

LATTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

25 August 2020

held remotely (via Zoom) at 7:30pm

Councillors present:

Cllr P Rawsthorne (Chairman)

Cllr D Lloyd (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr M Pritchard

Cllr K Johnson

Others in Attendance: Andrew Miles, Alex Oram and Steve Oram to min. ref. 20.32

Wiltshire Councillor Jones during min. ref. 20.33

Public Question Time: No questions were raised

Councillor Question Time: No questions were raised

MINUTES

20.26 Chairman's Announcement

Councillor Rawsthorne announce the resignation of Barbara Hurst. He thanked Barbara for all of her work for the Council. Wiltshire Council has been advised of her resignation and the vacancy process has commenced.

20.27 Apologies for Absence

Members received Councillor De'witt apologies.

20.28 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

20.29 Dispensations

No requests for dispensation were received.

20.30 Minutes of the previous meeting

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2020 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 15 July. The minutes of both meetings were ADOPTED as a true record of the meetings and will be retrospectively signed by the Chairman.

20.31 Village Hall Development

During a Suspension of standing Orders, Members welcomed Mr Andrew Miles and Mr Alex Oram to the meeting. Members received an update from Mr Miles (Consultant), main points were:

- The revised planning application has now been prepared and will be submitted to Wiltshire Council with the main change being a reduction from nine dwellings to six.
- The application also shows one access point opposite Gosditch, rather than two on the previous proposal.
- Due to a legal technicality, the red line of the application site will be the same, but the location plan will identify a 45m wide section at the north west end of the site as being left open and undeveloped. Once the application has been accepted as being legally valid, an amendment will be sought to the boundary of the site to exclude the 45m wide strip.
- The Planning Statement addresses the five reasons that were given for refusing the previous development, acknowledging that the proposal is not infill development as required by the Wiltshire Core Strategy, but that the proposal is an exception that is allowed by the applicable policy and by national guidance as it will improve services and facilities within Latton.
 1. Rather than the Parish Council having to produce a Neighbourhood Plan to achieve a similar aim, the opportunity is being taken to promote this proposal for community facilities through a planning application with six dwellings being provided to enable the community facility to take place.
 2. Reference will be made to the current housing position within this part of the County, the Council acknowledging at a Public Inquiry near Purton that there was not an adequate supply of housing land and therefore the Core Strategy is not up to date.

3. The application recognises that there are no shops or education facilities in the Village but will state that there is a regular bus service, with stops outside the site which mean that facilities at Cricklade, South Cerney, Cirencester and Swindon are within easy reach by a choice of transport modes.
4. The previous application was refused as it was stated the development would harm the setting of Elm Farm and Street Farmhouse, Listed Buildings, although the Conservation Officer considered there may be scope for a small amount of development that would minimise the loss of historic open space. The reduction in house numbers will mean that there will be a 75m gap between Street Farm and the nearest proposed dwelling. One of the ways in which harm to Listed Buildings can be offset is if a proposal is weighed against the public benefits. In this instance, a community and recreation facility that cannot be provided elsewhere would override the perceived harm to the setting of nearby Listed Buildings.
5. The final reason concerned the absence of a detailed archaeological survey and trial trenching prior to the determination of the application. Archaeological investigations were carried out and a survey was submitted as part of the previous application, but if the members of Wiltshire Council's Planning Committee are minded to look favourably upon the application, that the decision should not be made until detailed archaeological investigations are undertaken. These are extremely costly, especially when the outcome of an application is unknown, and this should provide the level of certainty that is being sought by the County Archaeologist. If the investigations then reveal some unexpected and significant archaeological feature, then planning permission would not be forthcoming but these investigations could be undertaken without delaying the determination of the application, as a legal agreement will have to be entered into to ensure the provision of the hall and tennis court.
 - A briefing note has been prepared for circulation to all households within Latton seeking their support for the proposal.

Mr Miles concluded his update by requesting the Parish Council maintain support for the proposal, adding that it was thought to be the only way that such community facilities can be provided to benefit the residents of Latton.

Mr Alex Oram said and he hoped that both the Parish Council and residents would write to Wiltshire Council supporting the application. Councillor Rawsthorne confirmed that the Parish Council had already agreed to write a letter of support and had requested Wiltshire Councillor Jones to call in the application at the appropriate time.

