

Lapford Parish Council Meeting 10th January 2023

Email: clerk@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk Phone: 07768 829511 Website: www.lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk

There was a meeting of Lapford Parish Council on Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 7.30pm held in the Victory Hall, Lapford

Members Present: Cllrs Peter Heal (Chairman); Roy Andrews; John Parsley; Julie Down; Ivan Hall; Bill Graham; Steven Fletcher; Malcolm Hayes.

Also Present: No-one

In attendance: Rob Martin (Clerk)

Others: 6 members of the public.

MINUTES

Minute No.	Item	Action By
2223-140	APOLOGIES Apologies had been received from Cllr. Whittaker. Apologies were also received from District Cllr. Eginton and County Cllr. Squires	
2223-141	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY) There were no Declarations of Interest. <i>The Chairman to adjourn the meeting to allow public participation</i>	
2223-142	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION & UPDATES FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS A resident from Meadow Road had requested previously that the damage done to her drive by water emerging from a PROW should be rectified by the County Council. The clerk had made a number of contacts with both the Highways and PROW staff and was being pushed from pillar to post. The clerk would contact County Cllr. Squires to try to sort this out. Cllr. Graham expressed concerns about the lack of communication from the County Council and would like the County Cllr. to attend the meeting more frequently. The clerk would write to those in charge of the County Council expressing concern at the lack of money being used as an answer for not achieving the basics, particularly in Lapford. There were further concerns about the entrance to the PROW mentioned above which it was believed required a handrail to make it safe. The clerk suggested that there was P3 grant funding available to do this work. Cllr. Andrews would get a price and this would be arranged. Other concerns were expressed, including the temporary fences next on the bridge	Clerk Clerk RA

which has been reported as being on the work programme for the last three years.

Clerk

Another resident wanted to be reassured that the county council would not replace street lighting bulbs from the current 'soft' white to the more common 'bright' white light. He was also concerned about the fact that his property had been flooded by highway water run-off and detritus requiring a £25,000 insurance claim. He believed that the profile of the road surface had directed the water to his property and that this needed to be rectified to avoid it happening again. The Chairman explained that he should write to Meg Booth, Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport at Devon County Council and Margaret Squires, the County Councillor for Lapford.

A further member of the public was concerned about the reasons behind a constant occurrence within the parish of street lights not working, one of which recently resulted in a fractured arm. He was questioning whether this was unfortunate for Lapford or was a deliberate policy to save money on energy. It was most likely this was a supply problem.

2223-143 PRESENTATION TO FORMER VILLAGE POSTMAN

A total collection of £513.42 had been raised to be presented to Eddie the long-standing postman for the village. Cllr. Down questioned what the parish council would like to arrange for the presentation of this sum to the individual.

Cllr. Down was tasked with asking him what he wanted to do and how he wanted to receive the funds (cash or gift voucher) and would report back to the council.

JD

2223-144 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

To receive a verbal report for information.

- a) Devon County Council – no report received.
- b) Mid Devon District Council – had reported that there had been a Cabinet meeting at which it was decided that, within the next twelve months, there would be a pilot trial of weekly recycling collections rather than two-weekly to judge whether this was necessary or feasible.

The Chairman to reconvene the meeting in line with Standing Orders

2223-145 CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

The clerk reported as follows:

Section 106

This is now to be reconsidered by the MDDC Cabinet with the recently forwarded statement by Nick Tucker.

Calor Gas Fund

Due to apparent changes in personnel at EE, Cllr. Graham has been in touch to get this sorted out shortly. The Clerk has exchanged emails with Andrew Epstein on the Village Hall connection and payment will be made accordingly.

Cllr. Graham queried what each of the four recipients would get and the clerk confirmed that it was his understanding that the £1,305 total would

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be split equally four ways.

(Post-Meeting Note: Minute 2223-110 of the October 2022 meeting confirms that £326.25 would be available to each of the four recipients)

Church Green Trust

The charity has yet to supply the parish council with its financial needs for the year.

The Footpath Light & Tree work

This needs to be sorted out.

Bridge Cottages Fencing

I have heard nothing further on this.

