

## LIGHTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held in Lighthorne Village Hall at 8.pm on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009

Present:

Cllr Tait (Chair)  
Cllr Hill

Cllr Lewis  
Alex Tait (Clerk)

Cllr Stephenson

Cllr Booth (WCC)

#### **1 Apologies**

Cllr Mills (SDC)

#### **2 Minutes of the meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

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

#### **3. Members Declaration of Interest**

Cllr Rigby and Cllr Tait declared an interest in the allotments.

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

None

#### **5. Appointment of the New Parish Clerk**

Cllr Tait informed the Councillors that they had received one application re: post of clerk.

Cllr Tait proposed that the job be offered to the applicant and this was agreed by all Councillors. The Clerk will inform the applicant of the salary and the terms and conditions of employment.

**Cllr Stephenson proposed that the applicant should be informed of their**

success in their application for the post of Clerk and there be a hand over period between the present Clerk and the new Clerk and suggested a meeting between them to discuss the various elements of the employment. He also proposed that a sum of £150 be put aside for a transitional payment for the hand over period for the new Clerk and payment for courses. This motion was seconded by Cllr Rigby and carried unanimously.

The Chairman is to telephone the applicant and inform her regarding her appointment

It was suggested that the new clerk attend the course on Accounts and Auditing on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009 and also the course for new clerks and councillors on 7<sup>th</sup> March.

## 6. Planning

Reference	Title	Applicant	Represent'n	Decision
08/00588/FUL  Appeal Ref: APP/J3720/A/08/208 3585/NWF	Land to the South Side of Lighthorne - appeal erection of an agricultural barn	Mr Swift	No Additional Comments Made	Planning Refused Appeal in Progress Appeal successful
08/02606/FUL  Appeal Ref: APP/J2091986/A/08/ 2091986/NWF	Erection of 21 garages in association with new residential park homes – Redlands Park, Lighthorne	Avon Estates (Park Sales) Ltd	Objection with comments	Appeal in Progress
08/02596/FUL	Change of use of field to recreational land ancillary to caravan site – Redlands Farm, Lighthorne	Avon Estates (Park Sales)Ltd	Objection with comments	Planning Permission Refused
08/02780/FUL	T1 Apple : Fell	Wintingam, Lighthorne: Mrs I Proudman	No Comment	Tree Felling Approved with conditions
08/02934/TREE	T1 Ash:Fell G1 group of Cypress: reduce by 50%	Forester Lodge, Lighthorne : Mrs Gaynor	No Comment	Tree Felling Approved
08/02872/FUL	Construction of Replacement House	Forester Cottage, Lighthorne: Mr Connell	No Comment	Permission with conditions
08/02886/AGNOT	Storage of Agricultural Equipment, Machinery and Fodder	Hill Farm, Lighthorne : Mr Smith	Comments made and site visit requested	Application Withdrawn
08/02971/TREE	T1 Eucalyptus : Fell	Rosemary Cottage, Lighthorne : Mr Stroud	No Comment	Tree Felling Approved

(\*)= Submitted since previous meeting

The resident of Hill Farm had contacted Cllr Tait informing her that their application had been withdrawn due to the building being built and therefore they would have to make an application for planning permission. He asked whether the Parish Council had received a copy of the application from SDC. Cllr Tait had informed him that they had not received the same. He said that he would have attended the meeting to discuss the application with the Councillors if they had received the same. As the Council had not, he will attend the next meeting when the application has been received to discuss the matter further.

The Councillors felt that it would be wise to invite an SDC planning representative to the APM (Annual Parish Meeting), which must be held between 1<sup>st</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> June. This would give Councillors and residents an understanding of the planning process and how decisions are made by SDC. Cllr Tait would circulate some dates and the Clerk would then contact the head of planning.

Cllr Lewis asked whether any one had viewed the height of the wall at Forresters Cottage. Cllr Hill to discuss with the architect whether the wall was to be brick faced on both sides.

## **7. Highways**

Cllr Tait informed the Councillors that hopefully, there is to be a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January with WCC, to discuss the flood prevention strategies for Church Lane and the spending of the grant, which has to be used by March 2009.

