

LIGHTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in Lighthorne Village Hall at 8.pm on 13th February 2008

Present:

Cllr Tait (Chair)
Cllr Hill

Cllr Rigby
Alex Tait (Clerk)

Cllr Lewis

Cllr Mills (SDC) and Cllr Booth (WCC) and a resident. Another resident arrived later in the meeting.

1 Apologies

Cllr Lloyd and Cllr Wixey (SDC)

2 Minutes of the meeting of 9th January 2008

Cllr Hill proposed that the minutes be signed as correct. This was motion was seconded by Cllr Lewis and carried unanimously.

3. Members Declaration of Interest

None

4. The meeting shall be adjourned to consider questions from the floor.

Nothing to report

5. Planning

Reference	Title	Applicant	Represent'n	Decision
07/02289/FUL *	Change of use from farm to equine exercise – Banisters Farm	Mr and Mrs Wiggin	No objection although requested ROW Officer checks the site as there is a right of way	Pending Consideration
07/03354/FUL	Tylers Barn, Lighthorne – Erection of a hardwood conservatory	Mr R Taylor	No Comment	Planning permission refused.
07/03336/FUL	Southview, The Bank – Extension and Alteration	Mr and Mrs Meehan	No Comment	Permission with conditions
07/03178/LBC	Fairfield, Lighthorne – extension to existing detached garage to form	Mr and Mrs Lewis	No Comment	PP or LBC not required

	triple garage			
07/03177/FUL	Fairfield, Lighthorne – extension to existing detached garage to form triple garage	Mr and Mrs Lewis	No Comment	Permission with conditions
07/03431/LDP	Redlands Farm, Banbury Road – 21 permanent caravans in addition to the 55 caravans .	Avon Estates (Park Sales) Ltd	Objection	Pending Consideration
07/03358/FUL	26 Mountford Rise – Two storey pitched roof side extension	Mr Anderson and Ms Bhargal	No Comment	Pending Consideration
07/03573/LBC	4 and 5 Church Hill Court, Lighthorne – new porch and dormer window	Mr Preedy		PP or LBC not required
07/03555/FUL	4 and 5 Church Hill Court, Lighthorne – new porch and dormer window	Mr Preedy	Comments made and request for a plan	Pending Consideration
07/03272/FUL	New Farm entrance and removal of hedge at Church Hill Farm	Mr Sabin	No objection although comments made	Pending Consideration

Three planning matters were responded to between meetings and they were as follows:

07/03358/FUL

No Comment

07/03555/FUL

No objections made however some comments made requesting a complete copy of the plans along with confirmation of whether the building was of historical or listed building interest. The Conservation Officer should be made aware of the issue to investigate.

03/03272/FUL

No objection made although the Parish Council did ask for the planning department to review the footpath near to the area in relation to the planning application.

Cllr Hill informed the Councillors that she has been invited by Mr Sabin to discuss the planning application in more detail.

Cllr Tait proposed that the comments for the three planning applications be agreed. The motion was seconded by Cllr Rigby and carried unanimously.

Home Farm

Cllr Tait had contacted the Enforcement Officer to gain an update on the present works which are being carried out at Home Farm. The Enforcement Officer stated that the plan submitted was held to be invalid due to the lack of detail. Cllr Tait informed him that this was the same situation as the last time they spoken nearly a month ago. The Enforcement Officer will contact the owner in a couple of days to gain confirmation that they will be making a planning application to SDC.

Cllr Tait has informed a resident who has been trying to chase this matter as they are very concerned that works seem to have been commenced without any regard to the appropriate planning rules and regulations.

Cllr Tait had contacted the conservation department at SDC to ask them to check whether the works being carried out on The Antelope were in compliance with the regulations as it is a listed building.

6. Highways

A resident wished to speak to the Council with regard to his concerns for the flooding issue around the culvert near Whitegates on Moreton Morrell Lane. He understood that the Councillors were fully aware of the amount of times that Whitegates had flooded and that the Victorian culvert and concrete pipes for the 1970's properties further up the lane from Whitegates could not cope with the amount of water passing through them. The pipes and culvert were not fit for purpose.

