



The Financial Regulations have simply been tweaked to tighten up a few areas and reflect the new Council's way of working.

The Chairman proposed the adoption of the revised Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations with immediate effect. The agreement to this was unanimous.

#### **52/11 TO REVIEW BANK MANDATE AND NEW SIGNATORIES**

The Chairman proposed that the Bank Mandate be revised to include Barry Davolls, Teresa Sienkiewicz, Nicola Norman, Peggie Finlayson and Stephen Crane, all as signatories. This was agreed by all.

#### **53/11 APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK**

Enid King is standing down as Parish Clerk on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011. The Chairman proposed that Carole Mansfield be appointed as the new Clerk, Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer, commencing employment as of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011. This was seconded and agreed by all.

#### **54/11 CLERK TRAINING**

Clerk training is provided by the Somerset Association of Local Councils and is free of charge. There are two training sessions during October, on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. These sessions will be attended by Mr. B. Davolls and Mrs. C. Mansfield.

#### **55/11 UPDATES ON EGGWOOD HILL, LOPENHEAD DEVELOPMENT AND LOPEN MILL**

Eggwood Hill – all three Parish Councils have agreed to continue with the Purchase of the site once vacated and despite the absence of any County Council indemnity against future illegal occupancy of the site. The latest development in respect of removing the illegal occupants is that the Court appearance scheduled for July was deferred to encourage both parties to reach agreement outside of Court proceedings. This may be achieved in the form of an alternative local solution.

Lopen Mill – there is a long outstanding issue in respect of implementing landscaping as part of a Section 106 agreement for the site. A verbal agreement has been made to put in place an alternative landscaping scheme during the current planting season, which has been accepted by SSDC as a workable solution. Events will be monitored over the coming months and if work does not proceed as planned the next step will be to enforce the Section 106 agreement as it stands.

Lopenhead – a number of people have expressed concern at the state of the land at Lopen Head Nursery site which has not been allocated for development. The land is classed as Grade I agricultural land and despite this the owner has put a caravan on the site and is parking lorries. He has no

planning permission to do this. In addition, it is clear that hardcore is being dumped and that rubbish is being burned. As the groundwater feeds into the aquifer, there is a serious risk of contamination. Andrew Gunn of SSDC has reported back to B. Davolls following a visit to the site. The caravan which had been removed from the site has clearly been returned and Mr. Gunn stated that he would write to the landowner seeking its removal. He noted 3 lorry containers on site, 2 on chassis and 1 without. All these appear to belong to Lift West and he is writing to the owner to seek their removal. He will also ask about the dumping of rubble etc. on site, although this is a County matter. Mr Gunn has spoken to the Enforcement Officer who advised he should write to the owner to ask about the origin and purpose for this rubble as no planning permission exists for this. Also stating that no further rubble etc. should be dumped on the site and that the current material be removed. Concerns have also been raised regarding burning on the site, especially the black smoke. This is an Environmental Health matter and he has spoken to Paul Huntingdon about this issue. In terms of landscaping, whilst the development at the front of the site has yet to be implemented, he will request that planting is undertaken along the front of the site (roadside).

#### **56/11 REPORT ON FOOTPATHS AND LENGTHSMAN**

Everyone agreed that Lopenhead Roundabout is now a great improvement. Hedge to be cut outside Mrs. Lemon's house. Permission should be sought for this and it was pointed out that she does have a gardener. Finger Posts for Manor Farm footpath – chase up for these. Lenthsmen requires winter jobs – suggestions – clear up leaves, clear School Lane footpath, put up dog deterrent notices (these need to be applied for) as there is an increase of dog mess in the village.

#### **57/11 REPORT ON HIGHWAYS AND DRAINAGE**

An accident occurred on Hinton Road corner which destroyed hedging, gas box etc. belonging to Hinton Cottage. Revised signs for the junction are to be erected. Drainage – Mr. Nigel Potts of Applehay stated that he has a private drain which the County Council tapped into agreeing they would take over the maintenance, but nothing has been done so far. Mr. P. Maxwell said that he would look into this.

#### **58/11 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Mr. Paul Maxwell confirmed that the three parishes were still interested in purchasing the site at Eggwood Hill. Proceedings for site recovery are in progress. Speed limit through Watergore – this will reduce from 50 mph to 40 mph although the date for implementation is not yet known. South Petherton Library – this is remaining open at present. Crewkerne Recycling Centre – a meeting is to be held to discuss the future. At present it is open with each visit costing £2.00.

## **59/11 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

No Report

## **60/11 CHANGES TO LOPEN WEBSITE**

There has been a technical issue with the Lopen Village website. In view of the likely expense to recover the site and the on-going fixed costs, a decision was taken last week to abort the site in favour of developing a new site using BT's free-of-charge community service facility. This will be maintained by M. Canton and K. McDonald. If anyone has any new ideas for the site they would like to be considered, please contact either Michael or Kim. [Lopen.btck.co.uk](mailto:Lopen.btck.co.uk)

## **61/11 REVIEW LOPEN VILLAGE PICNIC**

The Village Picnic was a great success. Thanks were given to the organisers, donators and volunteers. Congratulations to everyone involved for providing such a great and well attended event. The Parish Council financially underwrites the picnic and as a 'break even' figure was achieved, there are no financial costs for the Parish Council to consider.

## **62/11 TO DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR CELEBRATING THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE**

Suggestions were asked for, through the Lopen Eye, on how or if we should celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. There was little or no response to this. It was suggested that the village stocks should be reinstated with a possible location next to the village notice board. The majority at the Meeting believed there was insufficient local support for this proposal. Someone suggested a street party in Church Street. This is still ongoing.

## **63/11 FUTURE MEETING DATES AND TIMES**

The next scheduled meeting is 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at 7.30 p.m. in the Sunday School Room

## **64/11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Teresa Sienkiewicz is to contact SSDC regarding funding for hearing equipment. Maybe borrowed equipment which others can use. P. Maxwell suggested Somerset Community Council funding towards this.

A Planning Application has just been received and an Extra Ordinary Meeting will be arranged to discuss this.

Angel Naunton Davies has organised a welcome pack for newcomers to the village and requested suggestions for inclusion in the pack.