

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Sunday School Room At 6.30PM Wednesday 4th January 2012 Extraordinary meeting

Present : Mr B. Davolls (Chairman) Mrs C. Mansfield (Clerk)
Miss N. Norman (Vice Chairman)
Mrs P. Finlayson
Mrs T. Sienkiewicz
Mr S. Crane

Members of the public : 2

1/12 Apologies for absence

None were received

2/12 Declaration of interests

Mrs P. Finlayson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning applications 11/04969/LBC and 11/04966/FUL

3/12 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2011 were approved and signed as a true record.

4/12 Matters arising not covered below:

There were none.

5/12 To consider planning applications and consider Lopen Parish Council's response:

The Chairman reiterated that the role of the PC is to have due regard for the well being of all residents, and that although the PC may recommend a certain course of action from its local stance, the decision to accept (or otherwise), an application is the preserve of SSDC.

11/04588/FUL Cross Tree End, Holloway Road.

The plans were viewed and discussed in full. Various members raised specific concerns relating to the impact in respect of light and privacy issues on the adjacent property King William House.

It was noted that objections to the alterations encompassed in this application have been made by the owner of the adjacent property, King William House.

Various possibilities were suggested by the applicant, including changing the colour of the cladding to reflect more natural light into King William House.

The applicant expressed a very clear intent to be as flexible and co-operative as possible in order to expedite an approval for his application.

The members voted unanimously against supporting the application. The Chairman indicated his intention of so informing SSDC, citing the issue of overshadowing of, and potential loss of privacy to, two living areas in King William House.

The applicant declared his willingness to open a dialogue with the owner of King William

House with a view to reaching a workable compromise, and the Chairman offered to facilitate that meeting if it could be arranged.

11/04969/LBC and 11/04966/FUL The Wilderness, Church St.

A letter from the applicants, in support of their application was read.

(7.00PM Miss N. Norman left the meeting)

Various aspects and concerns were raised and discussed regarding both the applications.

The internal works proposed appeared uncontroversial and it was agreed were best left in the hands of the Conservation Officer but, several concerns were raised regarding the exterior alterations.

1. The large volume of soil removal, already begun, raised concerns regarding surface water drainage around the property and what effect it might have in Church Street.
2. Concern was expressed regarding the possible impact that the array of solar panels might have on the visual amenity of the neighbouring properties (east and west of The Wilderness). As far as could be ascertained it was felt likely that the array would be visible from at least one adjacent garden. Lack of explicit supplier details regarding the nature of the panels to be installed made understanding any impact difficult. Screening of some sort at either end of the array to lessen any visual impact on neighbouring properties was considered feasible. There was general concern that the array might produce a glint and glare problem locally, but without any supporting material specifications, this remains unclear.
3. The question of appropriateness of a solar array adjacent to a listed building in a conservation area at all, was considered the preserve of the Planning and Conservation officers.

The members voted unanimously to support the application, but with comments:

- That drainage of the site is dealt with in a way that does not increase the surface water in Church Street, or any surrounding properties
- That glint and glare issues are fully considered and addressed if necessary
- That screening to preserve visual amenity of adjacent properties be included.

The members also agreed that a separate registration of disappointment be made to SSDC, that a mature magnolia tree has been removed from the front of The Wilderness.

(7.30PM all members of the public left the meeting)

6/12 To formally accept the Precept for 2012-13

The Chairman explained that several areas of the budget originally presented at the last meeting have been revised with a view to making savings.

It has been agreed with the Lopen Eye production team that the number of editions to be funded by Lopen PC be limited to ten only per annum. Also, the commercial sponsorship of Lopen Eye is to continue at a level of at least £100 per annum (but may yet be increased).

The Chairman went on to explain that the decision on external funding for the lengthsman in Lopen will not be made until February 2012. In the event that continued funding was not forthcoming, the Chairman presented possible ways to adjust the Parish Council's expenditure enabling it to maintain the affordable and budgeted current (£1500) Lengthsman fees.

Possibilities include halving the Lengthsman hours (eg from weekly to fortnightly attendance) with the potential saving being used to fund the hiring of individuals or contractors for specific maintenance projects. Another option was simply to reduce the hours of use for each week or, if possible, reduce the out-of-season use only. The Lengthsman costs are to be re-assessed once the pending funding decision is made.

The members voted unanimously to accept the budget for 2012-13 as displayed without further amendment.

7/12 Future dates and times :

Suggested date for next Parish Council meeting, 12th March (to be confirmed) with the Chairman suggesting that more frequent Parish Council meetings may have to be considered.

8/12 Any other business:

The Chairman suggested that a logo for Lopen Parish Council might be appropriate, and this was met with approval by the Councillors. A short discussion followed regarding possible ways to arrive at a logo, and it was agreed to resume discussion at a later date.

The meeting closed at 7.40PM