

Lydeard St Lawrence and Tolland Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th December at 7.30pm in Lydeard St Lawrence Village Hall.

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

In attendance, Lorna Thorne, Parish Clerk and County Councillor Mike Rigby

17/90 **Apologies** Borough Councillor Gwil Wren and PCSO Louise Fyne

17/91 **Declarations of interest** – None received

17/92 The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 16th October were agreed as an accurate record.

17/93 **Matters Arising**

93.1 17/82 **Dog fouling in the village**

There seems to be an increase of dog fouling within the Village especially outside the Primary School. Cllr Marshall would put a message in the newsletter requesting responsible dog ownership and for people to pick up their dog mess. He also requested that perhaps the village could have a designated dog waste bin, rather than residents using the litter bin. It was suggested that Cllr Marshall should investigate this further. To have a dog waste bin in the Village would cost £345 plus VAT. The bin could be emptied weekly at a cost of £5.25 per time and a total yearly cost of £273. This seems a lot of money to be spent and the Council agreed to monitor the situation in the village with the request for responsible dog ownership in the Newsletter. The playing field signs saying 'No dogs' have been lost and should be replaced.

93.2 17/84 **Christmas Tree Festival 2017**

The Parish Council have been asked if they would like a Christmas tree at this year's festival. Cllrs thought it was a great way for the Parish Council to support the community and Cllr Telling agreed to take charge of decorating the tree. A medium sized tree would be purchased.

Cllr Telling has put up the Tree in Church with some great thought in the decorations with handmade road signs to represent the Parish Council. Cllr Marshall thanked Cllr Telling for taking on the Christmas Tree and for her very inventive decorations which has been echoed through the Village.



93.3 89.3 *The Parish Council were asked if the damaged cones by the school could be removed. Cllrs had no objections. These have now been removed.*

93.4 17/83 **Paint for fingerposts**

Cllr Marshall requested the purchase of paint as required to refurbish the Parish fingerposts. Cllrs agreed and suggested a working party to be set up in the spring. It was also suggested that a few people go on the Course set up by SCC for the maintenance of Finger Posts. Cllr Marshall has now completed the course, however has found out that he is unable to restore any signs that are against the road and any he is able to do cannot be done alone. A request to residents to take the course will be made to enable the restoration of the signs.

Signed by Chairman:

Date:

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17/94 **Planning**

94.1 **Applications received for comment from Taunton Deane BC:**

22/17/0021 - Erection of oak framed single storey extension to front of Pipers Gate, Chapel Leigh Road, Lydeard St Lawrence

22/17/0022/LB - Replacement of 1 No. first floor window at Chapel Leigh Farm House, Chapel Leigh Lane, Lydeard St Lawrence

22/17/0023/T - Application to carry out management works to two Beech trees included in Taunton Deane Borough (Lydeard St. Lawrence No.1) Tree Preservation Order 2012 at Church Close, Lydeard St. Lawrence

The above planning has all been referred to the planning committee with No Objections.

94.2 **Notification of any Taunton Deane Decisions:**

None received

17/95 **Financial**

95.1 Accounts Statement

95.2 To Pay Invoice for Tolland Phone Box Shelving etc.

95.3 An Invoice has been received from Andy Coleman for £342 for the shelving and notice board. Cllrs agreed to payment Proposed by Cllr Hobson Seconded by Cllr Cox

95.4 Cllrs agreed to pay for the Christmas Tree for festival of £15
Proposed by Cllr Vickery Seconded Cllr Harding

95.5 Grants payments has been received from TDBC £1905

95.6 Cllr agreed to forward Grants on to:

Lydeard St Lawrence Cricket Club playing field grant 735.00

Lydeard St Lawrence PCC £650.00

Tolland PCC £220.00

Footpath Grant (added to fund) £300

Proposed by Cllr Cox Seconded Cllr Hobson

95.7 Cllrs agreed to pay the Parish Council Grants to

Lydeard St Lawrence Village Hall Committee for £500.00

Lydeard St Lawrence Cricket Club for £500.00

95.8 To Pay Clerks Salary and Expenses

Cllrs agreed to pay £350 for salary and £8.89 for the Clerk's expenses.

Proposed Cllr Cox Seconded Cllr Hobson

The Parish Council reviewed the Clerk's Salary and have agreed to increase it with immediate effect to £1629 per year.

95.9 The CIL Annual Report has been submitted to TDBC, payments received were £459.17 and payments made to the Primary School Library of £750, leaving £1591.50 in the CIL fund.

17/96 **Tolland Phone Box Update (17/80, (17/30))**

Cllr Harding has gained a third quote for new Paving Slabs around phone box. The Quote was £460 from John Brand and is considerably cheaper than the previous quotes gained. Andy Coleman has also quoted £60 to place a concrete ramp up to the door, although cheaper this is not what the council required to stop the growth of surrounding vegetation. Cllrs voted to accept John Brand's quote to go ahead with the work (4 in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions).

