

Lydeard St Lawrence and Tolland Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th May at 7.20pm in Lydeard St Lawrence Village Hall following the Annual Parish Meeting.

Councillors present, Jonathan Marshall (Chairman), Deborah Telling (Vice Chair), Charles Cox, Mary Harding, Don Hobson, Maeve Vickery, Tony Weir and Edward White

In attendance, County Councillor Mike Rigby (arrived at 8pm), Lorna Thorne, Parish Clerk. and 3 members of the public.

17/22 **Apologies** from Cllr Matt Hele, Borough Councillor Gwil Wren and PCSO Louise Fyne.

17/23 **Declarations of interest** – None Received

17/24 The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 13th March 2017 were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

17/25 **Matters Arising**

17/18 Collar Signs - After research from both Cllr Marshall and the Parish Clerk the only place Collar Signs can be sourced is through Taunton Deane's contractors Skanska. To proceed the Parish Council need to submit a request for the works required for a quotation to Taunton Deane. Cllrs agreed to this and Cllr Marshall would submit the information required.

Cllr Marshall had submitted the request for a quote to Taunton Deane and also requested the new maintenance manual. As yet Cllr Marshall has had no response. Mark Peters has cleaned and repainted the sign at Thornbush Cross. Cllr Marshall thanked him for this work.

17/26 26.1 **Appointment of Parish Council Chairman**

Cllr Jonathan Marshall was appointed to stand again. Proposed Cllr Telling,
Seconded Cllr Vickery.

26.2 **Vice Chair of the Parish Council.** Cllr Debbie Telling was appointed.
Proposed Cllr Cox,
Seconded Cllr Vickery

26.3 **Planning Sub-Committee.** Cllrs Cox, Telling, Heal and Weir were appointed.
Proposed Cllr Hobson,
Seconded Cllr Harding

17/27 **Planning**

Applications received for comment from Taunton Deane BC:

22/17/0003/LB Replacement of dormer window with conservation rooflight, insertion of additional rooflight and high level glazed opening to stud wall at Mill Barn, Nethercott Farm, Lydeard St Lawrence

22/17/0006 Erection of single story side extension at Little Downs Cattery, Lydeard St Lawrence

Both the above planning application had been referred to the Planning Sub-Committee with No Objections.

22/17/0005 Siting of Static Caravan for temporary dwelling at The Old Piggery, Tower Farm, Lydeard St Lawrence

The Planning Sub-Committee Object to this proposal. The siting of a static caravan at Tower Farms is an unsustainable location and would lead to a more permanent dwelling. The Committee also request a better understanding of Enterpex Ltd intentions regarding business development on site.

22/17/0007 & 22/17/0008/LB Conversion of outbuildings to ancillary accommodation with erection of a single-story link extension, enclosure of external courtyard and associated internal works at Lower Tarr Farm, Tarr Road, Lydeard St Lawrence (amended scheme to application 22/16/0023 & 22/16/0024/LB)

The Planning Sub-Committee would like better clarity on the proposals for the above Planning applications. From the limited information they have been given, they are unable to tell what is existing and what is the proposal. Therefore, are unable to comment or make a decision on the Proposals.

Tree Preservation Order – Squire’s Copse – PD22/945-TD1130

A Tree Preservation Order Notice has been received by the Council regarding woodland at Squire’s Copse. The Council noted the Notice and had no comments to add.

27.2 Notification of any Taunton Deane Decisions:

22/17/0001 Erection of a two-storey extension on the west elevation and a detached two-storey garage with accommodation over to the east of Lydeard Down Cottage, Lydeard St Lawrence (amended scheme to application 22/16/00018)

CONDITIONAL APPROVAL

22/17/0002/LB Erection of a two-storey extension on the west elevation of Lydeard Down Cottage, Lydeard St Lawrence (amended scheme to application 22/16/00019LB)

CONDITIONAL APPROVAL

The above decisions were noted by the Council.

27.3 Planning Sub-Committee Review

Although a recent delay had occurred the Planning Sub-Committee was working well and applications are dealt with swiftly.

17/28 Financial

28.1 The Accounts Statement had been noted by the council

28.2 2016/2017 Accounts and Audit Report

The Parish Council Accounts for 2016/17 show a healthy balance.

The Parish Council has £25,000 in the Community Benefit Fund and requests for funds from local organisations have been made. The Cricket Club have made a request for new fencing around the playing field, with the payment of £3380 agreed. Further money has been requested. The church in Lydeard St Lawrence has also made a request from the fund for a new water supply, but further research is required.

After receiving the CBF the Audit fee for 2015/17 increased significantly to £240.

At the end of the year the ring-fenced budget for the Play Area fund stood at £2,500, with another £500 due to be added in April 2017.

In this Financial year, the Parish Council received a payment of £2341.50 for the planning development of the Old Bakehouse to convert it into a residential property.

This is a Community Infrastructure Levy Payment and can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure, including transport, flood defences, schools, hospitals, and other health and social care facilities. So far, the Parish Council has spent £750 supporting Lydeard St Lawrence Primary School's new Library. This leaves £1591.50 in the CIL fund.

Another payment is due to be made in April from the Old Bakehouse for the CIL of £459.17

The Footpaths grants from TDBC stands at £2100 with £300 being added in April 2017. The Council have £3997.23 in unrestricted reserves. The accounts are now ready to be Audited.