The resident was aware that recently there has been an increase in the volume and speed of the water passing through the pipes on his property. He believes that this could be due to the works being carried out on nearby land which may have increased the water flowing into the culvert.

The resident felt that if someone had been carrying out works and was linking new pipe work into this culvert then surely they should have checked prior to carrying out this work that the pipe work and culvert were fit for purpose which they clearly are not.

The resident showed the Councillors a copy of a photograph taken near to the culvert on Moreton Morrell Lane showing a new man hole cover and more suggested pipe work taken place recently. He asked the Council whether the survey which was being arranged included looking into this

area. Cllr Tait stated that she would contact WCC to ensure that this area and query would be included and answered.

The resident had tried to contact WCC to discuss this issue with little success. He had discussed the matter with Mr J Brown at WCC who basically told him that no funds would be available for this issue and the resident felt that there was a definite lack of interest in the matter.

The resident asked whether if WCC were aware of the works being carried out was there a legal requirement to make sure before the works are carried out that the pipes and culvert are fit for purpose. The Councillors agreed that this was a complex area and one which they believe would be difficult to gain an answer from WCC on this point.

Cllr Tait showed the Councillors and the resident the correspondence received so far from WCC regarding this survey.

Cllr Rigby suggested that the resident may wish to speak to Mr Annetts who has done a lot of work clearing the area around the man hole covers and culvert to assist the drainage. Hmay have more information with regard to recent works.

The resident also asked whether the Councillors were aware of whether Whitegates was ever actually a working mill. Cllr Tait stated that she would look at the information from when the village was sold from the Verney Estate in the late 1920's as this should provide some further information.

Cllr Tait had been contacted by a resident of Mountford Rise, (even numbers,) to say that on turning right it is now not possible to see the traffic due to the height of the new road sign. The Councillors believed that these had been installed by SWHA but Cllr Tait will check. Cllr Mills stated that he would check that they were not installed by SDC.

Cllr Hill reported that Mountford Rise, odd numbers, are due to have the roofs of the garages replaced by SWHA after a very long wait.

Cllr Hill asked whether Cllr Booth had responded with regard to the moving of the 30mph sign on Moreton Morrell Lane. Cllr Tait to ask Cllr Booth.

Cllr Tait to order and arrange the wooden posts for the green outside The Antelope to deter parking on this area of land.

7. Lighthorne Sports Ground

Cllr Tait reported that the hedging had been ordered to be planted around the allotments.

Cllr Tait reminded Councillors that there is a general clearance of weeds and planting of the new hedging on Saturday 16th February 2008. Cllr Tait will be arranging soup and a drink for all volunteers.

Cllr Mills stated that Cllr Wixey and himself will try to attend.

Cllr Rigby asked whether anything had ever been carried out with regard to a motion which was passed some years ago in connection to the planting of trees in spaces around the boundaries of the playing field. Cllr Tait was not aware that any action had been taken. However there are a number of trees which could be moved from the copse as all the original trees planted have taken so they may be able to be replanted.

Cllr Tait informed the Councillors that she has arranged a new tariff with the energy provider for the Sports Ground. The standing charge is to be reduced from 49.9p per day to 21.87p making a substantial saving over the financial year.

Cllr Tait was concerned that some item at the Sports Ground appeared to be using a lot of electricity even though the Sports Ground has not been in use over the recent period. She will make investigations as to what could be using this electricity.

Cllr Tait informed the Councillors that the hand dryer in the men's toilets no longer works and she suggested that as the women's toilet is rarely used then that dryer could be transferred to the men's toilets, which is used on a more regular basis, and a towel dispenser could be placed in the women's toilets. This would ultimately save the Council money as the replacement of the hand dryer is more costly. This was agreed by the Councillors and Cllr Tait will arrange for the purchase and installation of the same.

8. Street Lighting

Cllr Lewis is to forward the street lighting questionnaire to the Clerk who will print copies and bring them to the next meeting for discussion. The resident requested a street light on Moreton Morrell Lane as there are

none at present. Cllr Lewis stated that the questionnaire will be carried out by individual roads as she understood that the residents of each road in the village will have different street lighting requirements.