Councillor Rawsthorne thanked both Mr Miles and Mr Oram for attending. It was suggested the briefing notes to residents could be delivered with the Parish newsletter. Mr Alex Oram added that he would help with the distribution. See min ref. 20.40

20.32 **Clerks Report – Members NOTED:**

Wiltshire Council and CATG

Gully Clearance - has not yet taken place, as currently tasked to other duties

Requests to clear the gullies in Gosditch from junction with The Street to Limes Place up to the Church and the whole length of the old road (The Street) from the roundabout (leading off to Fairford) down to the next roundabout.

December PQT request for replacement 30 MPH signs - WC has confirmed an instruction has been made to replace the signs. I have chased this, advised will be actioned in near future.

Community Area Transport Group (CATG) - CATG meetings not taking place at present: Latton considerations are the Cotswold Vets sign and the Solar Farm donation.

19.113 Gosditch Sign

Sign ordered, and payment made, delivery due week ending 25 August

19.128 – Village Recreation Hall Development

Members have asked WC Cllr Jones to call in if required, whilst Councillor Lloyd agreed to draft a letter of support from the Council. Discussions took place as to whether a new community poll should take place. Clerk to check information held and advise Councillor Pritchard – Clerk email sent to Cllr Pritchard. Closed as an Agenda Item

Gosditch Wall and Jubilee Garden Gate

Savills apologise for the delay, but they are coming out to look at both issues on Friday 21 August. No update available

Grass Cutting Contract

Closed as covered under Item 18 - with the Exclusion of Public and Press.

Planning Application 20/05605/TPO

At: 10 Collett Place Latton. Application: 20% reduction to Copper Beech Tree was approved with conditions.

20.33 Play Area and Village Maintenance

Members NOTED the report.

Councillor Rawsthorne thanked the volunteers who had undertaken some of the tasks.

Members AGREED for the remaining work that the Clerk would obtain by quotes from a self-employed handy person, costs to be met from CIL funding. Councillor Pritchard to provide contact details for a quote.

The outstanding work is:

- a. Wet pour treatment to see-saw area
- b. Treatment to Barton seat and benches
- c. Address issue of venting holes on frame of football goal (on grass) to prevent snagging
- d. Removal of fly tipping from sites
- e. Flagpole rust treatment and repainting
- f. Maintenance work to bench located at Preaching Cross
- g. Cleaning of Bus Shelters
- h. Cleaning and painting inside of Defibrillator Kiosk and erecting signage
- i. Weeds/dead plants to be removed from Parish Planters and Village entrances
- j. Placement of new Gosditch street sign (when arrives)

20.34 Wiltshire Councillor Jones Update – Main Points:

- There will be a CATG meeting during September
- Wiltshire Council financial forecast is down £5-£10 million following Covid-19
- Councils are to be invited to a new local Police forum to discuss local issues, concerns and to provide Councils with information

20.35 Gosditch Speeding

Members AGREED with the Clerks request to withdraw this item, pending investigations into the possibility of reducing the speed limit along Gosditch.

20.36 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019-2020

Members NOTED, CONSIDERED and APPROVED:

- a. Section One of the Annual Governance Statement
- b. Section Two of the Annual Governance Statement
- c. Annual Internal Audit Report

20.37 Financial Accounts & Bank Reconciliation

Members NOTED and APPROVED the list of payments to 28 July 2020. The Council debit card has arrived. A VAT refund of £1,314.59 has been received covering 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2020.

20.38 Great British September Clean

Members AGREED to take part in the Great Britain September Clean, by holding a Community Litter Pick on Saturday 26 September from 10.00am to 11.30 am.

Councillor Johnson agreed to supply black and recycling sacks, Wiltshire Councillor Jones will organise some high-vis tops, hoops, pickers together with the removal of filled sacks by Wiltshire Council. Collection point to be Jubilee Gardens. Risk Assessment to be sent to Councillors who will lead groups. Clerk to provide map to Councillor Rawsthorne for litter collecting routes.

20.39 **Community Infrastructure Project Funding**

Members NOTED the report and that there had been three suggestions for expenditure.

