

## LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting held in The School Room, Church Street, Lopen 11 March 2019, 7 pm

Present : S Crane (Chairman), N Jones, E Moore, J Feeney (part of the meeting),  
V Canton

In attendance : L Wilson - Parish Clerk, County & District Cllr Adam Dance & County Cllr  
Crispin Raikes (part of the meeting), Ben Stevens - Gigaclear (part of the meeting)  
Members of the Public : 12

The meeting commenced at 7.10 pm.

#### Public Forum Part 1

Gigaclear Representative Ben Stevens had offered and attended the meeting, answering questions that related to the roadworks impact and physical infrastructure. Apologies (via Ben Stevens) from the contractors Telent, who had been expected to attend - no reason given. The Chairman raised the main issues of the standard of work and the impact upon residents' access to properties, sometimes with no notice. Mr Stevens indicated Gigaclear had moved offices from Abingdon to Taunton and upscaled the number of staff which should improve matters; they accepted there had been poor quality workmanship and they were now rectifying this. The works were expected to complete (and live) before the end of this year, save for weather delays and any unexpected circumstances. The CDS contract had been extended to enable Gigaclear to provide full connection. Any maintenance with regard to underground works would be the responsibility of Gigaclear. Gigaclear will own the system and a limited number of providers will opt into the system, from whom residents can contract service.

7.28 pm Cllr J Feeney arrived (advance written notice of late arrival re work appointment received)

A number of members of the public raised individual complaints mostly regarding access and the lack of notification. Gigaclear pointed out that correspondence *should* have been sent out to any residents where access would be affected. Issues can be referred to Ben Stevens as first point of contact and business cards were provided.

Cllr Dance requested any residents who encountered future issues with access to notify him in addition to the Parish Council.

7.41 Ben Stevens left the meeting.

**County Councillor's Report :** Gritting measures : The original route will be reinstated.  
Councillor Dance left at 7.45 pm.

**District Councillor's Report :** Council Tax rose by £5 on Band D; roughly equivalent to the loss from removal of the grant. Post Box - Cllr Raikes had received an email to say that the box would be replaced, but in the layby on main road on a freestanding post, with

a timescale of 3-4 weeks hence. Cllrs Raikes confirmed he would chase this up in due course. Confirmed Local Council and Parish Elections (latter only if required) would be the 2 May.

**13/19 Apologies:** None

**14/19 Declaration of Interests :** None

**15/19 Dispensations :** None

**16/19 Minutes of Meeting** of 21 January 2019, as previously circulated, were received, agreed as a correct record and duly signed.

**17/19 Picnic:** The Working Party was formally formed. Members were confirmed as those present at the informal gathering on the 13 February; Carolyn White, Liz Constable, Jean Morton, Kate Jones, Victoria Bennett, Mike Armstrong plus Caroline McKendrick, who volunteered to become a member during the Parish Council Meeting. Councillor Canton confirmed she would also be part of the WP. Clerk to send email to WP to confirm how it should operate; confirmed it had an advisory capacity only, no voting rights or decision-making authority, but that quotes etc should be put before the Council for decisions. Terms of reference would include the need for a risk assessment to be drawn up with consultation with the Parish Council and compliance with any requirements for insurance. Next Picnic WP meeting date : 24 April. Date agreed and confirmed for Picnic as Sunday 14 July 2019.

**18/19 Planning:**

Application No 19/00309/HOU; King; Beauregard, Kitchens Lane, Lopen, TA13 5JJ

Action : Resolved and agreed that NJ to respond in writing with agreed comments: request for information on materials as very little is included in the application pack; however it appears as if timber cladding is extensive which is very contemporary and not in keeping with local buildings.

Application No 19/00379/LBC - Wyatt; Court Farm, Holloway, Lopen, TA13 5JU

Action : Resolved and agreed that as a listed building in a conservation area, and with minimal internal modifications, there would be no comment by the Parish Council; left at the discretion of the Conservation Officer.

Update on LPC's response (28.1.19) to 19/00007/EIASS Screen and Scoping request Frogmary Green AD Plant.

Councillor Jones confirmed that the lengthy LPC response sent, stating that an EIA should be undertaken, had not been published alongside other documents on SSDC's website. Yet South Petherton Parish Council's response, which post-dated LPC's response, appears on the website. LPC's response was raised at the recent planning meeting at SSDC's offices and picked up by the Planning Chairman Peter Kidner. SSDC seem unable to explain why our response is not published; however they acknowledge the response. Action : NJ intends to continue to pursue, as will Clerk.

Update on LPC's attendance at Planning Area Committee Meeting of 27 February relating to Probiotics application No 17/04604/FUL

None of the members of the Council Planning Committee were local to this area; no knowledge of site or context. In spite of opposition, including LPC's strong stance, the application was allowed.

It was noted that SSDC were on site today putting in pegging for landscaping.

#### **19/19 Election :**

A summary of the steps for the Election were outlined by the Clerk and nomination forms for Councillors and potential new nominees circulated and made available.

#### **20/19 New Meeting Dates :**

Thursday 11 April and the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 13 May.

#### **21/19 Finance - Payments :**

Footprintz (printing )	45.00
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#### **Public Forum Part 2:**

A member of the public had written to Hewins Timber regarding noise and lights from site and received a response. The Chairman indicated that Hewins had made changes to some of their operating practices since the last meeting, and that some time should be given for the company and the village to monitor and see the results of these changes.

A member of the public raised concerns over the 7.5 ton limit and why HGV's were using route. The Chairman indicated that the Parish Council had no powers of enforcement and it was for the Police to deal with vehicles in contravention. The PC regularly report, and make representations regarding vehicles and speeding, which has been supported by use of the SID. However, vehicles of this size were allowed access when travelling to and from Mill Lane Industrial Estate.

Roger Gurner of SLOW suggested that a lorry watch could operate via Speedwatch and pass the information to SEU.

A member of the public raised concerns about cows from Manor Farm entering her property, causing a health & safety issue and potential loss of business, plus the amount of mud and excrement in the road which was not cleared, leading to hazard and travel into private property. The Council observed they believed Manor Farm to be tenanted, in the ownership of SSDC; LPC could raise the matter with SSDC.

#### **22/19 Any Other Matters:**

Councillor Canton reported that Highways had been putting a camera down the drains in Frog Street again, but while another resident had contacted Highways to ask for feedback on the results of this, there had been no response. There are still the same issues in Hol-loway from outside Cllr Moore's house. Highways should be contacted again.

Reference made to Steve Lawrence of SSDC's request on Friday for a split of data between the different SID locations. Some Councillors wanted to know why this was re-

quired; others happy to supply the breakdown as requested. An enquiry to Steve Lawrence would be made by the Clerk in the first instance.

Repeat enquiry from SLOW for what email circulation addresses are for SID data. Answer given that it is the same circulation list as per other local Parish Councils, as provided by Brympton Parish Council, as referred to in previous meetings.

Dog Poo Signs : Cllr Feeney had not been able to get hold of SSDC direct, but two self-adhesive signs had been received and installed, and more could be printed and laminated.

The Clerk referred to the communication with Traffic Technology over the charging life of the battery, which they had estimated to be in the region of a week. Further steps to check the battery were detailed in an email circulated to Councillors.

The meeting concluded at 9.50 pm

For the purposes of minute taking the meeting was recorded.