

LATTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

27 February 2024

Latton Parish Hall

at 7:33pm

Councillors present:

Cllr J Towner (Chairman) Cllr D Lloyd (Vice Chairman) Cllr R De'Witt. Cllr K Johnson
Cllr R Mitchell

Clerk: Tina Jones

Others in Attendance: Members of the public.

Public and Councillor Question Time:

A resident (not present) asked:

- if the Council could contact Hills again, as the road and footway are muddy, and the junction at the crossroads even worse. Clerk to contact Hills to ask if road sweeper can be used more often.
- why the 40metre length of verge is not being cleared by Wiltshire Council alongside Croft House, as Wiltshire Council do the rest of the verge down to the lane. Clerk to contact Parish Steward for assistance.
- Flooding in Croft Lane, resident rodded but drains solid – Clerk to contact Wiltshire Gully Team.
- Some potholes have been filled, but following the flooding, work still needs to be done outside Croft House. Clerk to contact Wiltshire Highways Engineer.

MINUTES

23.109 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr B Stevens, Chairman of the Latton Community Trust.

23.110 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of Interest made and no requests for dispensations were received.

23.111 Minutes of the previous meetings

Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 December 2023. Members ADOPTED the minutes as a true record, and they were signed by the Chairman.

23.112 Hall Project

The Chairman read the summary from Ben Stevens (Chairman, Latton Community Trust). The Trust has managed to secure pro-bono legal support for conveyancing of the Section 106 and it is now in draft and under legal review. The committee are turning their attention to reengaging and reenergising focus with the community through social media, the Cricklade Chronicle and Flyers. This is with a view to meaningful fund raising which has included registration with a corporate giving / employee engagement platform. The Trust plan to hold their first AGM soon. As the Trust has managed to secure legal representation, it does not need to apply for a Council grant at this stage.

23.113 Castle Eaton Biodigester

At the last meeting, Members approved to set aside a maximum of £4,000 from the Water Eaton donation as a 50% contribution to the costs of a Traffic Consultant. Castle Eaton Parish Council has identified a company to review the planning information, obtain mapping for the junction review the base surveys and check results of the PICADY model. The cost to Latton Parish Council is £700 (seven hundred pounds – ex VAT) Members APPROVED the expenditure.

Standing Orders were Suspended

23.114 Mere Path Proposal

Mr Gary Moore, represented the residents who purchase the land sold by the Co-op in April 2023, explained that their original intention was just to secure the land behind their houses. At the last minute the Co-op added other parcels of land, these being the Mere Path, the green areas at the top of Upcott/Croft Lane and the upper part of Gosditch, leading up to the Down Ampney footpath entrance by Church Farm. Land Registry of these areas have recently been completed, and the group are looking at dividing the land between the involved parties. The

Group asked if the Council would accept the Mere Path (LATT1) as a gift from the residents to the community. Members discussed and agreed that in principle they were supportive of the offer, but as the Parish Council may be liable for aspect of maintenance, liability issues etc, Members AGREED more information was required. The Parish Clerk was asked to make enquiries.

Standing Orders were Reinstated, 3 members of the public left the meeting.

