

## LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting held in The School Room, Church Street, Lopen 18 October 2017, 7 pm

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

In attendance : L Wilson - Parish Clerk, Cllr Adam Dance (part of the meeting)  
Members of the Public : 5

The meeting commenced at 7.05 pm.

**227/17 Apologies** received from District Councillor Crispin Raikes. Cllrs Canton and Burrows were absent but no apologies had been received.

**Public Forum** The new building at Probiotics was discussed.

**228/17 Declarations Interests & Dispensations** None

**229/17 Approval of Minutes** Two amendments a) typographical error at 224/17:- addition of an "e" to "very" so that it reads "every" . b) Inclusion of the list of payments which had been read and handed out at the meeting. The minutes were then signed as a correct record.

7.10 pm County & District Councillor Adam Dance joined the meeting

**230/17 Matters arising**

- Drains : Cllr Moore informed the meeting that a couple of weeks ago SSDC had been camera scoping the drains in Holloway, marking crosses on the road at issue locations, later confirmed by Mike Fear as breakages at those locations.

7.12 pm Cllr Canton joins the meeting

**231/17 County Councillor's Report** interposed as much is relevant to matters arising.

- Cllr Dance confirmed three emails sent to Mike Fear re the Frog Street flooding issue. Cllr Crane indicated that the householder believes blockages to his drain are caused by the past road patching.
- "To the Church" sign - this is a matter for the PCC after all. AD volunteers to speak to the relevant individuals.
- SIS - AD attended a meeting last week. The work will now be done *next* financial year.
- Library Review - This is the subject of a three year consultation. AD's plan was to work with community and suggest combining South Petherton library with a collective hub, possibly in the vacant Nat West building.
- The Nippy Bus has been withdrawn without notice; any customers who have pre-paid passes can contact NB for a refund. The Community Bus is attempting to cover the lost service for now; it was well-used, AD having received 35 calls from users to date.
- SSDC have purchased the M & S building in Yeovil, obtaining a rental of half a million p.a.

Return to other matters arising :

- **Electoral Review** AD confirmed that he had already put forward his view that the parish boundaries should remain as they are. The Chairman thought the proposals, as described by AD, were illogical. AD recommends the PC write to confirm their view.

**232/17 Road SIS** The Chairman summarised Highways' letter of the 9 October. A query will be raised why larger 30mph signs are deemed suitable in a conservation area and clarify the terminology regarding whether "parking" is permissible on the solid white lines, as differentiated from "waiting", as currently phrased. NJ will also pursue the installation of the sign at Broomhill and the ultimate timing of the SIS works.

**233/17 SID** Residents felt that other villages appeared to have the SID's for over two weeks at a time in one place, although LPC were being informed that was the maximum allowable time. The approximate cost of £2-3000 is an incentive to share a device with another village. SSDC would pay 50% of training costs for installation staff, but that cost has not yet been defined. Insurance is required for those staff and for the equipment. SSDC have to approve placement of the devices. It was agreed that Investigation by a working party would be instated, with volunteers Councillors Crane and Jones and residents Roger Gurner and Jenny Feeney (finance). It was agreed that Seavington would be approached in the first instance.

**234/17 Ranger** Councillors Crane and Moore had usefully spoken with the Ranger. He confirmed the Ranger's tasks on his one full day per month (unspecified day) in order : dealing with fly-tipping; trimming both village gateway areas; trimming around speed signs; verges by village signs; clearing of leaves in autumn including footpath between School and Kitchen Lane. He also confirmed that the willow at Snap Ant bends is pruned, but it grows vigorously so this is perhaps an issue - no-one appears to know when or by whom it was planted. The Councillors plan to meet the ranger Phil in due course.

**235/17 Defibrillator** Refund due to NJ for purchase of the batteries, which would be put in the defibrillator box. The Parish Council now have a certificate. Costs obtained for the "AED Emergency Defibrillator" sign options : £2 sticker; £3.60 on plastic; more for glow in the dark; more for rigid plastic (minimum order of £60) or they could be colour printed and laminated for less; the latter was agreed. Locations raised and agreed : two at the church gate, one on each side of the Parish noticeboard, a glow in the dark one on the box itself, one inside school room.

