

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in The School Room, Church Street, Lopen 14 September 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 7.04 pm.

Public Forum :

Topics raised included *Greener for Life'*; development at Lopenhead; impact of Hewin's Timberyard noise and expansion ; difficulty of access to footpath at Lopen Business Park where the stile has collapsed, signs have been removed and obstructions block the way. Councillor Moore volunteered to look at the latter and follow it up and/or report back.

210/17 Apologies - none had been received, but neither Councillor Burrows or Canton were present.

211/17 There were no declarations of interest or dispensations.

212/17 **Approval of Minutes** The minutes of the previous meeting of the 20 July 2017 were approved and signed as an accurate record with one amendment, correcting Mike "Harding" to Mike "Hicks" at Minute 208/17.

213/17 **Matters arising from Minutes**

- The Chairman updated the meeting on the finalisation of the signatories on the Bank account and that there is at least now a direct email contact where no phone contact with the branch is permissible.
- Broomhill Traffic : there have now been two incidents where large tree branches have been broken or displaced by large vehicles. The Chairman has spoken to Gary Warren of Highways; it is possible to have a road re-classified by Sat-nav so that vehicles are not routed through it, but this could take some time. It is also possible to get a TRO, but it is a long process. Two members of the public recall that the road used to have a

sign marking the lane as max 6'6 width - the sign is no longer in place. NJ will pursue with Highways with regards to its reinstatement.

7.25 pm Councillor Canton arrived.

214/17 Frog Street The recent flooding of Frog Street was raised. As the County Council had previously indicated they would investigate the drains with a camera and Cllr Moore had ongoing discussions with Mike Fear regarding the drains flooding at his property, it was agreed that help would be sought from Cllr Dance (Via Cllr Crane) to pursue Mike Fear of Highways regarding investigation into the issues. Mike Fear had commented that the blockages may have been caused by the previous works BT had carried out in the road. The matter was put back to later in the meeting for when Cllr Dance was present.

215/17 Ranger Duties The schedule of regular works provided by Ranger Nick Allen was discussed. Councillor Moore summarised the voluntary tasks he and residents undertake, including the clearance of the School Lane footpaths and the one by the Anderson's lake. It was proposed that Councillors should put together a plan for any amendments to that schedule. The possibility of using an external provider was raised.

Councillor Adam Dance arrived at 7.45 pm.

Councillor Dance confirmed that using the Ranger had advantages in that the work is reliable, insured, and with recall to a comprehensive range of equipment. Clearance of drains would be at the reduced fee of £12 per drain and with the advantage that they would liaise with timings of the road-sweeper so that leaves could be cleared instantly at no additional cost. Councillor Dance agreed to help liaise and arrange a meeting between Chris Hooper, Councillors Crane and Moore, to work out a core list. Any additional or priority works could be the subject of specific requests to Nick Allen on a month by month basis.

216/17 Road SIS The Chairman confirmed that a response had now been received from The County Council and summarised the features, commenting that the plan falls far short of what the village had asked and hoped for. Cllr Dance warned that only 50% of SIS's complete and that we are now at the point that if Lopen doesn't take what is on the table, the offer will be withdrawn altogether. The cut off is the end of September, so there was no time to undertake further consultation across the village. After completion, the Council will refer back to the village and review the effects.

There is nothing to stop a further application at a later date. Cllr Jones indicated he would forward round an email from Dave Grabham of highways regarding SID's - which is positive and now something the village can consider in detail and liaise, perhaps, with Merriot and Seavington again, with a view to sharing a device. All concerned were "reluctantly resigned" to accept the SIS plans, as the best way forward at this current time, and a unanimous vote was recorded.

217/17 Frog Street Councillor Crane confirmed that the Council have cleared the drains from Egwood and up, but not including the pipes between the chambers. Cllr Dance confirmed that Mike Fear had indicated he was looking into it, or was going to. A camera survey, which would show if the drains had collapsed, could take six months to schedule. Lopen Parish Council are to email Cllr Dance so that it can be referred onto the County Council.

218/17 Defibrillator The registration of the defibrillator has progressed with a meeting with South West Ambulance on site. It is recommended that signage should be improved with, at the least, one on the gate by the schoolroom and one at some other significant point in the village. Cllr Dance indicated that the District Council could be asked for a *To The Church* sign. The Chairman offered to obtain prices for signs. It was also agreed and resolved that batteries (10 x camera-type batteries with a shelf life of about ten years - ours have been in for three years) would be ordered, at a cost of approximately £40, but that pads (at a cost of £79) would be put on hold for another year or so as they have a five year duration. Battery checks are to take place every week (by the Chairman as previously agreed).

219/17 Picnic In future a formal Picnic Committee will be organised by the Council, with at least one Councillor as an actively involved member. There must also be one individual with a current First Aid Certificate present for the whole event. The reasons for the difficulties over the insurance were explained

220/17 Clerk's Post The current clerk will stay on for the time being. There is one party interested in the post but they are unable to start for a couple of months. It will be checked whether advertising of the post is a requirement. The current hours were discussed, with Cllr Dance recommending following SALC's guidance. It was agreed and resolved that the hours would be increased to 17.5 per month, the recommended minimum.

221/17 Training Councillor Frackiewicz confirmed he was able and wished to attend the Good Councillor training on the 23 November. It was resolved that a place would be booked. Cllr Canton was to check her availability.

222/17 Meeting Dates Future dates were agreed :
 Wednesday 18th October
 Thursday 7th December

It was noted that it would be best to avoid the third Thursday of the month as this would clash with the County Council meetings of Cllr Dance.

9.05 pm Councillor Canton left the meeting.

223/17 Electoral Review As a response is not required until the 30 October, it was agreed that it would be discussed further at the next meeting.

224/17 Payments Cheques to the Ranger and Footprintz for the following invoices were signed :

Invoice Date 30 Aug 2017	SSDC (Ranger)	150.96
Invoices (x 5)	Footprintz	225.00
		<hr/>
		375.96

List of prior payments since the last meeting; 210717 - 130917:

Date	Amount	Payee
110817	150.96	SSDC Ranger
090917	150.96	SSDC Ranger
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	301.92	

225/17 Planning

- 17/02926/FUL Probiotics International Limited - Erection of link extension between buildings D & E. The concerns raised were those relating to historic issues of the failure to adhere to landscaping and screening conditions. Otherwise there were no observations and it was resolved that the Chairman would respond to the Council accordingly.

- 17/00784/FUL Lopen Business Park, Mill Lane : Update on the determination.

226/17 Matters for Future Consideration

Councillor Frackiewicz raised the possibility of a Social Committee, which could perhaps incorporate the Picnic event planning. The PCC would need to be consulted with regard to use of the School Room, but Cllr Frackiewicz suggested events such as a pop-up restaurant, pop-up pub and other social events (possibly raising funds to help cover the costs of the Picnic) to bring the village together.

The meeting was concluded at 9.35 pm

For the purposes of minute taking the meeting was recorded.