Solar panel for the Speed Indicator Device (SID)

Currently a battery costs in excess of £75 and constantly require charging, which means the SID is temporarily not operational. The cost of a solar panel 50W or TEMPODIS 230 SI, would costs € 589 + transport costs (€ 80), with a delivery time of 3-4 weeks after payment.

It can only be purchased from the manufacturers based in Germany. As at 19 August the Euro cost equates to £604.33. Members discussed and considered the purchase and RESOLVED to purchase the solar panel.

Section of Play Area Field Fence

Following the reports of unaccompanied dogs and dog faeces on the Playing Field. It has been identified that there is a section of boundary along Croft Lane which is only hedging, for a length of about 55 metres. Members discussed and considered the suggested fencing in, of this section and requested that the Clerk investigated further and obtain quotes for stock fencing.

Repairs to Jubilee Garden Shed

A group of residents who have plots in the Jubilee Garden have asked if the shed (where tools and equipment is stored) can be repaired. The door needs to be replaced and one of the windows has been broken. The group also have to water butts that they would like to connect with guttering and downpipes to the shed to save rainwater and recycle it.

Members considered the request, and following discussions agreed that to enable the Parish Council to support with funds and or provide grants, the resident should form a formal committee.

Councillors had recently had requests on the use of the gardens for planting of vegetables etc, and also queried the insurance provision in place. As there had been a committee in the past, Councillor Rawsthorne agreed to speak to a resident who was previously involved in the Community Garden project, and the Clerk was asked out check for any relevant information in records. Councillor Jones added that the Jubilee Garden could access other support and guidance from Royal Horticultural Society, giving access to insurance etc. Clerk to draft a letter and send to Chairman once all information collated.

20.40 **Parish Newsletter**

Publication of newsletter planned for 10 – 12 September, to be delivered with the Village Hall Development leaflet. To be included:

- Introduction to Councillors with photographs, roles and interests
- Paragraph referring to Council support for Village Hall Development
- Litter Pick of 26 September
- Facebook and Council Website
- Community Speedwatch
- Speed Indicator Device
- Gosditch Speeding
- Dog Mess
- Jubilee Garden
- WC Councillor Jones to provide a paragraph

Councillors to send photographs etc to Councillors Lloyd and Pritchard. Clerk to investigate crest for the Council and follow up on flag for the flagpole. Newsletter to be posted to Eysey and Water Eaton, Clerk to provide number of houses.

20.41 **Gosditch Parking**

Members NOTED the advice from Wiltshire Council Enforcement following complaints received from residents regarding parking by the Church, which should be available for church visitors and walkers.

The planning permission reference is 16/02773/OUT. There is a condition attached to it which requires that visitor parking is retained specifically for that purpose, and no-one else can park in it, then that is how it should be used.

'The footway shall be consolidated (not loose stone or gravel) for first 2m beyond highway boundary and the car parking spaces shall be consolidated (not loose stone or gravel). The areas shall be maintained for those purposes at all times thereafter, including the provision of not less than 8 parking spaces adjacent the northern boundary line of the site which shall be made available to members of the public at all times'. REASON: *In the interests of highway safety*

The condition just says that it should be available for 'members of the public', not specifically for church visitors, walkers, or residents of the new properties.

Following discussions, the Clerk was requested to draft a letter to residents of Church Farm for the Chairman's approval.

20.42 **Councillor Updates**

Speed Indication Device: Councillors Rawsthorne reported that the batteries need to be recharged and the August data downloaded. Results to be shared on Facebook and website Speedwatch and Lorry Watch: Councillor Johnson reported that all paperwork has been processed and there are plenty of volunteers. Due to Covid -19, 140 people are waiting to be trained.

Community Facebook: Councillor Pritchard reported that there are currently 120 members, with active posts almost daily. Dog mess is still a concern amongst the members, but engagement regarding fundraising for the recent fire at Lake Louise was very high.

20.43 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

Members AGREED that public and press be excluded from the meeting under the Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960, due to the confidential nature of the following item.

20.44 **Grass Cutting Contract**

Members NOTED the report, the Grass Contractor has offered to reduce the cost for cutting the Churchyard from 1st April 2021, as the area will be more manageable. Members RESOLVED for the Clerk to write to the Church Warden, regarding this and the revised cost of £853 per annum for consideration.

Meeting Closed at 8.46pm