

## **LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held at 6.00 pm, Saturday 12th May 2018 The School Room, Lopen**

**Present :** N Jones (Chairman), E Moore, S Frackiewicz, V Canton

In attendance : L Wilson, Parish Clerk  
MOP : 14

Apologies : None

#### **Chairman's Report :**

Summary of decisions made & issues encountered over last year.

- Planning a surprisingly high percentage of time - 12 Planning Applications, predominantly commercial ones over the last year, and difficulties with SSDC failing to enforce conditions attached to permissions granted.
- New County Councillor - Adam Dance.
- The SIS has encountered difficult negotiations, some of which related to the manner in which the last County Councillor had dealt with it. Resurfacing requirements of Hollow Lane and Holloway mean the SIS is delayed, and with insufficient budget, the County Council have pushed the SIS into 2019.
- SSDC have now indicated they may charge £400 per parish to continue some sort of supported SID scheme, using the existing, 9 year old devices. The alternative is a new, self-funded device. Training regulations are costly and restrictive.
- Electoral Review - Lopen Parish Council's response to The Boundary Commission's proposal to move Lopen from South Petherton to Egwood succeeded, and Lopen will remain within SP.
- Footpath Day - confirmation of date of Sunday 10th June.
- Defibrillator - now has a weekly checking regime and additional sign-posting. Training is still offered, but invitations in the Lopen Eye have never brought a response. Only two individuals in the village have currently undertaken training. Re-siting of device raised.
- County Council Funding - cuts have meant less staff at County, leading to delays in planning and hence our response time is shortened. Footpath work seems to be fast. Parish Council grants are cut completely from next year.

#### **County Councillor's Report Read :**

Update on Library cuts. Pressure generally to cut costs rapidly but without time to respond.

#### **Planning :**

New application for Lopenhead.

Phone mast - Decommission of old mast and re-siting at Frogmary farm discussed. Poor service an issue, particularly from O2.

Mill Lane - summary of development position to date

Extra pressure for residential development likely, particularly in light of new planning rules. Manor Farm has been approached by a Land Speculator.

#### **Village Plan :**

The most important item was considered to be purchase of a SID; cost of a device range from £1100 to £3500 approximately. Training would be additional. The Ranger would be approached

regarding potential for him to move device. Residents present and councillors were keen on purchase of a SID and donations were volunteered. Offers to organise fundraising received. Question of liability raised and insurance; the Council indicate it would need to be in ownership of Parish Council.

**Broadband :**

Resident Roger Gurner had been in communication with Connecting Devon & Somerset, who had now offered to attend a Parish Council Meeting to discuss existing and future connectivity.

**New Councillors :**

Two vacancies remain.

**Re-wilding of churchyard area :**

Resident ecologist proposed this relating to the boundary with Collinton House. Somerset Wildlife Trust support this kind of approach. An approach can be made to the PCC in writing.

**Speedwatch :**

The Police had indicated they would be more proactive if a SID were installed in the village and data supplied to evidence speeding.

The meeting was concluded at 8 pm