

Lapford Parish Council

Lapford Parish Council Meeting 1st September 2021

The was a meeting of Lapford Parish Council on Wednesday 1st September 2021 at 7.30pm held in the Victory Hall, Lapford

Members Present: Cllrs Peter Heal (Chairman); Julie Down; Roy Andrews; Alex Shapland; Sue Briant-Evans; Stacey Lumsdon; ~~David Davenport~~; Pat Gowie

Also Present: County Councillor Margaret Squires; District Councillor Clive Eginton

In attendance: Rob Martin (Locum Clerk)

Others: 3 members of the public and two prospective councillors

MINUTES

2122-083 APOLOGIES

Apologies

None

2122-084 PARISH COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION

Applications had been received from Abigail Whittaker and Dr. John Parsley to be co-opted into the two remaining parish council vacancies. On a proposal by the Chairman, it was **Resolved** by a vote of 6 for and one abstention that Abigail Whittaker and Dr. John Parsley should be co-opted.

Having both signed Declaration forms, they were then welcomed and were able to take part in the remainder of the meeting.

2122-085 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY)

Cllr. Down declared a personal interest in planning application 21/01443/FULL because she lives in an adjoining property.

Standing Orders were suspended and the Chairman declared the meeting closed

2122-086 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No public questions were asked.

2122-087 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

To receive a verbal report for information.

- a) Devon County Council – County Cllr. Squires reported that there had been a grant of £2,000 allocated by Mid Devon DC to Lapford Parish Council and Cruwys Morchard for Traffic Regulation Order work. This had not been received and Cllr. Squires would be trying to isolate where it is.
- b) Mid Devon District Council – District Cllr. Eginton reported on the Mid Devon DC Open Spaces Protection Order, detailing the new powers for it to police the dog fouling in open spaces of all sorts in the district.

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2122-088

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS' REPORTS

- a) Lapford Church Green Trustees – there had been no meeting for two months and one should be scheduled immediately before the next parish council meeting.
- b) Heart for Lapford Strategy Group – this was now in abeyance for the time being.
- c) Heart of Lapford Development Board – a report had been circulated by Peter Norman, as follows:

The HOLD board feels that a report to the PC on recent progress and activities at Lower Town Place would be in order especially now things are really starting to open up after the pandemic. I apologise for the very late submission of this report but we have all been very busy recently with lots going on as detailed in the report but also the Revel and LTP opening event at the weekend.

1. *As the nation returns to a new normal following the Covid pandemic the Board felt that with the on-set of a new Autumn Season a written report to Lapford Parish Council would be of assistance, especially to the new Councillors and would record recent positive progress.*
2. *With the resumption of the Lapford Lookout in autumn 2020 local organisations have been able to provide updates through our monthly village magazine. With other organisations the Board has been no exception reporting the completion of Lower Town Place site clearance, landscaping and opening at the end of October.*
3. *HOLD and the Victory Hall Management Committee have and are working together for improved community facilities, with grant aid for the purchase of the small allotment, purchase of two temporary storage containers to provide additional useable safe space within the Hall. Together both organisations have a single unified booking system using the same terms and conditions.*
4. *New facilities for the community bring new opportunities. This summer, together with the easing of the pandemic rules Lapford Youth Club has been able to restart using both the Victory Hall and Lower Town Place. With 47 children on the register for 7 – 12 year olds, supported by a rota of 16 adults, details of this and the call to recruit a second team of adult volunteers can be read in the September Lapford Lookout.*
5. *New opportunities bring new challenges to be resolved. For children to use Lower Town Place safely new measures needed to be worked through. This required people to sit down and talk through the issues and find resolutions. This is exactly what happened in June between those with an interest in dogs and children. The result was the 'Community Plan for Dog Users at Lower Town Place' received by the Parish Council in July and published in the Lapford Lookout in August.*
6. *The self-closing gates, within the plan, have now been installed. These are intended to protect children during activity sessions and to prevent stray dogs getting into the grassed areas when they don't have responsible owners to remove mess. The 7-points of the plan can now be implemented – one of these was a LPC/MDDC request to relocate to Orchard Way 'Dog Bin'? Does the Council have an answer to this question?*
7. *The first open-air community theatre event happened in mid-August with the Common Players production of Tuck Inn providing entertainment and food for an*

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audience of some 100 people. Building on this success more events are in planning for 2022.

8. *The pandemic deferred Revel happens this weekend with the Procession arriving at Lower Town Place for the Crowning, formal Opening Ceremony and a Cailidh.*
9. *Lower Town Place is freely available to people for informal social activity, play, association, exercise, to sit and read, draw & paint, chat, meet or think, contemplate and enjoy the space. There is more to be discussed and done. Future reports will bring new proposals such as improved access to the Victory Hall or similar improvements for community benefit once these have taken shape.*
10. *The Board awaits the request for separate meetings with the Council on the residual budget and Church Green Trustees on proposed boundary works.*

Councillors were reminded that the council has one place on the Board and would have to choose one at the next meeting.