23.115

Clerks Report

Entrance to the Down Ampney track has a smashed gate timber. There are instructions in place to repair the gate. Councillor Lloyd reported that he would check if the gate repair has been completed. Meeting Update: Councillor Mitchell to follow up on gate repair.
21.24 Relocation of Waste Bin Members AGREED to ask Wiltshire Council if the waste bin by the play area could be relocated to the start of the public footpath to Down Ampney. Wiltshire Council is happy for the waste bin to be moved at Parish Council Costs. Waste bin relocated, on collections schedule. CLOSED
23.100 Community Involvement Members agreed to invite Community (via invitation and social media) to speak on issues/events around the village. CLOSED
23.103 Play Area Inspection It was AGREED to monitor the areas of wet pour and tarmac, Councillor Lloyd to tighten bolt on bench, Mole activity to be monitored, Councillor Lloyd to speak with a resident regarding tightening of fence between Jubilee Garden and Play Area. Meeting Update, Councillor Lloyd yet to contact resident re fence, Wetpour work required to be done when it is dry enough.
23.104 Emergency Plans A Wiltshire Council Officer had offered assistance to prepare plans to identify the risks to Latton Parish. Draft Emergency Plan, Councillors Johnson and Lloyd are qualified First Aiders. Councillor Towner asked Members to read the draft plan, and to feedback to the Clerk information for inclusion in the main document. Clerk to find out whether Councillors personal contact details on the document will be in the public domain – Meeting Update: For each parish an emergency contact number, e.g. flood warden, clerk or parish councillor, this is the person who will be contacted in an emergency, the details are kept on a spreadsheet and accessed by the (internal teams only) weather emergency, drainage and emergency planning teams and may be shared with the Environment Agency if requested as a statutory partner. It is for internal consumption only, all volunteers are emailed BCC with information pertinent to their role, e.g. meetings, seminars, training. If they are a flood warden/volunteer and expect to get called out in an emergency then there is a possibility their details will get out in the public domain, how do you have a flood/emergency plan if no one knows how to contact the flood warden. If you have a coordinator of the wardens then their contact detail can be in the plan without the wardens/volunteers. Our information is purely for internal purposes only the only time we would only share this with the EA in a weather emergency if requested, and that would only be if they needed to contact that community in an emergency. Members AGREED to use their Parish Councillor email addresses for contact purposes within the Emergency Plan.
23.107 Speed Indicator Devices Members resolved to purchase two Elovis Solar Speed Indicator Device to meet the new requirements for monitoring data, costs to be met from CIL Funds. Councillor Johnson, to confirm whether the chosen devices meet the operational requirements. Meeting update: No response from Police, to contact again, then to order.

Cotswold Water Park Meeting

The Cotswold Water Trust does not want to use the word “park” in its name, as it confuses visitors to the area. The Trust wanted those present to give thoughts on another name, no final decision was made, but parishes were supportive of a new name. More information to follow

Resident Update

A resident has contacted Wiltshire Council for an update on her report regarding the overgrown, slippery footpath from Latton to the Cerney Wick turning. Wiltshire Council responded - a Contractor works ticket has been raised to attend with the tractor, side out the footway, and clear the grass along the kerb lines. We are unable to provide a time frame for the works; however, the works are programmed and will be carried out in due course. The Clerk had chased via a different route and received the same message. On 21 Feb, about a mile of the road was tided by the Parish Steward and Team, work to continue in a few weeks.