**236/17 Social Committee** Councillor Fraciewicz suggested use of the School Room for new social events would provide a focal point for the village. He had made contact with the Lopen Raj with regard to a curry evening, for example. Steven Crane believed the PCC would welcome the idea, but the Parish Council would undoubtedly need to rent the School Room by agreement as is the case for other events. The maximum visitors are 40 seated, 80 standing. Currently the rental is £10 per hour but potential new tariff in January; it was agreed SF would speak to Mike Chapman to scope a possible set fee.

**237/17 Footpaths** Councillor Moore confirmed he had investigated the footpaths around the Mill Lane Industrial Estate and spoken to Les Braunton (SSDC), who had agreed to replace the stile at the top corner and the other missing one. There are discrepancies between the marked paths between new OS maps, Roam Somerset, what is on the ground now and local knowledge; Les Braunton has been asked to clarify the position.

Councillor Crane and Alistair Hewins of Hewins Timber had conversed regarding the noise, the stile and the stacking of timber. Mr Hewins had indicated that it was a fully working yard, however he had not been aware vehicles were on occasion arriving as early as 5.30 am and had agreed to look into this. SC confirmed that currently the new building is being used for

machine use not storage; it was agreed the original planning permission would establish what the terms are.

**238/17 Returning Councillor possibility** Nicola Norman had indicated a possible interest in returning as a Councillor; NJ would discuss with Nicola Norman.

**239/17 Training** Councillor Canton confirmed she could attend the training on the 23 November and the Clerk would make the booking. SALC AGM - only NJ was available to attend and would consider further.

**240/17 Electoral Review** Whilst nothing in the letter the Parish Council had received indicated specific proposals to move the boundaries, it was agreed that LPC would write (NJ to do) and state the Parish wished the boundaries to remain as they are.

**241/17 Family Services Consultation** Any resident can respond to this consultation (deadline 1 December). Currently the service is building-centred, the closest centres at Ilminster, Yeovil and Crewkerne, but with a view to reducing costs the proposals are that it become a peripatetic service. It was agreed that information would be published in the Lopen Eye.

**242/17 Audit** The audit had now been concluded with no comments from auditors Grant Thornton; all information had been posted on the Lopen website.

**243/17 Internal Control** It was proposed that for the purposes of improved internal control, a Councillor who is not a signatory should have sight of the financial documents such as bank statements, payments and receipts, every quarter. Councillor Frackiewicz volunteered to do this.

**244/17 Payments** The list of payments since the last meeting were signed as follows :

180917	L Wilson	Clerk's Wages for quarter	449.91
180917	HMRC	Tax on Clerk's Wages	112.40
		Total	562.31

Receipt presented for refund (NJ)  
 : The Battery Station (Defib. batts.) £19.75  
 Invoice presented for payment :  
 Mike Constable (fuel for mower) £11.98

**245/17 Planning**

- **Lift-West & Hewins' Timberyard** : Councillor Frackiewicz reported a productive conversation with Neil Waddleton at the planning training session re the Lift West development. Councillor Crane confirmed that Hewins' Timberyard had conditions regarding screening, initially agreed to be sonic baffle, but due to the 14-20' height required Hewins had stated wind issues made this impractical. Subsequently, hedging had been agreed, but one year on and this had not materialised. A further storage area has yet to be built. It was agreed that NJ would draft a list of issues and letter for both sites and circulate first.
- **Sunday School Room** Planning Application for removal of the chimney:- Councillor Crane proposed that the application should be supported rather than merely raise a no objection letter, which was agreed by the Councillors present. It was agreed it would proceed by the delegated route.
- **Bailiff's Cottage** Installation of solar panels on roof :- Receipt of this Planning Application was anticipated; it was not yet on the SSDC website either.

**246/17 Matters for Future Consideration** The budget would need to be considered on the next occasion.

The meeting was concluded at 9.15 pm

For the purposes of minute taking the meeting was recorded.