Cllr Stephenson informed the Councillors that the run off by the Church and down Church Lane is becoming unacceptable. He had been informed that this could be prevented if the ditch was cleared and new pipes paid along it.

Cllr Tait informed Cllr Stephenson that she had contacted Highways who are willing to take action in this matter. They suggested that the Council write to the landowners responsible, in the first instance, before they become involved. The Clerk had written to the two landowners asking for their co-operation in addressing this problem. They have received a response from one landowner who is willing to cooperate but they have had no response from the other landowner.

Highways stated that if no response is gained from the other landowner, they could attend and carry out the work and invoice the specific landowner.

Cllr Lewis stated that the run off from The Bank from the springs is becoming quite hazardous especially when it is freezing weather conditions. Cllr Tait will have a discussion with Mr Annett with regard to the movement of the springs in these fields and whether anything can be done to prevent the problem. Cllr Rigby stated that in the past he had discussed the matter with Mr Annett and because it was a natural movement of the springs over time there was little that can be done to prevent the problem.

Cllr Lewis asked whether gritters could come down Church Lane. Cllr Tait had discussed the matter with Highways and they have provided a negative response and stated that they will only clear the main roads ie. C96. Some residents had requested a grit bin at the Church end of The Bank. WCC will keep them full of salt. Cllr Tait said that the price of a grit bin is £151.42 including VAT. Cllr Stephenson felt that other residents may require a grit bin for their roads and we should add this item to the Newsletter. Cllr Lewis stated that it should also be an item at the APM.

Cllr Hill asked about the progress of the dog bin. Cllr Tait stated that the bin had been purchased and that a pole would be purchased on Monday 19th and the dog bin installed on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January.

Cllr Hill concerned that the field at the end of Post Office Lane was still flooding due to the drainage damage.

Cllr Rigby informed the Councillors that the higher of the two debris traps in the brook beside Heath Lane was choked. Cllr Tait will contact Highways.

The Clerk is to contact SDC with regard to a potential development, which the Councillors had been informed about but no formal application or information had been received, which could greatly affect the village.

Cllr Hill asked whether the new powers to fine people for dog fouling be added to the Newsletter. Cllr Rigby stated that this had been included

## **8. Verge Damage**

Cllr Tait informed the Councillors that the owner of the lorries, which had caused the damage to the verge outside The Antelope was contacted by her to discuss rectifying the damage. The owner was extremely rude to the Chairman and ended up putting the phone down on her. Cllr Tait has informed WCC with the address and name of the owner. She also has names and addresses of witnesses who saw the lorry, which caused the damage.

Cllr Hill stated that there is also a lot of damage to the verge by The Antelope. Cllr Stephenson commented that The Green is also being damaged. A suggestion by Cllr Stephenson of a small chain link fence could be a potential suggestion to prevent this problem. Councillors felt this suggestion could be used in several areas around The Green. The Clerk will look into the cost of the chain link fence and small poles.

## **9. NALC Regional Seminar February 11<sup>th</sup> and WALC Annual Seminar March 7<sup>th</sup> 2009.**

Cllr Stephenson wished to attend the WALC meeting and the new Clerk should attend both meetings.

**Cllr Rigby proposed that funds be put aside for the payment of the course fees. This motion was seconded by Cllr Hill and carried unanimously.**

## **10. Lighthorne Sports Ground**

Cllr Booth arrived at the meeting.

The Sports Ground had been hired out for one event. Unfortunately the water was left on and the pipes froze over night and there was a leak outside.

Cllr Tait to discuss the cost of the fencing issues at the Sports Ground with Mr Annett shortly.

Cllr Tait to look into organising a working party and hiring a skip to clean up around the Sports Ground.

Cllr Stephenson informed the Councillors that some one had vandalised the

winding mechanism of the tennis court net and put a further hole in the fencing.

Cllr Tait reported that she had managed to gain a reduction in the cost of the electricity for the sports ground. The service charge will now be £17.93 and the cost per unit is to be 9.75 pence as opposed to 13 pence, which is to be fixed for the next two years.

Cllr Hill asked whether the Council was still proceeding with the purchase of a bench for outside the Sports Ground. The Clerk will look into potential suppliers.

