

LATTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

12 December 2023

Latton Parish Hall

at 7:33pm

Councillors present:

Cllr J Towner (Chairman)

Cllr D Lloyd (Vice Chairman)

Cllr K Johnson

Cllr R Mitchell

Clerk: Tina Jones

Others in Attendance: Wiltshire Councillor Robert Jones, Cllr Colin Williams (Chairman of Castle Eaton PC), Cllr Philip Hall (Castle Eaton PC), Mr Ben Stevens (Chairman of the Community Trust) and a member of the public.

Public and Councillor Question Time: No questions were asked

MINUTES

23.88 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor De'witt.

23.89 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

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

23.90 Chairman's Announcements

There were no announcements.

23.91 Minutes of the previous meetings

Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 October 2023. Members ADOPTED the minutes as a true record, and they were signed by the Chairman.

23.92 Co-option to Vacancies

Members considered the application received. The matter was put to the vote and Members unanimously RESOLVED that Robin Mitchell be co-opted onto the Parish Council with immediate effect. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed, witnessed by all present, and Councillor Mitchell joined the meeting.

23.93 Wiltshire Councillor Report

Members received an update from WC Councillor Jones, Main points were:

- There is a Wiltshire Council budget briefing on 19 December, the Government figure is 3% with 3% for social care, Parish Councils are not capped.
- From 1 January, as decided by the Boundary Commission, the Cricklade and Latton area will be part of South Cotswolds. James Gray, the North Wiltshire MP is standing in the election for the new South Cotswolds area.
- Once again the Fire Service has been capped at 3% (they had asked for £5.00). The Wiltshire and Dorset Fire Service will go broke, if drastic changes do not take place, possibly reducing number of fire appliances at stations. A white paper on the future of the Fire Service has been released today.

Standing Orders were Suspended

23.94 Castle Eaton Biodigester

The Chairman of Castle Eaton Parish Council gave an update on the current situation with the planning application for the proposed Biodigester. Castle Eaton and Latton parishes have a common interest in stopping the industrial expansion of the existing small digester and believe the inadequacy of the C114 for the implied traffic loads and the obvious risks of multiple HGV manoeuvres at its junction with the A419. The key to the application is the C114, if the road is allowed to take the traffic the proposal will go ahead. The Digester is an existing facility but is being expanded to increase the throughput volume resulting in an increase in HGV movements, the proposals will result in up to 190 two-way HGV movements per day at peak harvest time, or 9 one-way movements per hour, of which the majority will be tractors and trailers with some articulated HGVs. It is understood that National Highways has requested that a junction capacity assessment is undertaken at the A419 / C114 junction at Seven Bridges, which is a priority T-junction onto a dual carriageway section of the A419. The A419 incorporates a wide central reserve and that this central reserve has road markings allowing drivers to turn right onto the A419 in two movements. The results of this junction capacity assessment have been provided

within a RSK Technical Note dated 22 March 2023. However, the Birdlip bypass is set to double the traffic on the A419, and the Central Reservation at Seven Bridges will be closed off as a result. National Highways has written to Castle Eaton PC, confirming that they continue to have concerns with regards to the adequacy of the assessment undertaken and the mitigation proposed to address the impact of development traffic on the safe and efficient operation of the A419 junction with Water Eaton Lane. National Highways are continuing to consider the information provided by the applicant's transport consultants but are unlikely to be able to issue a more detailed response until the new year, when their internal review has been concluded.

Castle Eaton Parish Council would like to engage a Traffic Consultant who has knowledge of, and possibly access to the PICARDY software used in the last AD/RSK submission, and asked if Latton Parish Council would consider contributing to the fee. WC Councillor Jones asked in the Ward Councillor for Castle Eaton was involved, Councillor Hall responded to say that the Ward Councillor was not interested. He added that the Lead Member for SBC Highways came in March 2023, but had not been heard from since. WC Councillor Jones asked to be provided with the Ward Councillor's contact details, and copies of all the documents mentioned. Members RESOLVED to set aside funds from the Water Eaton donation to a maximum of £4000 (four thousand pounds), as a 50% contribution to the costs of a Traffic Consultant.

