LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

**HELD IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM**

# CHURCH STREET LOPEN

**7pm Monday 19 October 2015**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Cllr. T. Sienkiewicz (Chairwoman)

Cllr. S. Crane

Cllr. B. Davolls

Cllr. N. Jones

District Councillor: Adam Dance

County Councillor: Christopher Le Hardy

 Clerk: Roger Gurner

**Members of the public: 10**

**56/15. District Councillors’ Reports**

Cllr. Adam Dance reported that the Westland Sport Centre in Yeovil has been taken over by SSDC with free 30 year lease but it will be closed until the new year whilst a major £2,000,000 refurbishment is undertaken. It is felt that it will be a very good centre for Yeovil and the District Council are looking at plans and funding to keep it open for public and possibly major entertainment events.

Cllr. Dance reported that SSDC is in discussions with other Councils with a view to joint working. Currently Mendip DC is the preferred possibility. At the forthcoming Full Council meeting District Councillors will be briefed fully on this and Cllr. Dance will send an update to the Parish Councils.

**57/15. County Councillor report**

The Cllr's oral update was as follows:

Schools: Cllr. Le Hardy reported that County was involved in a new initiative called Fairer Funding for Somerset Schools (FF40) but that in a recent survey Somerset had been listed as 131'st out of 135 surveyed, Somerset, receiving some £4,889 per pupil against £8,200 for pupils in Tower Hamlets. Even with Pupil Premiums the local funding was still felt to be inadequate. Councillor Le Hardy suggested that will payments more evenly shared out across the country Somerset might receive another £40,000,000 a year.

The Councillor also referred to the work done by the Armed Forces Amenities Fund, particularly the Learning Disability Awards and in Primary Schools, Special Education

 and local Youth Work (some £400K is involved).

The work on the Hendford roundabout in Yeovil is proceeding and is expected to eventually provide better access to the roundabout for not only cyclists and motorists but also pedestrians.

Cllr. Le Hardy stated that he is now a Member of the Cabinet for Corporate Improvement – the remit for this is how SCC can work to improve Somerset. It will cover connectivity, infrastructure and new business opportunities among other aspects.

**58/15. Apologies**

Cllr. S. Mason

Cllr. Crispin

**59/15. Declaration of Interests**

None

**60/15.To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 16th September**

Agreed as a true record and signed by Cllr. Sienkiewicz.

**61/15.Matters arising from the minutes**

The chairwoman read out a letter from Diana Watts, planning officer, in which Mrs Watts stated that Planning Application **15/03646/FUL** **Frogmary Green Farm**, West Street, South Petherton has been referred to Somerset County Council for consideration

**62/15.To formally agree the Contract for the new Clerk**

All Councillors approved the contract dated 19th October 2015 with a commencement of the 1st October 2015. Cllr. Sienkiewicz and Roger Gurner both signed the the contract and a file copy

**63/15. To Agree the co-option of a new Councillor**

The application from Ms Jennifer Lorraine Feeney was unanimously approved by Council and she was duly co-opted. It was agreed that the acceptance form and declaration of interests would be completed after the meeting to complete the formal processes

**64/15. To receive an update on the Lopen War Memorial**Councillor Sienkiewicz gave an update received from Rev Bob Hicks in which he stated that, according to Peter Forrester's research, there are 4 possible names that are missing from the memorial. Whilst Joseph Bishop and Archibald Sweet have clear Lopen connections, they are actually included on other nearby parish war memorials - South Petherton and Merriott respectively.

 There does seem to be a convention in these cases that causalities are remembered on no more than one parish war memorial.  Therefore, Lopen PCC have agreed to his proposal that we seek to add only the brothers George Greenham and William Henry Greenham to our memorial - as they are currently not named on any other parish war memorial.  George is mentioned on the Plymouth Naval Memorial and William is listed on the Loos Memorial.  This seems like the most appropriate way forward.

The PCC also accepted Rev Hicks' suggestion that in principle, the PCC and Parish Council should share the costs equally.  He hopes that the PC might agree to this principle as well.

Rev Hicks states that the next steps are roughly as follows:-

1. Obtain quotes and design sketches from a stonemason for the amendments.  We need to be assured that the additions are physically, practically possible and aesthetically pleasing.
2. Establish and obtain the required permissions; eg Church Faculty / Archdeacon's de minimis permission AND / OR Conservation Area approval AND / OR full planning permission.  He suggests that Stephen Crane (or perhaps Angela / Mike Constable) makes contact with Archdeacon John Reed to discuss this initially - he is very helpful on these matters.  tel no.  01823 413315  Archdeacon.Taunton@bathwells.anglican.org.
3. Agree proposed lettering / design.
4. Proceed with work
5. Arrange an appropriate 'unveiling' ceremony, to which relatives could be invited.

