

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7th JULY 2010
IN THE ORCHARD CENTRE
REFERENCE 07/10**

Present: Cllr Lacey, Cllr Briant-Evans, Cllr Drew, Cllr Peto, Cllr Bulley, Cllr Glass, Cllr Lee (County Councillor), Cllr Kenney, Cllr Burrows, Cllr Eginton (District Councillor) Laura Cockram (Clerk), 2 MOP's

Apologies: Cllr Down, Cllr Heal

PRESENTATION BY CHULMLEIGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

07/10/01 Chulmleigh Community College Principal Mike Johnson attended the meeting along with two pupils that live in Lapford. Mike Johnson advised about the current status of the building schools for the future programme and how progress has stalled. Chulmleigh School pupils brought forward some issues they feel affect the youth of the village. It was thought that the transport for further education students, mostly to Exeter, was not good or frequent enough and this discouraged school leavers to attend college. Mike Johnson confirmed that there is a high level of college students dropping out of further education from this area and it was thought that transport was one of the main factors. It was also thought that there wasn't enough for teenagers to do in the village and the suggestion of a film club and other regular events would help to solve this problem and prevent loitering. Cllr Lacey advised that the Parish Council were already looking at a homework club and a skateboarding ramp for the village but councillors welcomed input from youths in the village. It was thought that a meeting should be held later in the summer to try and set up some activities for youths. Clerk to place a notice in the Lapford Lookout asking for volunteers to help set up some activities. Cllr Bulley offered to speak to those that run The Big Blue Bus about potentially laying on some outdoor activities alongside the Big Blue Bus visits. **Action: Clerk and Cllr Bulley**

OPEN FORUM

Cllr Peto

07/10/02 Following the A377 resurfacing, there is a significant patch of rough road-surface following on from the patch already completed. Cllr Peto also wanted to note that this work was done overnight because of the high levels of traffic along the A377. Cllr Lee offered to report this to Highways. **Action: Cllr Lee**

Cllr Kenney

07/10/03 The cross on the Church Lynch Gate is broken. Clerk to report to Andy Epstein.
Action: Clerk

07/10/04 The moss appears to have been cleared from pathways at the top of the village

07/10/05 The Playing field committee are working to try and make the Playing Field an alcohol free zone following a considerable amount of bottles and cans being found there.

07/10/06 The Playing Field committee are pushing to try and reduce the amount of dog mess found in the playing field. Cllr Eginton advised that a dog mess bin would cost in the region of £230. A number of councillors voiced concerns that dogs are allowed in the playing field. Cllr Kenney noted this and will take it forward to the next Playing Field meeting.

Cllr Drew

- 07/10/07 The fencing in the lay-by near Lapford Cross has now been repaired and looks much better.
- 07/10/08 Cllr Drew asked why the pavements were being resurfaced in the village. Cllr Lee advised that if some repair works are needed then DCC will do a blanket job in the area.
- 07/10/09 Cllr Drew raised concern over a Victory Hall booking for the horticultural society which had been cancelled in favour of the Orchard Centre. The Victory Hall is struggling and cannot afford to lose bookings. It was thought that the Orchard Centre should never take any bookings away from the Victory Hall. Cllr Briant-Evans advised that this event was a charitable venture and the Horticultural Society supports the Victory hall in a number of bookings throughout the year. The Orchard Centre was more central (with car parking) for refreshments provided on the day. Cllr Lacey re-iterated that the Orchard Centre should only be used for Parish business and to assist the running of village groups (e.g. Archive Committee and Lapford Lookout editorial group) and no business should be taken from the Victory Hall. Clerk to write to The Victory Hall Committee in response to their letter of complaint. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Briant-Evans

- 07/10/10 A complaint has been received from a disabled lady who struggled up the steps of the Victory Hall. She asked if a rail could be place outside. It as thought that signage could be provided to clearly show that there is a disabled access point. Cllr Drew to take this to the Victory Hall Committee. **Action: Cllr Drew**
- 07/10/11 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee is coming up in 2012 and the Parish Council will need to start thinking about what we will do to celebrate this. It was thought that councillors should think of some ideas and this should be made an agenda item in the not too distant future.

