

Lapford Parish Council

Lapford Parish Council Meeting 27th April 2021

The was a remote meeting of Lapford Parish Council on Tuesday 27th April 2021 at 7.30pm held on Zoom.

Members Present: Cllrs Ian Hemsworth (Chairman); Sue Briant-Evans; Julie Down; Peter Heal.

Also Present: No-one

In attendance: Rob Martin (Locum Clerk)

Others: Four members of the public – Roy Andrews, Bill Graham, Pat Gowie, Dr. John Parsley.

MINUTES

1. APOLOGIES

21.76 Clive Eginton, Margaret Squires

2. PARISH COUNCIL RESIGNATIONS

21.77 Cllr. Hillary Hassett, it was agreed to send a thank you letter, from the Chairman.

The Clerk was not sure whether the election could include this or any other vacancies that have occurred subsequently and was informed by MDDC that these would have be subject to the normal by-election/co-option process after 6th May 2021.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY)

Personal Interests

21.78 The following personal interests in items on the agenda were declared:

- Item 5; Cllr Briant-Evans declared a personal interest on any discussions relating to the Heart of Lapford Development project as she is a member of the Board of Directors as an individual.
- Item 5; Cllr Hemsworth declared a personal interest on any discussions relating to the Heart of Lapford Development as he is a member of the Board of Directors as a representative of the Parish Council.

Standing Orders will be suspended and the Chairman to declare the meeting closed

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

21.79

Roy Andrews asked for follow-up on the playing field boundary report, but this had not been received by the Clerk. A copy would be sent to the Parish Council for future consideration.

Bill Graham said that the parish council benches need to be sanded down and

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revarnished. This would be considered.

5. CHURCH CLOCK OWNERSHIP

21.80 Bill Graham reported on a current problem with the clock mechanism, as a result of which the clock had stopped chiming. The clock has been the responsibility of the parish council in accordance with the research carried out by David Garton.

It would be necessary to have someone to abseil to the clock to assess what work needed to be done to rectify the problems and there was a volunteer locally who might be able to help. Bill Graham would investigate this and discuss the matter with the contractor and report back to the Clerk.

6. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

21.81 Neither the District nor County Councillor were present.

7. LOCAL ORGANISATIONS' REPORTS

21.82 Reports from:

Lapford Church Green Trustees

Cllr. Briant-Evans reported that there had been a meeting immediately before this council. She reported on the need to have a site meeting with the contractor for update drawings for the work still to be done on the bank between Church Green and Lower Town Place.

The work on the telephone kiosk had not been done yet, but would be done shortly. In relation to the Community Church/The Ark, drawings were awaited for an entrance and gate following which a planning application would be made.

Heart for Lapford Strategy Group

H4L met 2 weeks before and the Clerk & Secretary had resigned because they believed they had done their bit. Replacements would be sought.

There would probably be no Revel this year, but this was to be replaced by a community event in the summer which would be combined with the formal opening of Lower Town Place. This event would happen on Saturday 10th July 2021.

Heart of Lapford Development Board

The Chairman reported that HOLD had agreed that from 10 May 2021, dogs were not going to be allowed on Lower Town Place.

Wallingbrook Patient Participation Group

The patient group had not met since the last meeting, but the vaccination process was going well.

The Chairman to reconvene the meeting in line with Standing Orders

8. MINUTES

21.55 On a proposal by Cllr. Down, seconded by Cllr. Briant-Evans, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th March 2021 were **Approved**, with the attendees being changed to exclude Donna Egan.

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Action Grid

The items on the action grid were considered, alongside other matters arising from the minutes, as follows:

- a) Steve Tucker at DCC Highways – to set up a zoom meeting with him to ask questions.
- b) Quotations for signs for car park – the Chairman and the Clerk would work on suitable wording for these signs and report back.
- c) A price was required for Weed Spraying around the village. Quotations would be sought, including MDDC who it was believed provide this service.
- d) Trees along boundary of playing field and Orchard Way buildings – Roy Andrews had prepared a 6-page report with photographs and scaled drawings which had not yet been received by the parish council.
- e) The Chairman had Dog pooh warning signs but had not put these up yet. He would do this urgently.
- f) The 30mph speed limit was not yet activated, but there were reports that engineers had been seen in the village looking for sites for the signs.
- g) Bank signatories – this needed to be sorted out as soon as possible.
- h) Grass cutting contract – just one contractor, Mike Leach, had responded with an increase of his current price from £600 to £630pa. The Chairman propose Mike Leach for this work, which was unanimously supported. The clerk would raise an order for the work.
- i) Overcrowding at the schools – Clive Eginton to look at it.
- j) There had been notification of a pre-school survey. It was agreed that the parish council supported the idea, subject to a satisfactory situation for staff. The consultation end-date was now 14th May, and the Clerk would submit the support accordingly.