17/97 Village Defibrillator in Lydeard St Lawrence and Tolland (17/81 (17/71))

The Parish Council agreed that a defibrillator in both Villages would be great but concerns over accessing them in an emergency were raised. Both Villages do not have good, reliable mobile phone signal and a landline would be difficult to access in an emergency.

The Parish Council has been awarded the two Grants of a £1000 for two defibrillators. Although Cllr Vickery has researched the practicalities of having no phone signal and accessing them in an emergency she still needed to research more. Cllrs agreed more information was required for the next meeting.

17/98 Budget and Precept

98.1 The Clerk presented the Budget for 2018/19, with a healthy spending from the Community Benefit Fund and a healthy unrestricted fund. The footpath and play area funds are increasing. Cllr Telling suggested we look into how the footpath fund should be spent. This year has also seen some payments from the CBF to the Primary School and Cricket Club.

92.2 Currently this year the Precept is £19.286 per Band D equivalent, so we received £4053. If we want to keep it the same then we would ask for £4103 as the tax base is slightly higher this for 2018/19. (212.72 compared to 210.12 last year.) Cllrs agreed to setting the Precept to be the same as last year and ask for £4053. Pr Cllr Cox S Cllr Telling

17/99 Correspondence and items for information

Heritage Lottery Support for Quantock Hills AONB Scheme

Somerset county council highways winter service 2017/2018 *and salt bags collected*

Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Half Year Progress Report 2017-18.

SWP October 2017 briefing

Evening Road Closure 18th December, A39 Cannington Road, Nether Stowey

WAP, Wivey Link request for funding support

Cllrs agreed that Lydeard Lifts were the local volunteer service and not to support Wivey Link financially.

17/100 Website Merger

WebMe, the Village website provider, are winding down their hosting operations so we need to find a new home for the Web pages. WebMe are suggesting we can achieve a seamless transfer if we move to a company called Heart Internet. WebMe is in fact just a Heart Internet reseller, so our hosting platform will be identical to our current set up.

If we go to Heart Internet, Liz McConnell would recommend we go for a StarterPro option, the basic package. This would give us 5GB of Web space (we currently use somewhat less than 78 MB) and 30GB of monthly bandwidth. The cost of the StarterPro package is £31.87 a year but we will also need to pay a £10 set up fee and a £25 transfer fee in the first year making a total of £66.87 for the first year. Second and subsequent years will be just £31.87 or whatever that rises to in the future. Last time we paid for hosting, it was in the order of £60 plus £15 for the domain name.

The Domain name is billed separately and is £15. The current registration for this expires in October 2019 so we won't be billed for this until then.

Cllrs agreed to Liz's suggestions and thanked her for her hard work and research in this matter.

17/101 **White Space Broadband**

Whitespace is the name given to gaps in the old TV wireless spectrum used before the big digital TV switchover. Whitespace UK is a company who can deliver broadband in these gaps over several kilometres, and the signal can travel over hills and challenging terrain, through buildings and trees. Following a desktop exercise, they are confident in being able to deliver a service to our community, providing consistent broadband speeds in the region of 16-20MBps. Cllr White will progress to the next stage which will involve a site visit and more detailed proposal and bring to the next meeting, where he will have a greater understanding for service areas and costs. In the meantime, Cllr White would encourage members of the community that may be interested in signing up to the service to register their interest with him via email. (edward@willettfarm.co.uk) This way we can start to gather a picture of where to focus initial coverage zones. Website is <https://www.whitespaceuk.com/>

17/102 **Any other Business**

102.1 Cllr Hele has sent a letter to express an interest for the TDBC Capital Grant Scheme within the 2018/19 financial from the Parish Council and Cricket Club year to improve or replace the current play area equipment on the playing fields. Cllrs have asked the issue be placed on the next agenda to enable the Council to set a plan for the improvements and requirements of the current play area.

102.2 The post and rail fencing along Quickbeam Lane is rotten and collapsing, which has left the road edge unclear and hazardous. Cllr Marshall would report to the SCC.

102.3 Cllr Harding reported that Tolland Lane near the junction with Tarr Road had a large area of standing water across the lane. Further drainage would be better than a gully and Cllr Marshall would report this to SCC.

102.3 County Cllr Mike Rigby then spoke to the Parish Council. He spoke about some of the on-going issues in the area, including the Children's Centre Consultation and the possible loss of the Bishops Lydeard Centre; Children's Services in TD being inspected as inadequate; a Library Consultation for the new year, putting Bishops Lydeard Library at risk, "use it or lose it."; and the Staplegrove proposal for new housing development. Cllr Rigby informed the Council of the new speed limit of 30mph from Staplegrove to Norton Fitzwarren. He was asked about the current situation with broadband which he will follow up.

102.4 Cllr Marshall thanked the Council for all their services over the past year and wished everyone and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, the next meeting being on Monday 15th January 2018 at 7.30pm. There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.20pm.