- 28.3 The Council approved the appointment of Mary Abel as internal auditor for the 2016/17 audit process.
- 28.4 Payment has been received from VAT repayment of £104.18
- 28.5 Payment has been received for the 2017 Precept of £4053 and £52 Grant from TDBC
- 28.6 The Council approved the Payment of the Invoice from David Branfield for fencing at the Playing Field from CBF of £4380. The Cricket Club are to pay the Council £1000 towards this cost as agreed (17/17), Cllr Marshall would speak to them regarding this payment. Proposed by Cllr Cox Seconded by Cllr Weir
A further Proposal from Cricket Club for the installation of the trapeze had been requested but the original quote from David Branfield was unclear on the actual work to be carried out. Requests on separate occasions by both Cllr Marshall and the cricket club to clarify this with David Branfield had so far been unsuccessful.
- 28.7 The renewal of the Parish Council's Insurance has been received and after negotiations the quote for Insurance was £226.69 The Council agreed to pay the Insurance to Zurich for £226.69 Proposed by Cllr Hobson Seconded by Cllr Harding
- 28.8 A further CIL Payment has been received of £459.17 from the Old Bakehouse.

17/29 **Village Website and new Editor**

The company which hosts Lydeard St Lawrence Village website, WebMe, has encountered an unforeseen and apparently unfixable technical problem with their web-builder programme. This is the programme which allows clients to design and update pages on their website. The site is still visible for the moment, but you are not able to access or update it.

They have said that we could have their new programme free for a year if we want it. Councillors discussed some options including perhaps amalgamating with another village's website. As the current company has offered the site free for a year it was agreed that this should be accepted and a review looked at in more detail over the coming year. Cllr White agreed to research other options available.

A new Editor is still required and Mark McConnell, Liz's McConnell son had expressed an interest in becoming the new Editor. Cllrs agreed to his appointment as the new Editor.

17/30 **Tolland Phonebox/Kiosk**

Now the Phone box is owned by the Council some maintenance is required on the box. The box needs repainting and the surrounding area requires some general maintaining of foliage.

The Village has also requested that the phone box be used as a Notice Board and book

exchange. Cllrs agreed to this request and Cllr Harding would gain quotes for the conversion and maintenance required. The cost of this work would come from the CBF.

17/31 Right of Way – Deans Cross to Binford's Lane

Mark Peters informed the Council that the old cheese dairy and Piggery at Tower Farms was recently sold and the new owner, Nigel Peck, has now told locals that they cannot now use the track that connects Deans Cross to Binford's Lane. Mark has personally used this thoroughfare since 1976 both on foot and by vehicle and have always been led to believe that this road was an un-adopted public highway open to all traffic. Not only is it a convenient short cut used by horses, walkers and wheeled vehicles, but more importantly, it is used by heavy farm traffic to access land towards Lydeard Down avoiding the narrow road through Westowe and the 90 degree turn at the bottom end of Binford's Lane. If tractors are forced to use this route it will undoubtedly cause extensive damage along the entire length of the road.

Mark has already taken the liberty of contacting Councillor Mike Rigby about this matter who has kindly agreed to take it up with SCC rights of way officers, and is hoping to be able to secure the support of the Parish Council also.

The Parish Council agreed that this should be looked into further and is in support of Mark Peters and the rights of way to this lane.

17/32 NHS Clinic

ToHealth have invited the Parish Council to host a free NHS Health Clinic event for the Parish to provide free health checks to people aged between 40 and 74.

Cllrs thought this was a great idea and if it even helped one person then it was beneficial. Cllrs wondered if the New Village Agent would like to initiate the event. The Parish Clerk would speak to her with this suggestion.

17/33 The Great Get together

The Great Get together has been launch to take place over the weekend of 17th and 18th June in memory of MP Jo Cox to bring communities together to meet and have fun.

The Great Get together had been acknowledged by the Council but no one wished to hold an event.

17/34 Growing a Rural Community Survey

The Rural Services network brings rural area's together to give them one voice in supporting rural communities with rural issues. They have asked that the Parish Council fill in 'The Growing a Rural Community Survey.' The Council acknowledged the survey but didn't wish to complete it as this could lead to becoming a member of the Rural Service Network. With the Parish Council already being a member of SALC and have the Village Agent in the area, becoming a member is not necessary.

17/35 Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS)

Taunton Deane Borough Council (TDBC) is consulting on its draft PPS between 5th May and 2nd June 2017.

TDBC would like the view of Parish Councils as important stakeholders and partners in playing pitches across the Borough of Taunton Deane.

The PPS had been acknowledged by the Council but it did not seem to be relevant to the situation with our own playing field.

17/36 Correspondence and items for information

The following items of information were noted by the Council:

Motorcycle event 21st May

Somerset Remembers

Road Closure at Nethercott Bridge from 22nd May for 25 days

Police Crime Report – March – May 2017

17/37 Any other Business

County Councillor Mike Rigby gave his report to the Council. He thanked everyone for their support over the past four years and in the recent Election and was pleased to have been re-elected as Councillor.

He informed the Council that work on the roundabout at Bishops Lydeard continues and is nearing its completion. It is hoped that 2-way traffic will resume in a couple of weeks.

Cllr Rigby informed the Council that the consultation period of the proposal for a new motorway Junction at Taunton and bypass through Henlade had been extended due to the elections.

Cllr Telling reported a pot hole, but this is a problem which can now be reported directly rather than through the Parish Council.

Cllr Hobson reported that some work had been carried out on the footpath between the playing field and Westowe.

Cllr Harding informed the Council that a Tolland resident was researching new village name signs for Tolland. Cllrs agreed this would be a great CBF request.

Cllr Weir suggested that money from the CBF could be used to support the Primary School's New Smart Boards and Maths equipment appeal.

Liz McConnell enquired as to who owned the Village newsletter. As the Parish Council pay for the hard copies it is believed that it belongs to the Parish Council and the Editor Liz!

The next meeting will be on Monday 12th June 2017 at 7.30pm.

With no other business, the meeting was closed at 8.25pm