

LAPFORD PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2nd MARCH 2016 AT THE ORCHARD CENTRE

MINUTES

Present

Cllr McAreavey (Chair), Cllr Hemsworth (Vice Chair), Cllr Briant-Evans, Cllr Clinch, Cllr Doe, Cllr Phillips, Cllr Burrows, Cllr Wensley, Cllr Heal, Cllr Leach, Cllr Eginton (Ward Councillor) & Cllr Squires (County Councillor) Christopher Voaden (Clerk), 4 Members of the Public

Apologies

None

01/03/16

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hemsworth – Pecuniary Interest, Agenda point 14a Payments

02/03/16

Minute ref 02/16 for signing.

These were agreed by all and signed by the Chairman.

03/03/16

Open forum

MOP – The minutes of January 2016 were questioned over accuracy at agenda point 3/1/16a and 16/1/16.

The January minutes had been agreed the February meeting and could not be altered. The MOP comments were discussed and noted that action had taken place as requested.

MOP – The Chairman of the Lapford Allotment Association attended to discuss the recent information regarding the sale of the Allotment land at Kelland Hill. The Allotment tenancy expires April 1st 2017. The landlord has informed the PC and LAA of his intention to sell. It is noted that the tenancy can be broken upon sale by the landlord.

Lapford has 26 allotment tenants from the Parish. This was noted as being a sufficient number of residents to approach the Parish Council to ask for replacement land for allotments if the sale of the present site goes through and it is not secured for the Parish. Discussion took place on the possibility of the Parish Council purchasing the freehold to the allotments.

It was thought that funding needs to be secured and MDCC can assist here. Cllr Heal will seek a valuation of the ground to indicate if the asking price of £25,000 is realistic to assist in negotiations.

By a majority vote, the Parish Council would make a bid to purchase the allotments.

Proposed – Cllr Doe

Seconded – Cllr Wensley

The Parish Clerk is to speak to Paul Tucker, funding officer at MDCC to ascertain any opportunities for the PC and LAA obtaining grants.

MOP – Street lighting. Does the parish own and provide any other street lighting other than at Moorland View? The Parish does not provide any other street lighting other than the one light at Moorland View.

Signed

N. McAreavey

Chairman

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LAPFORD PARISH COUNCIL

04/03/16

Parish Council Standing Orders

The Clerk had provided Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to the members before the meeting.

Best Practise is to review these yearly and this had not been undertaken this year.

The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were approved by a majority vote.

Proposed – Cllr Burrows

Seconded – Cllr Briant-Evans

The new standing orders would be placed on the Parish Council Website.

It was noted that the Council's procedures & practices should be checked to see that they are in accordance with the standing orders.

05/03/16

Matters Arising and Outstanding Actions

Cllr Heal would try to undertake repair work on the Bus Shelter seat during the village clean-up on the 5th March 2016

06/03/16

Broadband at the Orchard Centre

The Cost of broadband was considered. The cost of £495 for the first year including line installation was considered too high and not proportionate at present.

A vote was undertaken on Broadband being installed in the Orchard Centre, all were against installing broadband at the Orchard Centre.

It was noted that there may be odd occasions where internet access could benefit the members. Cllr Wensley will investigate the cost of a dongle for report at the next meeting.

07/03/16

Regeneration Committee

Final drawings had been presented to the committee and were approved. The planning application would go to MDDC as soon as possible. The Parish Council urged the Regeneration Committee to progress with this swiftly. It was thought the Parish Council could get a discounted application fee.

There is a 'Hold' Committee meeting on the 17th March 2016 where local people will be invited to hear about HOLD's progress so far & to discuss their ideas for community provision at Lower Town place and how to progress. Village groups have already been consulted.

Cllr Hemsworth asks that the Clerk investigate the Government Loans Board scheme for the April meeting.

08/03/16

Emergency Plan Committee

Funding initiatives exist and an application is to be made by Cllr Briant-Evans to purchase equipment such as sand bags. The Parish Council bank details will be provided to allow any grants awarded to be paid into the Parish Council account.

09/03/16

LYPFT

No meetings had taken place since the February PC meeting.

The Chair had discussed a proposal with David Garton regarding the use of the Playing field, further meetings will be involved with the Chair and LYPFT.

Signed

N. McCreary

Chairman

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10/03/16 Village Signage
TAP application is with MDDC for processing. Updates will be provided in April.

11/03/16 P3 – Footpaths
Footpath exiting onto Edgerley Lane is quite muddy at the entrance. Cllr Burrows is to investigate the footpath number and work required for report to the Clerk.
Popes Lane – Issues arose with access here, Sam Goeffcote (Footpaths Officer at MDDC) will be asked to inform all land owners of their responsibilities with footpaths on their land.
Insurance for Footpath – landowner's responsibility if any injury is sustained.
It was agreed that the footpaths within the Parish need to be regularly walked to keep an eye on any issues. The Clerk has requested a canned copy of the definitive P3 map for future reference.

12/03/16 Finance

Account Balances

- Current account - £6746.91 (23/02/16)
- Savings account - £4,814.28
- Loan stock - £983.98

Payments to be agreed

- Sue Hemsworth – OC cleaning - £40.00
- Clerk – 28 hrs @ £9.55 - £267.40
- Stationary - £1.75
- WAFA Emergency Response Training - £480 – Cheapest course for
- South West Water - £52.00
- Information Commissioner – DPA registration- £35

The above payments were approved.

Proposed – Cllr Heal

Seconded – Cllr Burrows

13/03/16 Clerks working from home allowance.