- d) Wallingbrook Patient Participation Group – Bill Graham outlined the current situation on ongoing Covid-related staff absences and reported that progress had been made with the Covid vaccination programme, the surgery would be starting to do the annual flu jabs for vulnerable people. The flu jabs would be done at the Wallingford surgery, not locally.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting in line with Standing Orders

2122-089

MINUTES

On a proposal by the Cllr. Down, seconded by Cllr. Andrew, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th August 2021 were adopted as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

To consider progress on the Action List since the last meeting:

- a) A further email would be sent to Steve Tucker on the highway issues.
- b) The car park signage had been ordered subject to a decision on the colourway. It was **Agreed** that the wording should be white on a 'Devon Green' background.
- c) Cllr. Andrews was still waiting for his weed spraying training.
- d) The 'ownership' of the trees on the boundary of the playing field still had to be determined. Cllr. Andrews had experienced difficulty in obtaining plans which would determine exactly where the boundary was and
- e) Natwest Bank had still not sorted out the new signatories and the Chairman reported that his attempts to send his signature had not yet succeeded since he keeps getting the same email back again. The Clerk said that he should pass the Natwest email to him along with the scanned signature, and he would get it sorted out.
- f) Cllr. Andrews was working his way through the list of benches that needed refurbishing.
- g) Bill Graham was asked about the work that needed to be done on the Church Clock and he indicated that what was needed was a commitment to carry out the more extensive work which would cost somewhere between £1,800 and £2,000. He would send quotations for the work to the clerk, who would prepare a report for the next meeting.

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- h) The vacant new councillor positions had been filled at this meeting.
- i) The Clerk reported that the new Website had been put together and that the developer was currently putting content on to be able to publish it as soon as possible.
- j) The Chairman reported that the bin that was currently in the car park would be moved further down to be available for users of Lower Town Place.
- k) The Field Restoration Project would be progressed once the ownership matters were determined.

2122-090 COUNCIL ADVISORY GROUPS

a) Lapford Emergency Action Plan Committee

Cllr. Briant-Evans said that this was now a small group and needs some new blood as she was standing down ^{as Chair in May 2022} ~~now~~. The Clerk reminded those present that there would be a Webinar on Community Resilience on 27th September 2021 and he would circulate joining details closer to the event.

b) Regeneration Working Group

Cllr. Briant-Evans reported that this was currently dormant.

2122-091 FOOTPATHS

Emails had been received by the Chairman and Clerk complaining about the condition of a number of footpaths. Cllr. Lumsdon had volunteered on a one-off basis to take her hedge trimmer to address the worst affected footpath.

The Clerk would take the matter up with Cllr. Shapland, the current councillor responsible for footpaths and arrange for these matters to be reported to DCC and to offer help to complete the P3 grant claim for the year.

2122-092 PLANNING MATTERS

a) APPLICATIONS NOTIFIED

Reference	Location	Proposal
21/01599/CAT	Land at NGR 273063/108240 (Playing Fields) Church Close, Lapford	Notification of intention to remove 4 Ash branches and 2 Ash branches from hedgebank in a Conservation Area Supported

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b) APPLICATIONS AFTER THE AGENDA WAS ISSUED

21/01693/CAT	Graveyard Church of St Thomas of Canterbury Lapford	Notification of intention to reduce height of 8 Yew trees to 2.5m, remove ash trees in South West corner and maintenance work to trees and hedges on West and South boundaries Supported
21/01443/FULL	Land at NGR 273054 108706 (Cleveland) Rensley Lane Lapford	Conversion of agricultural building to dwelling Cllr. Down declared a personal interest and left the meeting for this application. Supported
21/01694/TPO	Graveyard Church of St Thomas of Canterbury Lapford	Application to crown lift 3 Sycamores and 1 Common Beech, protected by Tree Preservation Order 05/00003/TPO Supported

c) MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL DECISIONS

None

d) APPEAL DECISION

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

Reference	Location	Proposal
20/01155/HOUSE	3 Bridge Cottages, Lapford.	Retrospective application for a Garden Room, originally turned down by MDDC in July 2020. Appeal Allowed, Permission Granted.

2122-093 BANK RECONCILIATION

The 31st August 2021 Bank Reconciliation statement, was **Approved**.

2122-094 RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS TO DATE COMPARED TO BUDGET

The attached statement of Receipts and Payments compared to Budgets for the period from 1st April 2021 to 31st August 2021 was received.

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2122-095 RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS SCHEDULE

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

PAYMENTS

Payment to	Services	Amount £	Payment No.
2021/2022			
S. Hemsworth	Cleaning – September 2021	52.00	SO
1&1 Ionos	Email Access – September 2021	2.40	DD
BT Group	Telephone & Broadband September 2021	41.28	DD
Lapford Youth Playing Field Trust	October 2020 Insurance Premium Grant	186.20	212206
RJ Martin	Locum Clerk Services August 21	746.40	212207
Victory Hall	Room Hire	12.00	212207

RECEIPTS

Receipt from	Services	Amount £	Method
2021/2022			
None			

2122-096 CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES RECEIVED

To note the correspondence received for circulation and to resolve to action any matters arising as appropriate

None not already circulated.

2122-097 MATTERS RAISED BY THE CHAIR

None

2122-098 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

2122-099 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Lapford Parish Council is scheduled for Wednesday 6th October 2021 at 7.30pm, in the Ark, Lapford. The deadline for agenda items is midday on the Friday two weeks preceding the meeting.

2122-100 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **Resolved** 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

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the meeting during consideration of items of business as publicity might 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.

2122-101

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed:  Chairman

Date: 20-10-2021