- 23.116 **Financial Accounts & Bank Reconciliation**
Members NOTED the Bank Account figures, bank balance as of 29 January 2024 = £57,310.19 this includes ring fenced funding of £21,401.17. Members APPROVED the expenditure schedule.
- 23.117 **RMS Stakeholder Day**
Councillor Mitchell reported: The meeting was about the preparation for handing back the A419/417 from Road Maintenance Services (RMS) to National Highways (NH) which takes place at the end of contract date 31st March 2026. There is a lot of work to be completed (via contractor "Ringway") in the run up to this "schedule provided". The good news from this is that once all this work has been undertaken, there should be little required over the next 5 to 10 years, allowing quieter times on the network. Processes and procedures were run through with an opportunity to discuss and offer suggestions for improvements.
Councillor Mitchell spoke with the Director of RMS and Service Delivery Manager for NH and suggested that letter drops should include visual aids going forward to see where the work is taking place as most people are unaware of bridge names etc. This was accepted by both. He raised the issue of short notice and meeting times with both RMS and NH and they took on board that with Parish Councillors being a voluntary post, most have day jobs, and this was born out by quite a few "no shows". They will look to consider this going forward.
Councillor Mitchell also discussed the concrete section of the A419 through Latton, with the Wiltshire Council Highways Engineer and the Service Delivery Manager for NH, putting to them both that the parishioners had been promised progress on this twice in the last 20 years and twice it had been cancelled for one reason or another and that Latton is less than a mile of blacktop and whilst the missing link is under construction, it would not be that difficult to make the effort. From information, obtained from RMS, I was also able to add that the expected lifespan of the concrete was 40 years and more than two thirds of that had now expired and so it is approaching end of life anyway. The Service Delivery Manager for NH has promised to look at it and come back to us with an official response.
- 23.118 **Planning Applications**
Members NOTED the decision made under delegated powers
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| PL/2023/10620 – Full Planning Permission. | |
| Address: South Farm, Water Eaton, SN6 6JU | Applicant: Kes Ventures Ltd |
| Proposal: Change of use of existing agricultural land to B8 storage to accommodate 20no. shipping containers. | |
| Members AGREED to make No objections but recommend two conditions: Plant trees or shrubs to mask impact on environment and neighbours and further growth should be subject to further consent | |
- 23.119 **Correspondence and Information**
Members NOTED:
- WALC January Newsletter
 - Wiltshire Council – Development of a Cultural Strategy for Wiltshire
 - Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority - Consultation of draft Community Safety Plan 2024-28. <http://www.dwfire.org.uk/draft-csp-2024-28-consultation> open to 3rd May.
 - Police Commissioner's February letter to PCC
 - Wiltshire Council - Communications campaign, run in partnership with Wessex Rivers Trust, focusing on promoting the funded upgrade of private homeowner septic tanks and sewage treatment plants in the Hampshire/Avon area part of WC's nutrient mitigation strategy.
 - Wiltshire Council – Revised National Planning Policy Framework
- 23.120 **Emergency and Resilience Plans**
Councillor Towner reported that he had forwarded the draft plan to Phil Winfield (Church Warden) for comment. Further update at the next meeting. Members NOTED the information relating to the launch of the scheme to create Emergency Community Contact Hubs across the area, for communities to gather in, during and after emergencies. These hubs would be managed by the Communities not the local authorities. The hub to be formed as part of the Community Plan. See Minute Reference 23.104 for more information.

23.121 **Resurfacing Work**

Councillor Towner reported that partial resurfacing work had been done, a stretch of 5 metres by Croft House had not been done. Following a heavy storm, drains became blocked with loose stone, Wiltshire Council did come and clear the following day. Issues were raised as there was no advance notice from Wiltshire Council that the work was going to take place. Councillor Mitchell reported that at the RMS meeting (min. ref. 23.117), he had raised the issue of the recent resurfacing in Latton with Martin Cook, the Wiltshire Engineer for this area, who was aware and already had photographs, and was looking into it. He advised me that this was a low-grade surface improvement and not a resurface as such. He explained the process and said what makes it look worse is the loose stone. He advised that he would arrange for the road sweeper to clear these locations as soon as possible (the road sweeper did attend the next day). He also accepted that there was some bitumen type overspray on a verge which is essentially self-healing.

23.122 **Meeting Dates**

As some Members were unable to attend the meeting planned for Tuesday 18 June 2024, it was AGREED to hold the meeting on Tuesday 11 June 2024

23.123 **Councillor Updates**

Area Board – Cllr Mitchell attended the 17 February meeting. There are tree planting grants available, Clerk to check timescales. More Police Officers are being added to the teams. Next meeting 13 March, focussing on Highway Issues.
Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG) – Councillor Lloyd did not attend the January meeting.
RWB&C Community Safety Forum, Cllr Johnson, did not attend the February meeting, hoping to attend the meeting on 8 March.
Speed Indicator Device – Councillor De'witt reported that rain and lack of sun had affected the battery, and was not keeping charge for very long.
Speedwatch and Lorry Watch – Councillor Johnson reported that Speedwatch was up and running, with 5 volunteers and the Parish has its own camera now. Lorrywatch can start as well.

Meeting Closed at 8:55 pm