The Clerk seeks payment under his Contract. In the past he has not been claiming this and will not seek a retrospective payment.

Other parishes pay £4.33 per week. The maximum claimable is £18 per month.

It was agreed that this payment would start from March 2016.

14/03/16 Planning

Ref - 16/00292/FULL

Proposal: Change of use of land for siting of holiday lodge

Location: Land at NGR 272544 106898 (1 Kelland Cottages) Lapford.

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272536 / 106935

Web link - <http://planning.middevon.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=externalDocuments&keyVal=O310MZKS05K00>

Associated documents: <http://docs.middevon.gov.uk/pap/index.asp?caseref=16/00292/FULL>

Signed

N. McAuley

Chairman

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After a brief discussion, it was agreed that a site visit was required prior to any decision being made.

15/02/16

District and County Councillor's report

Cllr Eginton

MDDC Budget – There was to be a 2.74% increase to council tax and a £5 increase on Band D properties. Funding from central government has been reduced even further than expected.

Devolution submission – This was signed off by Council and sent on the 29th February to Central Government.

A Premier Inn planning application for a part of the multi storey car park in Tiverton has been received. Parking would reduce here if planning permission were to be granted.

MDDC will be sharing their tent at the Mid Devon Show with Devon and Somerset fire brigade

The MDDC's Crediton Office will close on 31st March. The Crediton Town Council and CAB will continue to use the building.

Council matters can be dealt with on the telephone and in person at the Tiverton office. There is also a fortnightly service available where appointment can be booked with MDDC but those wishing to use the service may need to travel to Tiverton.

It was noted that Cllr McAreavey had offered the Orchard Centre as an outreach centre, no reply has been received. Liz Reeves, Head of Customer Services to be contacted again offering the use of the Orchard Centre.

MDDC information terminal is no longer continuing at Crediton after the Closure.

Yeo Vale Enforcement – meetings have taken place between all relevant parties at MDDC. MDDC are looking at redevelopment of the site. More information will be available within 2 months.

Cllr Squires

Council Tax at DCC up 3.9%

School crossing patrol funding is not to be cut.

Potholes can be reported on line but these are taking a long time to repair.

Drains in Lapford were cleaned 29 / 1st March.

16/03/16

Correspondence

a. MDDC 17/2/16 email – Planning Consultation, landscape implications of Solar PV Proposals

<https://new.middevon.gov.uk/planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents/landscape-sensitivity-assessment/>

Does the PC wish to respond. IH reports. 15h February – 29th March consultation period.

No reply proposed by the Parish Council.

b. MDDC Design Guide – 11/02/15 – email. Relevant for conservation area.
No comments from the Parish Council.

Signed

N. McAreavey

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17/03/16 **Member Statements**

Cllr Wensely – MOP has asked about the overhanging trees on the A377 at Popes Wood. It is not known who owns his land and the Clerk will ascertain ownership prior to making any contact. This information will be provided.

Cllr Leach – There will be a Queens Birthday Meeting on 14th March.

Cllr Burrows - comments on dog mess around the Parish. Prospect Way is particularly bad. The Dog Warden has attended in the village. Cllr Eginton states that prosecutions can take place if a witness is prepared to sign a statement. Issues with the bins not being emptied. These are emptied weekly. Lapford has sufficient coverage of dog bins.

Hedge at bottom of village. Steve Tucker has not responded to our request for cutting. Our MP has been contacted about this. Safety issues continue. The posts opposite the old post office are still broken at ground height causing a danger to pedestrians.

Cllr Hemsworth and Burrows wish to walk around the Village with Steve Tucker from Highways to outline issues on the roads.

Cllr Doe - Patients Panel, Cllr Doe attends as a representative of the Parish Council, a meeting takes place on the 7th March with a report at the next PC meeting.

Cllr Briant-Evans - Community Safety Conference had been fully booked so no Parish representatives will be able to attend.

General Power of Competence – This has not been considered further by the Clerk. Yeo Vale cottage, hedge cutting to take place. – Cllr Heal confirms that contact has been made with the owner who will undertake work soon.

Wall on Prospect Way. This is overgrown and needs to be cut. Cllr Eginton has undertaken an estate walk and reports are to be prepared recommending work to be undertaken.

Cllr McAreavey - The Church have offered the building to hold the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

The Lookout need to be informed about this.

A general public meeting can be undertaken at this time.

Church Yard – St Thomas of Canterbury Church

The Parish Council had been informed that the Church Yard would be closing at the end of 2016 for any new interments. At present, the Parish Council would not be asked to fund any replacement ground as the PCC indicated that they were intending to purchase land themselves. The Clerk advised that funds may have to be provided in the future for upkeep and this must be a consideration for future budgets.

General Discussion on the church yard closing. The Parish Council are willing to meet with the PCC if required in the future

There were no further topics for discussion and the meeting ended at 21.05pm

Signed

N. McAreavey

Report 21.11

Chairman

LAPFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Next Meeting – Wednesday 6th April 2016

Signed

N. K. Shrivastava

Chairman

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APPENDIX A - MATTERS ARISING/OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Matters Arising March 2016

03/03/16	Lapford allotment purchase	Clerk / Lapford Allotment Association / Paul Tucker MDDC
17/3/16	Trees at Popes Wood	Clerk
03/2/16	Seat in Bus Shelter near Car Park - Completed	
17/03/16	Progress re the question of the General power of Competence	Clerk
07/12/15	Village Signage – Tap fund payment awaited.	Application submitted to MDDC

N. M. Stanger

Signed

Chair..... Dated.....