

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in The School Room, Church Street, Lopen 20 July 2017, 7 pm

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

In attendance : L Wilson - Parish Clerk. Members of the Public : 3

The meeting commenced at 7.05 pm.

196/17 Apologies were received from Lopen Parish Councillor Jed, County Councillor Adam Dance and District Councillor Crispin Raikes.

197/17 There were no declarations of interest or dispensations.

198/17 Approval of Minutes The minutes of the previous meeting of the 13 June 2017 were approved and signed as an accurate record.

199/17 Matters arising from Minutes The chairman updated the meeting regarding piecemeal correspondence from the bank requesting yet further information before they will *remove* a resigned Councillor from the signatories on the account. It was agreed and resolved that the Clerk should ring the bank.

200/17 South West Ambulance Trust The Chairman updated the meeting regarding information gained from South West Ambulance Trust on the advantages of registering our defibrillator with the free service. Any local 999 calls will be made aware of the location of the equipment and there is access to an online check register as well as accreditation and reduced cost signage. The burden includes a requirement to carry out weekly physical checks and monthly online confirmation of those checks. It was agreed unanimously that Lopen should register with the service (Chairman to action). The Chairman volunteered to be the main point of contact and person to carry out checks with Councillor Frackiewicz as the back-up.

201/17 Broomhill Lane Traffic In view of HGV traffic continuing to use the Lane resulting in damage to banks, walls and uprooting of trees, the

existing signage and potential options were discussed. The Chairman raised the possibility that a width restriction sign being more specific might have more effect than the current "unsuitable for HGV's" sign, and/or the possibility of changing the written sign (at Snapant) to a visual one. It was agreed and resolved that contact would be made to discuss these points with Gary Warren of Highways and discover what options are available.

202/17 SIS The Chairman, Councillor Frackiewicz, Ben Goldsmith and Roger Gurner recently met informally with Mike Wool, Haselbury Plucknett's Speedwatch Coordinator. Some useful information was gathered as to how the village obtained their 20 mph limit. Data is awaited from Dave Grabham of Highways still.

Confirmation that funds were still in place had been forthcoming from Councillor Adam Dance. Highways are now apparently awaiting a response from LPC, albeit we are operating without full information from Highways.

The possibility of a traffic island was raised; an option which by Government guidelines does not require the installation of lighting. If SSDC do, then it could be lit by solar energy, as is the one at East Chinnock.

As SSDC indicate that a 20 mph limit is more effective as a zone rather than a speed limit, the point was raised that the area from Frog Street and up, encompassing School Lane and Church Street to East and West, and Broomhill Lane and Snapant to the North, could form the zone.

As the Council have been keen to point out that traffic can't go from 60 mph to 20 mph, it seems a positive argument to propose a reduction in the speed limit to 40 mph at the entry to the village from the Merriot end. Where the Council indicate this has a negative effect on the flow of traffic, it could be pointed out that both East and West Chinnock have done this and both those village roads are busier than Lopen. A member of the public pointed out that both Seavington and Watergore had been reduced to 40 mph and as they are more major routes, why is Lopen excluded from this option. Councillor Frackiewicz raised a number of suggestions including that a survey of vulnerable road users i.e. children, cyclists, horse-riders, could be undertaken. Further, that as there is rarely any parking between Mill Lane and the first house in the Merriot direction, is there any reason not to request a pavement there? Finally, that there should be more "softer" features to demonstrate that the village is "lived in", such as bunting, scarecrows, written signs. It was pointed out that Misterton now has a flashing 20 mph sign. The cost of an illuminated sign is £2200. The cost of a solar-powered retro-

reflective bollard is £120. The common feature of all the other villages that now have 20 mph limits or zones are that they have schools. However, our children need to access school buses and therefore they are travelling routes on foot to access their schools, so should there be any distinction.

The draft Highways response letter previously prepared and circulated by the Chairman was discussed and it was agreed that a second draft would include some of these points, be circulated for comment and sent out asap by the Chairman. The Clerk requested that all Councillors, SLOW and the Clerk are to be copied in.