Cllr Glass

- 07/10/12 No response has been received from Meg Booth regarding the road surface and the lighting along the A377. Clerk to chase. **Action: Clerk**
- 07/10/13 The tree at Moorland View has not been trimmed back. The clerk advised that she had received a call from MDDC saying it had been done although it appears this is not the case. Clerk to contact MDDC to advise. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Bulley

- 07/10/14 Residents have voiced concerns about the skate ramps being placed opposite the Orchard Centre although it has already been decided that this would not be a good site.

Cllr Lacey

- 07/10/15 We have been copied in to an email from a resident of Orchard Way regarding the behaviour of youths around the Orchard Centre. This has been reported to the Police who are looking into the matter.

Clerk

- 07/10/16 Cllr Down had asked the clerk to advise that there have been reports of drugs paraphernalia found around the bench at the top of Mill Hill in the last few weeks. Clerk to report to the Police. **Action: Clerk**

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- 07/10/17 Minutes of the June 2010 meeting were read, agreed and signed

MATTERS ARISING

- 07/10/18 A response has been received from MDDC and Chulmleigh Parish Council regarding locking systems for the public toilet. MDDC have advised that we are owed contribution payments for 2009/10 and 2010/11. This totals £1000. MDDC can install a timed locking system which would cost around £600. The public toilets at Chulmleigh

- no longer have a coin operated system but Witheridge Parish Council installed a coin operated system in November 2007. This was fitted by Five Star Security in Tiverton at a cost of £1254. Revenues to date are £975 with a charge of 20p but Parish Councillors are happy in that costs and anti social behaviour have been drastically reduced. It was decided that the clerk should look further into both of these options. **Action: Clerk**
- 07/10/19 Following quotes from Mike Leach and Jon Tucker, Mike Leach has been asked to complete work on the broken benches as his was the cheapest quote. Mike quoted £70 to fix the seat in Eastington Lane and £60 for the bench below the Post Office. Work will be completed as soon as possible. Another bench has since been damaged. It was thought that a note should be put in the Lookout advising that the Parish Council are spending the villages money repairing benches when this money could be spent on various projects throughout the village. It was also thought that the Police reporting number should be placed alongside this note. Clerk to arrange. **Action: Clerk**
- 07/10/20 A response has been received by DCC regarding the twin town signs for Lapford being removed. Their reasons for removing these signs are so that the Country Mile Project plans for road signage are met. Clerk to re-write to see if we can get twin town signs back. **Action: Clerk**
- 07/10/21 Confirmation of data user registration has been received. Certificate to be filed.
- 07/10/22 A response has been received regarding the chimney at Orchard Way. The chimney is classed as a permitted development, therefore there is nothing that MDDC can do for the resident. Cllr Lacey to speak to the complainant. **Action: Cllr Lacey**
- 07/10/23 Jeanne Whittaker has offered to take on the cleaning of the bus shelter alongside her other caretaking duties for an extra £10 per month. It was thought that a job description should be sent to Jeanne. It was agreed that the Orchard Centre and bus shelter should be cleaned weekly and the toilets more regularly if appropriate. Cllr Briant-Evans proposed that we increase Jeanne's pay to £30 to cover these additional duties. This was seconded by Cllr Glass. Clerk to advise. **Action: Clerk**
- 07/10/24 Cllr Heal has advised Mark Burrows to go ahead with the electrical work in the Orchard Centre although it was thought that more quotes should be sought first. Some of these items are now urgent. Clerk to get some quotes from other local electricians and get a written quote from Mark Burrows. **Action: Clerk**
- 07/10/25 A revised draft of the lease for Moorland View allotments has been received. Clerk to inform MDDC that the Parish Council do not have a seal so that he can amend the agreements slightly. It was thought that we would be ready to sign this once this has been amended. **Action: Clerk**

FINANCE

- 07/10/26 We have received notification from Natwest that £245 will be charged and taken from our account for the cheques that bounced earlier in the year due to the South West Water situation. Clerk to write to South West Water with copy of statement to ask for a reimbursement with interest. **Action: Clerk**
- 07/10/27 A statement from Southern Electric has been received for £17.31. This is to be taken from our account by direct debit.
- 07/10/28 It was agreed at the last meeting that Jeanne Whittaker should be paid by standing order. Cllr Burrows proposed that we should pay the agreed £30 by standing order. This was seconded by Cllr Drew. Clerk to send standing order instruction to Natwest. **Action: Clerk**
- 07/10/29 **Invoices**
 Jeanne Whittaker Payment for June - £20.00
 Clerk - £156.18

