

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held in The School Room, Church Street, Lopen 16 February 2018, 7 pm

Present : N Jones (Chairman), E Moore, S Frackiewicz

In attendance : L Wilson - Parish Clerk
Members of the Public : 4

The meeting commenced at 7.05 pm

274/18 Apologies: received from Councillor Canton. Neither Councillor Crane or Burrows were present.

275/18 Dispensations & declaration of interests : None

276/18 Annual Parish Meeting : Provisional date of the 12th May arranged, to tie in with Plant Fair date, when many residents will already be present (agreed with Christianne in advance). Ideas discussed : an interactive board and/or a box for residents to post ideas in. Alternatively a questionnaire, which is delivered house to house beforehand, with the invitation to bring the completed form to either the Plant Fair or meeting. The Clerk had provided a bullet point fact list on Annual Parish Meetings, which included the information from NALC's website of the requirement to hold the Meeting no earlier than 6 pm. It was agreed this would be verified with Justin Robinson of SALC. Also discussed possibility to bring in local suppliers to provide a "taster" catering format. SF agreed to make enquiries of such companies. Further decisions postponed to next meeting.

277/18 Finance: Payments made to the following suppliers :

SALC (training fees)	£50.00
Nicholas Jones, Chairman - refund for Defibrillator pad replacements (after recent use of original set)	£96.48
SSDC (Ranger)	£452.88

278/18 Planning : Application No 18/00054/COU - Change of use of unit 15, Lopen Business Park to mixed use B8 and B2 (storage with conversion and finishing timber for joinery purposes)

The building in question is currently used for storage; the intended use is for processing of timber ready for joinery use, which is currently carried out in a different building. The Chairman and Councillor Crane had visited Hewins' Timber Yard, and met with Alastair Rubie of Hewins two weeks previously. The site comes under Merriott district, but access is through Lopen, hence notification to LPC.

Positive aspects noted : assists local business and employment. It does not involve any building expansion and it may reduce noise from the main site (according to the business owner).

Concerns noted: may create more noise (mostly fork-lifts) for houses South of Lopen brook; nearest house is approximately 360m away. Residents in more than one house felt the noise of vehicles and vibrations from machinery already impacted upon them. Also increase in noise/dust for other businesses close by. One councillor raised concern that this would lead to further creep of development and could increase noise and traffic. The land is near the controversial piece of land which originally had strict planning conditions attached and which SSDC permitted retrospective applications for further development and alternative use.

Alastair Rubie of Hewins, present at this meeting, indicated a 5% increase in traffic noise (but no additional vehicles). He stated that concrete on the building floor will minimise the machinery noise, plus there is no need for the forklifts to reverse, avoiding the noise from reversing alarms. He estimated the use of the building as 20% processing works, 80% storage. The saw is already used on site, and would be put at the far end of the building. It would be wrong to say there is no growth of the business, but this is not a substantial change and he foresaw no environmental impact. Mr Rubie also indicated a desire and intention to screen the West boundary of their main site as required by their existing permission and additionally install a North boundary of trees. There is no impact upon the recently cleared footpath (and repaired stile) to the rear.

After deliberation, and on the basis of the assurance from Mr Rubie that barriers would be erected as discussed and that expansion was as limited as indicated, all councillors agreed to make no objections to the planning application. Resolved that NJ would write to SSDC accordingly.

279/18 Councillor Burrows : Has been absent for six months and six meetings. Apologies have not been received on every occasion. In the particular circumstances LPC are aware of, it was agreed and resolved to write to Mr Burrows clearly stating the Council's position and requesting confirmation that he wishes to stand down; in the absence of a response he would be considered disqualified at the time of the next meeting.

280/18 SID Update : The trial device was considered more effective than SSDC's, including the fact that it produces more detailed results and Police state it gives them a better indication of when they should monitor traffic. The biggest hurdle to purchase is the training implications. The Chairman had rung a number of training providers, all of which indicated the same restrictions and prices. More investigation was agreed with regard to potential use of the Ranger and whether the 2 hr training undertaken by volunteers who paint and install fingerposts could be sufficient. Furthermore, whether the training, where it indicates it is for "employees", will actually be available to volunteers.

Councillor Frackiewicz left the meeting at 8.10 pm

281/18 Any Other Matters to Note :

- Update on two planning matters dealt with at the last meeting : the land at Holloway Road, Merriott was refused permission due to the lack of viability of the structure.
- Probiotics application - SSDC's website contains a letter from Highways regarding inadequate parking for HGV's and manoeuvring space. No final decision is yet posted.
- Parish Bier : This item is to be put on agenda for the next meeting. It is temporarily stored in a resident's workshop, but an alternative location will be required.
- Confirmation of the VAT rebate received of £286.32.
- A resident has obtained paint for the renovation of the dolphin on the Lopen village gateway stone.

The meeting was concluded at 8.25 pm

For the purposes of minute taking the meeting was recorded.