currently with a number of staff changes taking place.

2122-197

COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Cllr. Briant-Evans brought up the matter of the Church Clock saying that there was an exhibition on this is The Ark which should be visited. The Chairman was putting together an article on the various options open to the parish council on maintenance, which would be needed in the next few days (14th February deadline). Cllr. Briant-Evans reported that the exhibition had generated a potential interest in collecting public donations towards the work on the clock, which would be part of the parish council's considerations about the final action to be taken.

Cllr. Briant-Evans also requested that there should be a link from the Village website to the parish council website, which the Locum Clerk would arrange. She also asked for the statement made at the last meeting by a member of the public which would also be sent around to all councillors following this meeting.

The Locum Clerk explained that an agenda item on the future of the Orchard Centre would

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be on a future agenda.

2122-198 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Lapford Parish Council is scheduled for Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at 7.30pm, in the Victory Hall, Lapford. The deadline for agenda items is midday on the Friday two weeks preceding the meeting.

2122-199 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To resolve that under section 1(2) of The Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during consideration of items of business if publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted as it involves the likely disclosure of personnel, commercially sensitive or legal matters.

On a proposal by the Chairman, it was **Resolved** to require the public to be excluded from the meeting.

PART 2 DECISIONS BASED ON CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The following decisions were made in the Confidential session of the Parish Council

2122-200 APPOINTMENT OF THE PARISH CLERK

On a proposal by Cllr. Gowie, seconded by Cllr. Parsley, Rob Martin was appointed as Parish Clerk on a fixed term contract of 12 months, effective from 1st April 2022.

2122-201 LOWER TOWN PLACE REPORT

The Locum Clerk had circulated his report on the history of the Lower Town Place project as outlined in documents made available to him. The parish council would condense the report so that it could start a conversation with the other Lapford groups involved and look to a way forward for the future.

The Part 1 Meeting was then reopened

2122-202 LOWER TOWN PLACE GRANT REQUEST FROM HOLD - Reconsidered

A proposal by the Chairman to make the payment to be able to draw a line under the project payments was **Defeated** by a vote of 3 for and 5 against

2122-203 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 10.05pm

Signed:  Chairman

Date: 15/3/2022