203/17 Footpath & Church Maintenance Day It was agreed that some minor amendments may be needed to the Risk Assessment used for the previous Footpath Clearance Day; Councillor Moore undertook to carry this out. Councillor Crane confirmed that the PCC already have one for the elements relating to the Church, and they remain responsible for that rather than LPC.

204/17 Picnic Risk Assessment The Chairman confirmed that he had now received a formal request from the Picnic organiser Carolyn White and will forward to the Clerk for finalising the risk assessment.

205/17 Grounds Maintenance The final quote, Yeovil Hire Centre at £110 + VAT, had been received. As Crewkerne Horticulture had quoted £60 and a number of councillors had received good service from this firm, it was agreed and resolved to use them on the next occasion, likely to be in the autumn. If they did not include collection and return of the mower, both Councillors Crane and Moore volunteered to carry that out. It was agreed that Councillor Crane would let Steve Chapman know verbally that Loxston's would not be carrying out the work this year and the Clerk would confirm this in writing.

206/17 Planning Training Course It was agreed and resolved that the Chairman and Councillors Moore and Crane would attend the free session on the 5th October. The Clerk would notify the training organisers.

207/17 Payments for quarter The list of payments made in the quarter was read out. Invoices for the Lopen Eye were yet to be received, but otherwise there were no invoices outstanding.

List of payments 1.6.17 - 20.7.17

Date	Amount	Payee
280617	301.92	SSDC Ranger (2 invoices)

110717	320.57	L Wilson, Clerk; wages Period 170217-260517
110717	26.25	L Wilson, Clerk ; Heat & light 9/12 months from 160816
110717	36.68	L Wilson, Clerk ; refund misc. expenditure - stationery, toner, stamps, postage fees
110717	80.00	HMRC - PAYE

208/17 Planning Planning Application No 17/00784/FUL Mr Richard Stone; erection of a shed to house water purifier & pump (retrospective) at Lopen Business Park, Mill Lane. The application had been forwarded to us very late (as SSDC had sent to Merriot in error in the first instance) and the Council had been attempting to obtain further information from Richard Stone. Numerous points were raised by Councillors and members of the public : the actual purpose was not clear; construction materials were not defined; the diagram is different to the plan; the concrete base had been in situ for some time; it appears Environmental Health are not that keen ; the water used is from the land's own source, not via Wessex Water and 200 cubic metres per month seems substantial; the route of the waste water is not described nor the treatment method; the pump size and hours of operation are not defined so there may be noise issues to the residential property only a short distance away; the location incorporates a pre-existing service manhole to a residential property - how is that to be accessed if a building is erected over it? It was pointed out that it was Nick Bragg who kept the chickens, so if it use was related to that, the application would have been likely to have been in his name. Therefore it must relate to the remainder of the estate. It was agreed that a comprehensive response with these legitimate points must be made, but at the outset The Chairman would speak to and/or write to Mike Harding at Planning.

209/17 Items for Future Consideration (no decisions can be made)

- The next SALC training date for new councillors clashes with the LPC Meeting of the 14 September. Lopen will await subsequent dates from SALC so that Councillors Frackiewicz and Canton can attend.
- Roger Gurner updated the meeting on the complicated Broadband situation.; it seems that CDS, BT & Open Reach have confused matters. Roger is trying to liaise and clarify matters for those that remain

unconnected. Information will be posted in the Lopen Eye September issue and a notice put on the village noticeboard.

- Councillor Frackiewicz requested permission to put a notice for his fundraising event, The Eyebash, on the village noticeboard (none is required). He also suggests that the village picnic is an opportunity to have a box for attendees to post any ideas for a future village plan.
- The Chairman indicates that the Clerk is wishing to resign. The reasons for this were aired and discussion undertaken to canvas any ways in which some matters could be resolved to retain her employment. Potential alternative candidates and routes to finding new candidates were discussed, including the posting of advertisements with SALC and SSDC.

The meeting was concluded at 9.50 pm

For the purposes of minute taking the meeting was recorded.