Popes Wood Caravans

I have received an email  saying that there are several caravans and vans at Popes Wood and she thought it was strange that someone was apparently living there. Are councillors aware of this?

Church Green Devon Bank

This has now got full planning permission.

Asset Transfer

During the time since the last meeting, I circulated a note from MDDC about the possibility of taking ownership of some assets currently under lease agreements in order to be able to control the future use of those items. The particular items in question, although not exclusive, were the Play Area land and the Orchard Centre car park. Amongst the responses I got were that doing so would increase costs, so no thanks.

This is of course, not true as the Playing Field Trust owns the *playing field* equipment and is already responsible for its maintenance and the same is true of the car park and the parish council which is on the basis of a full-maintenance lease until 2041. In both cases the idea would be to ensure that both pieces of land were within the control of the community and not subject to future decisions by the District Council.

All

2223-146 MINUTES

It was **Resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th November 2022 were a correct record and these were signed as such by the Chairman.

2223-147 2023-2024 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

The clerk explained the analyses circulated and explained that the 2023/24 precept shown on these, at £23,340, provided a balanced budget for ongoing expenditure but did assume that the potential cost of the May 2023 elections, budgeted at £2,000 would come from the General Reserve balance in hand.

Discussion revolved around the need to be able to financially afford a better standard of maintenance around the village and the uncertain inflationary situation.

There was no budget included to cover the basic maintenance of parish assets, so it was suggested that an extra £1,500 be added for this.

In addition, there was a belief that a further budget of £1,500 be added to cover the refurbishment and repair of village signs.

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These changes to the budget would be incorporated.

Clerk

A proposal by Cllr. Parsley to set the precept at £23,340 was **Defeated** by a vote of 3 for, and 5 against.

A proposal by the Chairman to set the precept for 2023/24 at £25,000 was **Resolved** by a vote of 6 for, and 2 against.

Clerk

The clerk explained that setting the budget at £25,000 compared with the current precept of £22,216 would raise an extra £2,784 (12.5%) but the charge to residents would increase by 14.1% because the number of Band D equivalents had reduced by 6.

Although this looks to be a high number, it is against the background of an uncertain year ahead and the fact that the parish council is looking to achieve more. The overall increase from a charge to each Band D household is from £55.61 to £63.44, or £12.91 for the whole year, equivalent to just over £1 per month or 25 pence a week.

2223-148 PLANNING MATTERS

a) APPLICATIONS NOTIFIED

To consider the following Planning Applications and to agree comments:

Reference	Location	Proposal
21/02149/HOUSE	Bugford Mill Lapford Crediton	Erection of a two storey extension to replace existing lean to, replacement porch and re-siting of entrance Decision: No Comment
22/02204/FULL	Green Gables Popes Lane Lapford	Erection of dwelling with associated car parking and amenity Decision: Support
22/02110/LBC	Lapford Mill House, Lapford Mill and Millstream Cottage Lapford Crediton	Listed Building Consent for the erection of a log store with platform and external staircase to Mill to include painting staircase black and replacement timber link annex between House and Millstream Cottage Decision: Support

Clerk

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<i>All councillors declared personal interest, in the next application, as they knew the applicant.</i>		
22/02113/HOUSE	Lapford Mill House, Lapford Mill and Millstream Cottage Lapford Crediton	Retention of a log store with platform and external staircase to Mill and replacement timber link annex between House and Millstream Cottage Decision: Support
22/01172/LBC	Outer & Inner Court of Farmbuildings Bury Barton Lapford Devon	Listed Building Consent for re-rendering and repairing of 3 walls Decision: Support

Clerk

Clerk

b) APPLICATIONS AFTER THE AGENDA WAS ISSUED

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

c) MDDC DECISIONS

Reference	Location	Proposal	MDDC Decision
22/01728/HOUSE	10 Westgate Lapford Crediton Devon	Erection of garden shed/store and extension of garden wall	Refusal
22/01780/FULL	Land at NGR 274042 110493 Tall Tree Lapford Devon	Removal of condition 3 of planning permission 08/01936/FULL in relation to demolition of building on its becoming redundant for agricultural purposes	Approval
22/01775/FULL	Skyline Lapford Crediton Devon	Conversion of builders workshop to dwelling	Approval
22/02271/NMA	Broomsmead Farm Lapford Crediton	Non Material Amendment to Planning Permission 20/01497/HOUSE to	Approval

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		allow alterations to the garage/workshop windows and doors and the addition of a wall to create a store	
22/01699/FULL	Land at NGR 273184 108284 Church Green Lapford Devon	Removal and restoration of Devon bank and formation of new footpath	Approval

2223-149 BANK RECONCILIATION & BUDGET MONITOR

The Bank Reconciliation and Receipts and Payments statement, as at 31st December 2022 was received and **Adopted**.

