

LATTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

23 April 2024

Latton Parish Hall

at 7:20pm

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: Five members of the public and Wiltshire Councillor Dye

Public and Councillor Question Time: There were no questions raised

MINUTES

23.124 Apologies for Absence

All Members present.

23.125 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

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

23.126 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23 February 2024. Members ADOPTED the minutes as a true record, and they were signed by the Chairman.

23.127 Wiltshire Councillor Update

Wiltshire Councillor Dye asked Members and residents to let him know of any traffic issues, he will then investigate on behalf of the parish.

23.128 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 contacted Bidwells who are looking into possible alternatives due to access issues.

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 has stopped. Meeting Update: Councillor Lloyd to speak with a resident regarding tightening of fence between Jubilee Garden and Play Area. Wetpour work to be completed as soon as possible.

23.104 Emergency Plans

A Wiltshire Council Officer had offered assistance to prepare plans to identify the risks to Latton Parish. Councillor Towner asked Members to read the draft plan, and to feedback to the Clerk information for the moan document by end of May.

23.107 Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS)

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. SIDS ordered and received. CLOSED

23.129 Financial Accounts & Bank Reconciliation

Members NOTED the Bank Account figures, bank balance as of 31 March 2024 = £51,712.24 this includes ring fenced funding of £24,370. Members APPROVED the expenditure schedule. Members APPROVED additional an additional training budget of up to £500 for 2024-2025, from General Reserves for the training of the new Clerk and Councillors.

23.130 Mere Path Proposal

Councillors NOTED the information received from Wiltshire Council (WC) confirming that the Mere Footpath (LATT1) is a Right of Way. WC is not responsible for the hedges on either side, these are the responsibility of the residents/owners of the land. If hedges need to be cut back, WC send a hedge letter to the residents. Regarding the footpath surface, WC has a duty to make sure the surface is safe, not the landowner. WC would be responsible, if someone tripped over and hurt themselves and wanted to claim. Other Wiltshire Council responsibilities are:

- making sure public rights of way are free from obstructions
- clearance of vegetation growing from the surface of the path
- signposting rights of way where they leave a road and waymarking the route where appropriate
- maintaining bridges over natural watercourses
- to provide a minimum of 25% contribution towards any costs incurred by a landowner in maintaining stiles and gates on public rights of way

During a suspension of Standing Orders, Mr Gary Moore represented the residents said they were meeting with Glos Park Homes to discuss the land issues further and the responsibilities stated as above. Standing Orders were REINSTATED.

23.131 **Castle Eaton Biodigester**

Members NOTED the report, main points: At the February meeting, Members approved a 50% contribution to the services of a Traffic Consultant to look at the PICADY traffic report, costs met from the Water Eaton Ear Marked Reserves. National Highways has considered the report and commented that the PICADY model was not considered by them to be a suitable means by which traffic volumes could be accurately predicted. Castle Eaton Parish Council is waiting to see what, if anything the applicant does next. Following discussions. Members AGREED in principle to keep the funding available, until further feedback is received.

23.132 **Down Ampney Estate**

A representative of Bidwells Ltd, met with a Councillor from Down Ampney Parish Council, together with Councillors Lloyd and Mitchell, regarding the sale of Farmcare land. The land is to be sold in five lots; this includes the Community Garden land. The existing lease for the Community Garden is likely to be passed over to the new owners who may or may not make changes. More information and the sale brochure is due out mid-May, there is no timescale related to the sale.

23.133 **Policies**

Members considered and APPROVED a:

- Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Procedure for Payment of Accounts Policy
- General Reserves Policy
- Co-option Policy

23.134 **Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG)**

Members NOTED and considered a Water Eaton resident's concerns, since the speed restrictions were put in place there. A percentage of commuters and traffic are not paying attention to the limits making the roads dangerous both for pedestrians and horse riders. He asked if some controls be placed on this road to make this safer. Councillors AGREED to raise a request to LHFIG. Member AGREED to delegate to the Clerk, Chairman and Vice Chairman to submit the form.

Members NOTED that the next LHFIG meeting is on 22nd May at 6pm, to discuss all the submitted highway improvement requests from across the areas and agreeing schemes for 2024/25. Currently the Council has one active request for traffic calming measures on The Street, Reference 11-22-7.

23.136 **Correspondence and Information**

Members NOTED:

- WALC March Newsletter
- Cotswold Lakes Trust – Name Update
- Cotswold Lakes Trust Newsletter
- WC - New Van and Trailer Permit Scheme

23.137 **Community Infrastructure Levy**

Members NOTED the report, following discussions, it was APPROVED to move £6339.37 (six thousand, three hundred and thirty- nine pounds, 37p) to Ear Marked Reserves for furniture for the new Community Hall, before its expiry date. A balance of £9,482.63 (nine thousand, four hundred and eighty-two pounds, 63p) in the Community Infrastructure Levy Fund.

Councillor Updates

Area Board – Cllr Towner - Next meeting – 26 June 2024. Wiltshire Councillor Dye offered a lift to anyone who would like to attend.
RWB&C Community Safety Forum, Cllr Johnson – Meeting cancelled
Speed Indicator Device – Councillor De'witt reported the new SID was working well and the second one to be installed soon.
Speedwatch and Lorry Watch – Councillor Johnson reported that he would like more volunteers.

Meeting Closed at 8:01 pm