10. ANNUAL RETURNS 2019/20 – PUBLIC INTEREST REPORT

The external auditor, PKF Littlejohn, has issued a Public Interest Report for Lapford Parish Council due to it not submitting the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2019/2020. The Parish Council considered this report and on a proposal by the Chairman to make the following actions:

- a) To accept the Public Interest Report, and to ensure nothing like this happens again.
- b) Not to send the return for either Internal or External Audits.
- c) To publish the AGAR and accounts for 2019/2020 in the normal way, annotated to show that they had not been submitted.

11. PLANNING MATTERS

21.58

APPLICATIONS NOTIFIED

To consider the following Planning Applications and to agree comments:


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Reference	Location	Proposal
21/00766/FULL	Land at NGR 275850 111235 (Deneridge Cross) Lapford Devon	Erection of an agricultural livestock building Decision: No Comment

APPLICATIONS AFTER THE AGENDA WAS ISSUED

There were no further applications.

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL DECISIONS

Cllr. Briant-Evans expressed concern that MDDC had granted permission for the application at 2 Hillside Cottages, despite the conservation officer's concerns. Cllr. Heal believed that the decision was made on the basis that it would not be defensible at appeal and he was not happy with approval given.

12. BANK RECONCILIATION

21.59 The Bank Reconciliation as at 31st March 2021 was **Approved**.

13. RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS TO DATE COMPARED TO BUDGET

21.60 The Receipts and Payments compared to Budget statement for the period from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 was **Noted**.

14. RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS SCHEDULE

21.61 The following list of payments were **Approved**.

PAYMENTS

Payment to	Services	Amount £	Payment No.
2020/2021			
S Hemsworth	Orchard Centre Cleaning – March 21	52.00	Standing Order
1&1 Internet	Website Hosting – March 21	2.40	Direct Debit
2021/2022			
RJ Martin	Locum Clerk – February 21	247.50	Online
RJ Martin	Locum Clerk – March 21	798.75	Online
DALC	Subscription 2021/22	245.02	Online
S Hemsworth	Orchard Centre Cleaning – April 21	52.00	Standing Order
1&1 Internet	Website Hosting – April 21	2.40	Direct Debit
RJ Martin	Locum Clerk – April 21	529.50	Online


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RECEIPTS

Receipt from	Services	Amount £	Method
2021/2022			
Mid Devon District Council	Precept	10,111.69	BGC

15. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2019/20

21.62 On a proposal by Cllr. Heal, seconded by Cllr. Briant-Evans the accounts were **Approved**.

16. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2019/20

- a) On a proposal by Cllr. Heal, seconded by Cllr. Briant-Evans, the 2019/2020 Annual Governance return was **Approved**, with Cllr. Down abstaining.
- b) On a proposal by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Briant-Evans, the 2019/2020 Accounting Statements were **Approved**, with Cllr. Down abstaining.

17. INTERNAL AUDIT

21.64 On a proposal by Cllr. Heal, seconded by Cllr. Briant-Evans, it was **Resolved** to appoint Mel Bickell as Internal Auditor, to carry out audit inspections and provide a report for 2020/2021. The charge would be £150.

18. VAT

The Locum Clerk had claimed the VAT paid over the years 2017/2018, 2018/2019 and 2019/2020, for a total of £1,523.10.

The 2020/2021 claim will be made shortly, once the end of year accounts had been finalised, and would be of the order of £6,500.

19. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES RECEIVED

None

20. MATTERS RAISED BY THE CHAIR

None

21. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

21.73 Each Councillor is requested to use this opportunity to report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas. Councillors are respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision-making.

Cllr. Heal reported on the refused planning application behind the garage saying that the appeal still ongoing and seemed to be taking a long time.

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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The Lapford Parish Meeting would take place on Tuesday 18th May 2021 at 7pm, followed by the Council Annual Meeting at 7.30, in the Victory Hall.

(Post Meeting Note – this was changed to be on 25th May 2021)

23. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

On a proposal by Chairman, it was **Resolved** to exclude the public and press from the meeting on the basis that the matters to be discussed were confidential.

24. CLOSE OF MEETING

The public meeting closed at 9.10pm

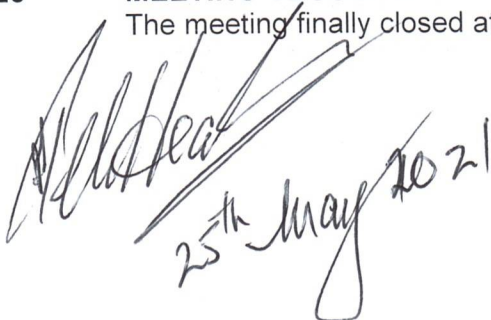
25. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

The confidential section of the meeting dealt with:

1. Parish Councillor Vacancies
2. Concerns about legal work in relation to the HOLD agreement
3. Planning Enforcement Issues

26. MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting finally closed at 9.30pm



A handwritten signature, likely of the Chairman, is written over the text. Below the signature, the date "25th May 2021" is written in cursive.