2223-150 RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS SCHEDULE

To approve the payment of the invoices on the schedule below for the period since the last meeting, as below:

PAYMENTS

Payment to	Services	Amount £	Payment No.
2022/2023			
HMRC	Tax Deduction	112.20	2223-27
RJ Martin	Salary (Dec 22)	505.50	2223-27
Sue Hemsworth	Orchard Centre Cleaning (Dec 22)	33.77	2223.27
Sue Hemsworth	Orchard Centre Cleaning (Dec 22)	52.00	SO
EDF Energy	Electricity (Dec 22)	39.31	DD
Everflow Ltd	Water & Sewage (Dec 22)	26.44	DD
BT Group Ltd	Broadband (Dec 22)	45.12	DD
IONOS	Village Website Hosting (Dec 22)	27.10	DD
Victory Hall	Room Hire	24.00	2223-28
WEP Fire Protection	Fire Equipment Inspection	98.99	2223-28
Sue Hemsworth	Orchard Centre Cleaning (Jan 23)	71.57	SO

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EDF Energy	Electricity	57.77	DD
BT Group Ltd	Broadband (Jan 23)	45.12	DD
Everflow Ltd	Water & Sewage (Jan 23)	20.13	DD
IONOS	Village Website Hosting (Jan23)	16.84	DD
HMRC	Tax Deduction	126.40	2223-30
RJ Martin	Salary (Jan 23)	505.50	2223-30
B&Q – Peter Heal	Christmas Lights	60.00	2223-31
Roy Andrews	Christmas Lights	30.00	2223-31

Clerk

RECEIPTS

Receipt from	Services	Amount £	Method
2022/2023			
None			

On a proposal by the Chairman, it was **Resolved** to authorise the payments above, with 7 votes for and one abstention.

2223-151 MATTERS RAISED BY THE CHAIR

The Chairman proposed that meetings be held in the Orchard Centre rather than the village hall and it was **Resolved** by a vote of 4 for, 3 against with one abstention. The February meeting would be in the Orchard Centre.

All

2223-152 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Cllr. Parsley asked whether there were any plans to conduct a 'litter pick' in the Spring. It was confirmed that this would be arranged.

All

Cllr. Graham brought up the subject of a car parking next to the recently cut hedge at Vine Cottage. Cllr. Andrews undertook to have a word with the owners to suggest the car is moved.

RA

Cllr. Down thanked whoever it was that repaired the toilet door. There was to be a Church Green meeting on 25th January 2023. The Clerk reminded councillors that the Church Green Committee had not yet had its budget payment for the current year, which would be necessary before the wall had to be paid for.

All

Cllr. Parsley challenged the way that the Church Green Committee was operating. The clerk undertook to try and sort this out.

Clerk

2223-153 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 14th February 2023 at 7.30pm in the Orchard Centre. The deadline for agenda items is midday on

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Tuesday 7th February 2023. All

2223-154 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

On a proposal by the Chairman, it was **Resolved** under section 1(2) of The Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, that the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting to consider items of business of a confidential nature.

PART 2 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

2223-155 PARISH CLERK’S CONTRACT

The clerk announced that he was to resign from the role effective from 1st June 2023. An advertisement for the position would be made shortly, in the hope that someone could be appointed in time to get a significant crossover with Rob to learn some of the ropes. Clerk & Chair

2223-156 LOWER TOWN PLACE REPORT

The clerk explained the current expected timescale for the report, which would be circulated to councillors well before the next meeting. Clerk

2223-157 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 10.15pm

Signed:  Chairman Date: 14 - 2 - 2023