9. Recycling and Refuse.

Cllr Hill is to attend a refuse and recycling meeting next week.

Cllr Mills passed some documentation to Cllr Hill with regard to recycling and waste management that he had received from Cllr Wixey.

A long discussion was held with regard to the proposed three wheelie bins for each household and the complex weekly arrangements for the same. It was quite clear that the Councillors believed that this was not going to be an easy initiative to instigate.

Cllr Hill will report back to the Parish Council at the next meeting about what was discussed at the meeting next week on this issue.

Cllr Hill enquired whether anything was being done about the dog bin on Moreton Morrell Lane. Cllr Tait stated that she had written to two companies for a quote and she will also contact SDC for prices and arrangements for emptying of the same.

Cllr Mills left the meeting.

10 Assets, Contracts and Finance

10a To receive the financial statements from the Responsible

Financial Officer:

Items paid since last meeting

Payee	Cheque No.	Description	Amount £
			Nil

Items for approval at this meeting

Severn Trent	1380	Water Sports Ground	13.78
Lighthorne Village Hall	1381	Insurance	456.83
CPRE	1382	Membership	28.00
ABB	1383	Street Lighting Maintenance	88.57
Buckingham Nurseries	1384	Hedging Sports Ground	160.95

E.On	1385	Electricity Sports Ground	64.11
A Tait	1386	Clerks Salary – January	100.00
A Tait	1387	Clerks Expenses – January	2.98
P Tait	1388	Materials for the Notice Board Installation	11.34

Income/Refunds Received

Item	Amount £
	Nil

Outstanding Income

Item	Amount £
	Nil

10b. To authorise the signing of orders for payment.

Cllr Rigby proposed that the cheques be signed as correct. This motion was seconded by Cllr Lewis and carried unanimously

11. Parish Plan

An entry is to be placed in the Parish Magazine for volunteers to assist in the creating of the Parish Plan.

Cllr Booth arrived and suggested the Councillors review Ratleys Parish Plan as this seemed very well done.

12. Government, other councils, council associations and local authorities.

Cllr Rigby discussed some information received with regard to a sustainable energy grant. This document mostly concentrated on heating but could be useful for the Village Hall. Cllr Tait stated that she will ask Cindy Musgrave to talk to the Council at the Annual Parish Council Meeting as she forwarded this information to them.

Cllr Rigby informed the Councillors that there was a consultation document with regard to drainage.

13. Correspondence.

Cllr Tait informed the Council that they had received an estimate from Thomas Fox for the grass cutting for the finance year 2008/2009. Each cut has increased by approximately £5. The Councillors agreed to continue with Thomas Fox for the grass cutting for this year.

14. To consider any matters that the Chairman decides are urgent

Cllr Tait wish to inform the Councillors that they had received a card from Lady Butler thanking the Parish Councillors for their sympathy regarding her late husband. Sir Adam Butler played such a large part in the life of the community.

Investigations with regard to the water supply for three properties had been taking place. Cllr Lewis reported that Cllr Lloyd had arranged an investigation for the water in his property to be sampled. Two other properties have also had samples taken, one of which is Cllr Lewis' property. The Parish Council is to write to Severn Trent to ask for a copy of the results.

Cllr Booth wished to add that there would be no funds available for the relocation of the 30mph sign this year on Moreton Morrell Lane.

Cllr Booth also informed the Councillors that Council Tax had been increased by 3.9% and from this various funds had been increased, for example, £500,000 towards flooding and drainage issues and also to some antisocial behaviour prevention initiatives.

Cllr Booth informed the Council that there were £1,000 village enhancement grants available. There are only 39 remaining so the Council would be required to apply quickly if they wished to apply for these funds.

Cllr Hill stated that she had received some complaints from residents that the buses were now coming one hour later than originally published. Cllr Booth stated that residents should contact the bus company direct to discuss the matter.

15. Date and venue of next meeting

The Parish Council meeting to be held on Wednesday 12th March 2008 at Smithy Cottage, Lighthorne at 8.00pm.