

## LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in  
The School Room, Church Street, Lopen  
5 August 2019, 7.00 pm

Present : N Jones (as Chair), J Feeney, V Canton, C Marsh

In attendance : L Wilson - Parish Clerk   Members of the Public : 3

The meeting commenced at 7.05 pm

Public Forum :

A resident reported upon a Scrutiny Committee meeting that they had attended with regard to Frogmary Green's development.

The same resident had helped push forward the installation of the new village Post Box. Some concern, including the safety aspect, over the location of the Box was raised as it had been expected it would be next to the layby, but people were using private driveways to park in to use the box in its current position.

Drains : some overflowing again and absence of County Council sweeper this year. Trimming takes place of the hedgerow, but not the clearance of the debris. NJ agreed to write to Gary Warren to chase the drain repairs and jetting.

A resident raised concern of news they had heard about proposed closure of some lower schools, but the incorporation of those pupils into Wadham School.

78/19 Apologies : Received from District Councillor Crispin Raikes (away) & Councillor Crane (unwell).

79/19 Declaration of Interests : None

80/19 Dispensations : None

81/19 Minutes of the meeting of the 27 June 2019 were agreed as a correct record, with one amendment at minute 71/19 correcting "Clerk" to "Councillor".

82/19 Matters arising from Minutes:

- Footpath Day - Cllr Feeney reported the event a success, with many residents now having adopted certain paths on an ongoing basis. The repair of the bridge near Mill Lane was to be chased. It was noted that Hewins had erected a steel storage frame in front of the footpath which is in usual use. Hewins were supposed to follow through with a diversion.
- Cllr Canton, together with a resident, and aided by County Cllr Dance, had pursued Yarlinton Homes with regard to the organisation's responsibilities for the fence around a house in Water Street. The fence had now been completely replaced, with the addition of gates.

- Training Course : Cllr Marsh had attended a New Councillor training event. He voiced interest in seeing the old Village Plan. Clerk will forward the Survey and results from 2018 and the original Village Plan.
- Picnic - 110 tickets were sold with a profit made. It had proved to be an enjoyable & successful event. Thanks were paid to those on the committee, other organisers and residents who had helped with the event.

7.40 pm County & District Cllr Adam Dance arrived at the meeting.

83/19 Hewins Timber : A resident had received a reply from Hewins regarding the completion of landscaping on the site. Bund was installed around the Western perimeter on the May Bank Holiday; the Northern Boundary completed last week and the hedge was planned for October. Paul Godfrey intends to plant a row of trees along the boundary with the orchard. Councillors still concerned at the ongoing site noise which affects some of the village; this does not seem to have been curtailed despite promises from Hewins. Action : Other routes to solve the issue discussed; via Environmental Health impact - residents could maintain logs of dates and times when there is light or noise disturbance. County Cllr Dance and Cllr Jones to visit Hewins again to discuss issues.

84/19 Small Improvement Scheme: County Cllr Dance had that day spoken to Highways. He indicated why he felt the tapered 40 mph to 30 mph would be effective in comparison with the current 30 mph throughout the village, which does not work. He had understood that there were no rebuttals to the suggestions Gary Warren of Highways made at the site meeting recently - this was not agreed by the Parish Councillors or the SLOW representative present.

Cllr Jones, in a telecon with Kerry Jones of Highways, had been told that Revision A was still on the table (Cllr Dance believed that was not an option available). Cllr Jones indicated that the revisions in Plan B include changes to certain roads which could bring no improvement and the unnecessary replacement of signposts at Church Street, Snapant, Mill Lane just caused expenditure that was not required. Cllrs expressed disbelief that the village had been waiting for 2 years for an agreed plan to be implemented, and that suddenly there had been a proposal to revert to a Plan that had previously been rejected and overhauled.

Action: Cllr Dance was to make an approach to Highways to see if the unlimited speed limit on the lead-in from Merriott be imposed as a 50 mph limit, then tapering subsequently to 40 mph and 30 mph. Secondly, that the current 30 mph limit at the Snapant end should remain. Thirdly, that the white lines on the sides of Holloway should be re-inserted on the plan as per the 2016 agreed version.

85/19 Speed Information Device Proposed Agreement : Information received that Martock, South Petherton and Haselbury Plunkett had not received any such agreement as Lopen had, but Brympton had. A response from SALC and an informal legal advice were discussed. Action : It was resolved and agreed that SALC should be asked again to forward the query out to other Somerset Parishes to get a more complete picture.

86/19 Clerk Post : Two applications remained for the post. Action : Councillors were to liaise regarding dates and organise interviews for both candidates as soon as possible. An extraordinary

meeting would then be called to propose the employment of the best candidate so that they can commence on the 1 September and receive a handover prior to that date.

87/19 Planning Application : 19/01951/FUL - Garage adjacent to The Laurels, Holloway Road, Lopen, TA13 5JZ - application for demolishing existing structure and building a house for residential use. Cllr Jones summarised the planning details and the plans were examined. All Councillors agreed that the house appeared too large on the plot size available. Noted that neighbours had indicated it may encroach on their boundary (amongst other things). Highway Safety, including during build, was considered an issue. Councillors were in agreement that it was unsustainable.

Action : It was resolved and agreed that the Clerk would send a response summarising these reasons for the Parish Council's recommendation to refuse the application.

88/19 Meeting Date : It was agreed that the next ordinary meeting would be Monday 30 September.

The meeting concluded at 9.30 pm.

For the purposes of minute taking, the meeting was recorded.