

Latton Parish Council Meeting

11th February 2013

7.30pm in the Village Hall

Minutes

- Present: Councillors Graham Blunden (Chairperson), Jonathan Archer, Nick Kennington, Gordon King, David Newman & Bev Blunden (Clerk).
Councillor Peter Colmer & several members of the public were also present.
Apologies: Becky Baker, Joanne Taper
Co-option of Joanna Taper as a new Councillor (in place of Allan Hobbs who resigned, creating one vacancy on the Parish Council).
All Councillors agreed to this co-option.
- Minutes from last Meeting on 10.12.12 were agreed by all & signed by Chairperson.
- Declarations of interest: None
- Elena Blacker discussed the Wiltshire Good Neighbours Scheme which is a networking system aimed to help older people live at home for longer. Elena explained she is employed by Community First to promote the help available to older people for transport, healthcare & many more things. Anyone who contacts her will be put in touch with the required service. Elena was thanked for her time & then left the meeting.
- Latton Parish Council (PC) linking with Marston Meysey, Down Ampney & Kempsford to build a Neighbourhood Plan (8-8.30pm): Bev had invited representatives from Marston Meysey, Down Ampney & Kempsford to the meeting to discuss the possibility of forming a local liaison group, with a view to forming a Neighbourhood Plan group in the future. It was agreed each area had certain issues in common (gravel extraction, A419 noise & weight limit), a joint group was stronger when confronting these issues & creating a Neighbourhood Plan would provide the team with a document with legal status. Councillors from Latton Parish agreed to be involved in this & agreed that Castle Eaton should be asked to join. The representatives from Marston Meysey, Down Ampney & Kempsford were thanked for their time & then left the meeting.
ACTION: Peter Colmer to talk to senior officer at Wilts Council to find out if a cross-border plan is feasible & if a date can be arranged for a meeting with the Neighbourhood Plan officer. Bev to contact representatives from each Parish/area to arrange a future meeting when she knows possible dates from Peter. Bev to contact a representative from Castle Eaton to ask if they would like to join the group. Each Parish/area to ask who they think should be invited to join the group & whether they agree to this group forming & report back to Bev, so that she knows who will be involved in future.
Since the meeting, Peter has contacted the senior officer & is waiting for a reply.
- Accounts: Jonathan emailed following summary to all Councillors before meeting:

| Bank Balance | |
|------------------|----------|
| | £ |
| 31 December 2012 | 7,405.89 |
| 31 December 2011 | 6,887.61 |

| Income/Outgoings April 2012 to January 2013 inclusive | CR | DB | Notes |
|---|----------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Total | 6,809.60 | 6,350.12 | |
| Parish Precept | 5,689.00 | | Requirement for 2013/14 £6,588.43 |
| Village Hall Booking Fees | 660.00 | | |
| Electricity Credit | 110.60 | | |
| Community Garden Grant | 350.00 | | |
| Parish Council Outgoings | | 5,333.36 | Doesn't include swings or Water Eaton |
| Community Garden Outgoings | | 882.16 | £550 carryover from 2011/12 |
| Parish Plan Group Outgoings | | 134.6 | Original Grant £500 |

7. Water Eaton - Signage update: Bev has sent a cheque for £350 to Kate Davey (Wilts Council) from Latton PC. The design has been agreed in consultation with Swindon Borough Council & the signs should be in place by the end of April. David & Nick have been liaising with Wilts Council regarding the position of the signs.

Traffic & damage along Water Eaton road (due to solar farm): Castle Eaton did not find any reason to object to solar farm, but Water Eaton residents are concerned about increased traffic. ACTION: Peter agreed to examine road & Contact Highways Dept at Wilts Council to report damaged state of whole road & ask for inspection of road. Bev to write to planning officer at Swindon Borough Council to ask them to complete a Section 106 condition as part of the maintenance contribution to the road when granting permission for the Solar Farm (Bev to send copy of email to Peter).

Since the meeting, Peter has contacted Wilts Council Highways Dept about this.

U-turn at A419 junction: Nick has spoken to a police inspector (Steve Cox) about the dangers, but no action has been taken.

An email has been received from a resident complaining about the state of access to the 'bus stop' at Water Eaton for Farmors School – the email was read out at the meeting & it was agreed that the access 'footpath' & 'bus stop' mentioned were not official ones & it was not a Parish Council issue. It was suggested he contact Farmors School & suggest they change the pick up 'bus stop' point to a more accessible & convenient place along the Castle Eaton road. ACTION: Bev to contact him & explain this.

8. Community Speedwatch update: there have been no Speedwatch sessions recently due to darkness & weather conditions. The co-ordinator at Wilts Council has changed, but this won't affect the Speedwatch sessions.

9. Latton Garden update: the planning meeting on 9.2.13 has been rescheduled for 23.2.13 – an update should be available at our next meeting in April.

ACTION: Becky to apply for a grant for the Garden.