Cllr. Crane then updated the members with his report. He stated that further research was continuing into finding the families of George and Henry William Greenham with a view to also adding them to the Lopen Memorial.

It was agreed that Cllr. Crane and Angela Naunton Davies will undertake to obtain quotations for the cost of adding all 4 names the existing memorial, on receipt of which Council will consider whether to agree to share costs with Lopen PCC. A quote would allow a decision to be made and if agreed provision to be made in next year's Precept in anticipation of the costs.

It is anticipated that some form of re-dedication ceremony will take place in the future with invited members and relatives of the deceased servicemen.

**65/15. To agree the wording of the indemnity for the Eggwood site and appoint Councillors to serve on the Eggwood Management Committee.**

By majority vote the Council agreed the new wording.

By a majority vote the Council approved the nomination of Cllrs. Crane and Jones together with the Clerk to be signatories to the lease at the appropriate time.

Cllr. Crane was nominated to be appointed to the proposed Management Committee.

**66/15. To sanction the payment of presented accounts.**

Councillors agreed the repayment of the sum of £300.00 to Cllr. Davolls incurred as legal cost for the Eggwood Lease.

Payment also approved the payment of the sum of £63.21to Loxton Groundcare Ltd for repairs to the Church Yard mower.

**67/15. To review and agree the updated LPC Standing Orders and Financial Regulations**

Cllr. Sienkiewicz is still processing the changes which will be circulated in due course. Item referred for formal agreement to the next meeting of Council

**68/15.To agree the Parish Council's response to planning applications:**

 **15/04040/LBC The Little Cottage**, Church Street, Lopen
 The replacement of Front Door and replacement of 2 No. windows on
 rear elevation (GR342682/114408)

There were no objections and the application was recommended for approval.

 **15/04378/FUL Ballarat Farm,** Frog Street, Lopen External alterations to include installation of 3 No. roof lights to south elevation, alterations to existing fenestration and internal alterations to create self contained residential accommodation for use as holiday let and accommodation ancillary to the use of **Ballarat Farm. (GR 342629/114410)**

The applicant, Mr Chapman, explained what the proposals involved to the members and confirmed that the application was to be tied into the existing dwelling, and that it provide ancillary domestic accommodation and a holiday let. There was provision for 4/5 parking spaces.

He also explained that he was applying for the hayloft door on Frog Street to be retained so that apart from a ventilation grille, the appearance of the building from Frog Street would remain unchanged, although the Conservation Officer was of the view that this ought to be converted to a window.

The members recommended approval subject to the conditions that the building would be tied to Ballarat House as the dwelling on the site and that it would be a genuine holiday let. .

 **15/04222/FUL The Old Chapel**, School Lane, Lopen
 Change of use and conversion of former chapel into 1 No. 2 bedroom dwelling house (Revised Application) (Retrospective Application) (**GR342550/114402**)

Council voted by a majority to recommend refusal of the application. Members agreed to challenge the cited Category of D2 and the Highways Authority report suggesting that the traffic density could be compared to when the building was originally used as a Chapel. Also to express concern over privacy and parking issues and to recommend that all the conditions applied to the earlier application should also apply to this application.

**69/15 To advise the availability of Winter De-icing materials.**

Council voted to reject the offered materials in view of previous supplies still held in the village.

**70/15. Any other matters to note**

* Council refused a request for a contribution towards the cost of Remembrance Day wreath since an annual contribution is already made to the PCC.
* Councillors noted an interest in Speed Detection Training and will investigate availability.
* Cllr. Crane was asked to investigate 'stray' repeater speed limit signs and pursue their reinstatement.
* A member of the public raised the matter of the Development of a Farm Classroom at Frogmary Green Farm, which, it was claimed was being delayed by opposition from the Lopen Parish Council It was pointed out that both Lopen and South Petherton Councils had supported the application but that it was being delayed whilst the AD application was being considered by Somerset County Council, the position being confirmed by Cllr. Dance.

The meeting closed 8.58pm

Note: For the purpose of minute-taking, this meeting was recorded. This was announced by the Chairwoman prior to the meeting commencing and was agreed by all present.