

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 6th OCTOBER 2011 7PM

IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM

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

Apologies: Mr B.Walker, Mr. P.Thompson (District Councillors)
Mr P Maxwell (County Councillor)

65/11 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

66/11 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2011 were read and signed and approved as a true copy.

67/11 MATTERS ARISING (NOT COVERED)

The Clerk gave details of expenditure made since the previous meeting.

The Chairman pointed out an issue with the Clerks employment contract, pay grade and resulting stated salary-which after taking some advice, will result in an increased cost to be included in our next precept. The details will be covered in the December meeting when the precept for next year will be established.

The Chairman requested the Clerk to keep a time-sheet and account of hours spent on Council business to assist with the above.

The Chairman declared the Councils intention of issuing an employment contract for the Clerk as soon as possible .

68/11 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATION 11/03665/FUL FOR TREVERN, WATER ST. LOPEN, AND ESTABLISH LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL'S RESPONSE

Detailed plans were circulated and the Chairman gave a short briefing regarding the proposal, and invited questions to the applicant.

There were no questions or comments regarding the application, and it was agreed the application should be "supported without comment" and the Chairman undertook to so inform South Somerset District Council accordingly.

69/11 TO TAKE A DECISION ON WHETHER TO TAKE PART IN SSDC'S BULB-PLANTING INITIATIVE AND, IF APPROPRIATE , AGREE A MEANS OF CONSULTING AND AGREEING ON PLANTING SITES WITHOUT FURTHER REFERENCE TO COUNCIL.

It was unanimously agreed that Lopen should take part in the scheme .

Mrs P Finlayson is to display on the village notice-board, a list of possible planting-locations, with a cut-off date of date of 18th October for any objections to be raised. This will enable her to meet SSDC's application- deadline of 21st Oct.

Mrs. Finlayson undertook to clarify with SSDC possible assistance with the physical planting and stated this may require the use of the Lengthsman if no help is available.

Miss N. Norman undertook to contact the Lengthsman to discuss the above .

70/11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Road salt.

The Chairman outlined the previous provision of road salt by SCC, the locations of which were the Churchyard, halfway along Church St., Water St, and Frog St.

Miss N. Norman pointed out that Broomhill Lane was overlooked last year .

The Chairman offered to approach SCC to arrange the salt and distribute it from his home.

Drain-clearance .

The Chairman suggested the village must take a self help approach to keeping Lopen's drains clear. The County Highways annual drain maintenance may prove inadequate for some areas of the village and it is unclear as to whether annual maintenance is to continue. Ad hoc reporting of blocked or heavily silted drains to the County Council should be encouraged to instigate specific attention when required.

The Parish Council Lopen Eye article to include inviting people to report troublesome drains.

Mr. S. Crane to contact the Highways Department to establish details regarding any scheduled maintenance planned.

Frogmary farm

Mrs.P. Finlayson brought to the Councils attention the fact that a local farmer, Nick Bragg, was believed to be in the running for a "Farmer of the Year award " .

Nick Bragg and his family have contributed significantly to the beautification and maintenance around the village.

Unanimous Congratulations on his nomination and any resulting award were recorded, with the suggestion that Lopen Eye may be approached to consider covering this topic.

Enid King

The Chairman stated that Enid King had asked him to thank all those concerned for her lovely parting gift. All in attendance, expressed their best wishes for Enid in her retirement .

71/11 FUTURE MEETINGS DATES AND TIMES.

The next scheduled meeting is on 12th Dec at 7.30 PM in the Sunday School Room .