10. Parish Plan update: Janet reported this is at the stakeholder consultation stage. An interesting meeting was held seeking views of all those involved with canal development in Latton. A draft report should be available at the end of March. The final stage is to produce a document to be adopted by PC, which can be used as evidence to support their work. There is a meeting with Councillors on Mon 18 Feb, facilitated by Community First, to discuss results of survey, from 7-9pm at the 'Food to Fork' room. *Since the Parish Council Meeting, this meeting has been postponed.*

11. Village Hall lease update: Bev contacted Sally Moody to ascertain the progress of the Village Hall (VH) regarding the albemarle scheme, stating the PC had not heard anything from the Diocese. Sally's reply was they had contacted J Dawson (solicitor) because they thought he had been appointed by the PC to act for them (which he had not, since the PC cannot afford to pay his fees). Bev then contacted Sally asking who would pay the solicitor's fees, because at the meeting on 30.8.12 the Diocese stated the abelmarle scheme would not cost the PC anything. Sally's reply was that we would only have to pay if we wanted a solicitor to examine the draft lease. Sally's reply also referred to J Haddrell's letter (Diocese's solicitor) asking for name of VH & whether VH is a charity. Bev did some research on charities from the Charity Commission's website & discovered VH cannot become a registered charity because it does not have an income above £5000. The VH can become a small charity, however, with an income under £5000. Bev printed off the form to be completed. All Councillors agreed it was possible for VH to become small charity, but Janet suggested we wait until after discussing the results of the Parish Plan Survey to see what the community want. Jonathan suggested we view the draft lease before deciding whether to become a small charity. This will be discussed further at next meeting. ACTION: Bev to answer J Haddrell's letter regarding the status of the VH, ask for all correspondence to be sent to the clerk & also ask for a copy of the draft lease. Bev to inform Sally Moody of this.

12. Weight restriction update: nothing to report (Peter Colmer explained the difficulty with bureacracy surrounding this issue).

13. A419 Action Group update: Janet reported that the launch on 8.2.13 had much publicity & the publicity continues. The website is good & contains a small survey to register any concerns. Each Parish will be asking their PC for funding in the future for a paper-based questionnaire to go out to the community. Next meeting is on 13 March.

14. Play area: repair of frame for swings was due to be carried out today.

A resident asked why the PC hadn't used the first quote (from Chris Dunkell) obtained for the repair. Graham explained he contacted the safety inspector from Playsafety Ltd who, according to the details mentioned on the first quote, stated this work would not be acceptable. The safety inspector did approve the work from the second quote (from Booth & Son) & it was agreed (by email) by Councillors to use this quote for the work. Graham explained we needed 2 quotes (& the second quote from Booths was also cheaper). The resident then unhappily left the meeting. Becky has applied for a grant from the Area Board to repair the aeroplane. The Jumble Sale arranged by Becky on 2 Feb raised approx £175 towards the play area. Thank you to Becky for organizing this. ACTION: Graham to contact Booths to find out why the work has not been carried out. *Since the meeting, the frame was removed on 12.2.13 for repair.*

15. Planning Applications:

N/12/03937/FUL – Re-opening of access at land adjacent to 7 Bridges Farm,

Water Eaton: no objections

N/13/00116/FUL – Extension at Bowron Cottage: no objections

16. Grass cutting of Playing Field & Churchyard: Bev had been asked by Jonathan to obtain some quotes. Each quote is for 16 cuts per year, involves using a mulching machine to remove grass & includes strimming around play equipment & gravestones.

Playing Field: the cheapest quote is £800 (from Cottage Garden Services). It was agreed to accept this quote if the PC are instructing someone for the Playing Field only.

Churchyard: cutting is currently organized by the Church, although the PC took the liberty of placing an appeal in the Winter Newsletter for volunteers to cut the grass in the Churchyard, but only 2 came forward. It seems volunteers cannot be relied upon to do this, so someone needs to be paid. The quotes were initially obtained for comparison to the amount the PC pays to the Church, but Jonathan suggested the PC could arrange the grass cutting on behalf of the Church (contributing £500 to the cost) since they could use the same company who will be cutting the Playing Field. The cheapest quote to cut the grass in the Churchyard is £800 (from ASW Garden Company). Alternatively, the PC could continue paying £500 to the Church (who would arrange the grass cutting, as they have done in the past).

Playing Field & Churchyard together: the cheapest combined quote is £1680 (from ASW Garden Company), but by using this quote the PC would be paying an extra £80 for the Playing Field to be cut. It was agreed to accept this quote if the Church wanted the PC to instruct someone to cut the Churchyard. Since one of the quotes is only valid for 30 days, this needs sorting out before the end of Feb. ACTION: Bev to contact Church & ask them if they want the PC to instruct someone (with PC paying £500 towards cost) or if they prefer to arrange the grass cutting themselves. Bev will instruct the appropriate company when she has had a reply from the Church. The Church need to confirm in writing that they will agree to pay part of the invoice for the Churchyard, so that the PC don't end up paying the whole invoice!

17. Summer event: This was discussed as a way of funding the grass cutting of the Churchyard &, if feasible, a date for the event will be decided at the next meeting.

ACTION: Jonathan agreed to investigate the cost of a 'hog roast'. Bev to write to Church & ask if they are interested in jointly organizing this event with the PC.

18. Any Other Business

* Jonathan asked if £100 can be used from Parish Council funds to purchase plants for planters in the traffic calming area. All Councillors agreed to this, & Linda was thanked in advance for planting them.

* Nick suggested a Parish Noticeboard could be sited in Water Eaton.

ACTION: Peter Colmer to find out about the planning permission needed. Bev to investigate the cost of a noticeboard similar to those in Latton.

Since the meeting, Peter has sent Bev the information needed for planning permission.

19. Date of next meeting – Mon 8 April 2013, 7.30pm at Latton Village Hall.