## **11. Street Lighting**

Cllr Tait thanked Cllrs Lewis, Hill and Rigby for their hard work in producing the questionnaire. Copies of the questionnaire and newsletter, kindly produced by Cllr Rigby, were handed to each Councillor to distribute to all residents. They hope to collect the surveys in around six weeks.

## **12. Refuse and Recycling**

Green compost will start to be collected at the start of April. SDC have informed the Council that residents will be individually informed by a mailshot.

## **13. Allotment**

Nothing to report.

## **14 Assets, Contracts and Finance**

### **14a To receive the financial statements from the Responsible Financial Officer:**

#### **Items approved and paid since last meeting**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
Glasdon UK Ltd	1446	Dog Bin	98.98
Veolia UK Ltd	1447	Grass Cutting	45.47
Lighthorne Village Hall	1448	Hire of the Village Hall	68.00
Veolia UK Ltd	1449	Grass Cutting	45.47

Miss A Tait	1450	Clerks Salary	125.00
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#### Items for approval at this meeting

Payee	Cheque No.	Description	Amount £
Mrs J Tait	1451	Printing Newsletter and Lighting Survey	17.20
Mr P Tait	1452	Insulation pipe work at the Sports Pavilion	4.99
Lighthorne Village Hall	1453	Insurance - Donation	461.61
E On UK Energy Services Ltd	1454	Street Lighting Maintenance	91.20
Miss A Tait	1455	Clerks Salary	125.00

#### Income/Refunds Received

Item	Amount £
Fees for the Hire of the Sports Ground	20.00

#### Outstanding Income

Item	Amount £
	Nil

#### 14b. To authorise the signing of orders for payment.

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

#### 15. Parish Plan

Cllr Stephenson informed the Councillors that he was more than happy to produce the Parish Plan along with some volunteers. However after reviewing various Parish Plans they did not seem to be very specific and after The Prime Minister's recent comments on proposals for planning in the countryside he wonders whether there is a lot of point producing a Parish Plan. He was not sure after recent planning applications and the views of the Parish Council largely being ignored whether the document would be of any use or even referred to in the future by SDC. He felt that if any issues arose in the future the residents would organise an action group to address the problem. All Councillors agreed and the Parish Plan was put on hold.

Cllr Booth stated that a Parish Plan was a good idea if the village had a long term aim, which they may require funding for. This was not the situation for Lighthorne.

## **16. Severn Trent Water**

Cllr Lewis was unsure of the contact details to find out any further information with regard to the test results of the samples taken from various properties. She will contact Severn Trent to try and find out some further information.

## **17. Government, other councils, council associations and local authorities.**

Cllr Booth informed the Council that WCC are setting their new budget and there will be sizeable cuts to the budget for example mobile libraries. It would seem that there will be a 5% increase in Council Tax. The new budget will be decided soon.

Cllr Booth requested that the WCC insist that weight restrictions on HGV's through residential areas be more people friendly and more restrictive to HGV's although accepting that they do need to gain access to local businesses. WCC agreed and they are to review policies in due course.

Cllr Booth stated he believed that the 20mph speed limit policy had been thrown out by WCC.

Copies of the Model Publication Scheme regarding information available from the Parish Council, which had been adopted at the previous meeting, will be posted on the Notice Board and in the Post Office.

## **18. Correspondence.**

A safety inspection on the playground had been received and a couple of issues on the report do need to be addressed. Cllr Rigby stated that the gate also needs to be fixed at the playground.

## **19. To consider any matters that the Chairman decides are urgent**

Cllr Tait asked Cllr Booth what they could do to reduce the speed of cars through the village. He stated that the mobile camera is due to return to the village soon. The Councillors could also contact their local policeman PC Cuthbertson to bring along a speed camera.

The Councillors had received various comments from residents with regard to the village website not be very up to date for various aspects of village life. They had received offers of help to assist the present organiser. The Clerk had written to the organiser to inform him of the suggestion of some assistance and to offer a contribution towards the cost of maintaining the site.

The Councillors also felt that they could set up their own website in conjunction with SDC.

## **20 Date and venue of next meeting**

The Parish Council meeting to be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at Lighthorne Village Hall at 8.00pm.

Finance Meeting at 8.00pm at Smithy Cottage on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009 to discuss the past years expenses and precept for the forthcoming year.