The two Castle Eaton Councillors left the meeting.

23.95 **Hall Project**

Wiltshire Councillor Jones emailed WC Officers on 2 November, sending them the letter and timeline, a response was received on 8th November from Adrian Walker (Development Management Team Leader for Economic Development & Planning), apologising for the delay, he explained that the lead Officer (Ray Cole), had left Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Councillor Jones has sent another email asking for an update, but has not yet had a reply. Ben Stevens, Chairman of the Community Trust, thanked Wiltshire Councillor Jones for lobbying Wiltshire Council and for the progress being made. The Trust needs legal representation to deal with the S106 agreement. They have approached the Law Society regarding pro bona advice and firm in Cirencester. The donation from the Cycling Club was never received. Wiltshire Councillor Jones offered to provide details of a local solicitor who may be able to help. Following discussions, Members APPROVED in principle to allocate Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding of £1000 (one thousand pounds) to support advice for s106 (subject to confirmation from Wiltshire Council that the proposal meets CIL criteria). If outside of the CIL criteria, Members RESOLVED to award a grant (section 137) of a maximum of £500 (five hundred pounds), which is subject to a grant application being received from the Trust.

Standing Orders were Reinstated, one member of the public left the meeting.

23.96 **Financial Accounts & Bank Reconciliation**

Members NOTED the Bank Account figures, bank balance as of 20 November 2023 = £59,248.61 this includes ring fenced funding of £21,401.17. Members APPROVED the expenditure schedule. Members NOTED the National Pay Award for 2023-2024 has been awarded. Chapter 8 training was discussed, Councillor Johnson holds the qualification, Councillor De'witt to be offered the training which takes place in January.

23.97 **Clerks Report**

Entrance to the Down Ampney track has been vandalised, gate timber smashed, wheelchair access issues. There are instructions in place to repair the gate – they are also looking into access issues. Councillor Lloyd reported the access gap has been opened and that he would check if gate repair has been completed

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. Bidwells has confirmed with WC that they are happy for bin to be located by gate. Clerk meeting with WC to identify location on 13 December
--

22.85 Play Area Inspection

Members NOTED the inspection – main points: all low or very low risks identified. Gate (Play Area/Jubilee Garden) – level reinstatement required and removal of weeds vegetation from areas. Garden fence required re-tightening, see Minute reference 23.103. CLOSED

23.52 Environmental Group and Visit to Hill's Resource Recovery Centre
Information regarding the new Wiltshire Council Planting Support (GAPS) Team. It has been formed in partnership with Swindon Borough Council's Great Western Community Forest. Funding has allowed the appointment of three Woodland Officers to form a Grant Application and Planting Support (GAPS) Team, to help communities and landowners deliver coordinated and appropriate tree planting across Wiltshire and Swindon. The Clerk contacted the team regarding the proposed Coronation tree. Information received and distributed. CLOSED
23.53 Flooding and Emergency Planning
WC will help with a plan and has provided maps to be included. Members noted the Parish's last emergency plan was dated 2018, the Clerk was asked to update it as much as possible using the new template, for Councillor input (Church Farm and Upcott to be added). Once updated and a draft plan considered, to forward to WC FRO, once it has been assessed by WC, a virtual meeting with the WC FRO to be arranged. UPDATE: Clerk has partially updated, but local resident knowledge is required. see Minute reference 23.104. CLOSED
Resident's comments regarding weed situation along the roadway's in the village. The weeds have been reported to Parish Steward and WC Streetscene. A resident has also complained on the Mywilts app. MEETING UPDATE: Clerk to contact Contractor regarding the cost of a Spring spraying of The Street, Gosditch and Croft Lane – as per Contract – areas cost £40 per application, Contractor to be advised of areas, as required. CLOSED

23.98 **Policies**

Members considered and APPROVED the following policies:

- Play Area Management Policy
- Dispensation Policy and Documents
- Health and Safety Policy Statement

23.99 **Meeting Dates**

2024. 27 February - 23 April - Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Meeting of the Council and Council Meeting, 18 June, 6 August, 1 October, 26 November. 2025. 14 January - 11 March, 29 April - Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Meeting of the Council and Council Meeting.