Lapford Revel Table Booking - £10.00
Mr S Wilfort, Pathways Cutting - £105.75
Grass Cutting - £52.00

Cllr Bulley proposed these invoices should be paid. This was seconded by Cllr Glass

07/10/30 Andy Epstein has returned the completed internal audit details. Clerk to send this on to the Audit Commission. It was agreed that a bottle of wine should be purchased to thank Andy for his help with this. **Action: Clerk**

07/10/31 Cllr Glass advised that Mr and Mrs Duddridge at 16 Moorland View aren't being paid by MDDC for the electric to run the light that shines onto the footpath. They have been paid £30 a year for the last 10 years. The light also need some work. Clerk to write to MDDC to ask if the light could be looked at and payment could be increased and sent on the Mr and Mrs Duddridge as soon as possible. **Action: Clerk**

07/10/32 **Account Balances**

Current Account - £11,186.01
- Of which £520.82 is footpaths money
Savings - £2873.27
Loan Stock - £283.98

PLANNING

07/10/33 REF 10/00614/FULL – Permission has been granted on application at Lapford stores to convert the store into part of the residential property. Cllr Eginton advised that the applicant met all of the requirements in order to get his application approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

07/10/34 All newsletters are to be displayed in the Orchard Centre

07/10/35 The Senior Council for Devon's Crediton branch is re-opening. Clerk to display poster in the notice board. **Action: Clerk**

07/10/36 Official notification has been received that the Lapford Revel will be taking place between 8th and 11th July 2010.

07/10/37 Being a good Employer guide from DALC has been received and will be filed for reference.

07/10/38 A letter from Cullompton Town Council has been received regarding MDDC's planning department and the monitoring of planning conditions. It appeared as though this letter follows a dispute between Cullompton Town Council and MDDC and that we should not get involved by signing the petition.

07/10/39 A letter has been received from Chulmleigh Community College inviting us to an open evening being held on 5th October regarding 'Communities in Partnership'. Cllrs Lacey, Briant-Evans, Drew, Peto and Eginton showed interest in attending. Clerk to advise Chulmleigh Community College. **Action: Clerk**

07/10/40 A poster from Exeter City Council has been received. It gives contact details to provide support for those hit by the recession. This is to be displayed on the notice board.

07/10/41 An update on the allocations and infrastructure development plan has been received although this does not affect Lapford in any way. To be filed for reference.

07/10/42 A Mid Devon Show Poster is to be displayed on the Parish Council notice board. Cllr Eginton advised that Chulmleigh Community College pupils can get free entrance passes by going to the schools reception.

07/10/43 An invite to an Empowering Communities in Devon Conference has been received. It was thought that this would be based around Parish Plans which is already in progress in Lapford

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Briant-Evans

07/10/44 Cllr Briant-Evans thought that we really need to be moving forward with the Parish Plan. It is important that this progresses.

Cllr Drew

07/10/45 Cllr Drew asked if a thank you letter could be sent to Arthur Westacott for the plants that he gave for the village flower boxes. Cllr Lacey also thanked Cllr Drew and Cllr Burrows for their help in planting these up. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Peto

07/10/46 Cllr Peto mentioned about the fencing along the village green and whether it would be more cost effective to just remove it. Cllr Lacey advised that when this was the case once before, cars would just park on and ruin the grass.

Clerk

07/10/47 An email from Highways has also been received. The pot holes will be looked at during the villages annual inspection in July. The problem with water running across the A377 and freezing in winter is to be solved by ploughing back the edge of road to expose gulleys. This is also the case for Bury Bends. Winter maintenance is under review and unless things change through this review there are no plans to change the salting/gritting network. The list of items for the lengthsman have been noted and he will attend these on his next visit

The meeting was closed at 10.00pm.

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 4th August 2010 at 7.30pm in the Orchard Centre.