23.100 **Community Involvement**

Following discussions, Members agreed to invite Community (via invitation and social media), to speak on issues/events around the village. During a Suspension of Standing Orders, a resident said it would be nice to do the Church Hall up, ahead of the new Hall being built, and traffic to be slower in Gosditch. Members advised that a traffic speed survey had taken place on Gosditch, and the data did not support a speed reduction. Standing Orders were reinstated.

23.101 **Planning Applications**

Members NOTED the following Wiltshire Council decisions – all approved with conditions

PL/2022/07157 – Household Planning Permission Address: Carters Barn, Latton. SN6 6DP	Applicant: Mr Emmanuel Proposal: Replacement Garage
PL/2023/05701 – Household Application Address: Dukes Cottage, Driffild, GL7 5QY	Applicant: Mr W Hobbs Proposal: Alterations & extensions to existing dwelling
PL/2023/07396 - Householder Planning Permission Address: 39 Latton, SN6 6DS.	Applicant: Mr B Stevens Proposal: Extension to existing family room, change roof from flat roof to pitched roof to match existing, internal alterations and velux windows
PL/2023/06605 - Householder Planning Permission Address: 3 Seven Bridges Cottages, Water Eaton, SN6 6JS.	Applicant: Mr D Barker Proposal: Removal of existing shed and replacement, in the same location, with a larger shed. Erection of greenhouse on existing concrete slab
PL/2023/08393 – Consent under Tree Preservation Orders Address: Land At Croft Close, Latton.	Applicant: Taylor Wimpey Proposal: G1 19 Lime trees –Reduce crowns back to previous pruning points. Remove basal epicormic up to 4 metres

23.102 **Correspondence and Information**

Members NOTED:

- Simpler recycling for household and business
- CR letter to PCC
- Area Board Climate Update - October 23
- Coronation Living Heritage Fund

23.103 **Play Area Inspection**

Members NOTED the recent 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.

23.104 **Emergency Plans**

Councillor Towner attended the North Wiltshire Operational Flood Working Group meeting. Many parishes had significant flooding following Storm Babet, in comparison Latton was very lucky. A Wiltshire Council Officer had offered assistance to prepare plans to identify the risks to Latton Parish. This one Officer is supported all the parishes. Regarding the draft emergency plan, Councillors Johnson and Lloyd are qualified First Aiders. Clerk to find out whether Councillors personal contact details on the document will be in the public domain. Councillor Towner asked Members to read the draft plan, and to feedback to the Clerk information for inclusion in the main document.

23.105 **Precept 2024-2025**

Members NOTED the report and precept analysis. Following discussions, Members RESOLVED to set a precept for 2024-2025 of £15,472.00 equating to a Band D of £60.33 an increase of £4.29 = 7.66%.

23.106 **A419 Road Noise**

Members NOTED a letter from a resident regarding his thoughts on having the effected concrete stretch put onto a 'reduced speed limit' controlled by average speed cameras, as there are reports stating that the audible decibel factor is reduced. Members discussed the proposal and AGREED that if the resident wished to write to Highways England, he could continue. However, the Parish Council's previously agreed stance not to lobby any further regarding this issue still stands.

23.107 **Speed Indicator Device**

Members RESOLVED to purchase two Elovis Solar Speed Indicator Device to meet the new requirements for monitoring data at a cost approximately of £2,250 (two thousand, two hundred and fifty pounds each), costs to be met from CIL Funds. Councillor Johnson, to confirm whether the chosen devices meet the operational requirements.

23.108 **Councillor Updates**

Area Board – Cllr Towner – Next Meeting 17 January, Councillor Towner unable to attend, Councillor Mitchell to attend.
Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG) – Councillor Lloyd - Next meeting 10 January, 6pm in Cricklade Town Council Offices, Councillor Lloyd plans to attend.
Speedwatch and Lorry Watch – Councillor Johnson: Speedwatch area located, Wiltshire Council advised – Risk assessment to be completed.

Meeting Closed at 21.13pm