

LIGHTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of The Ordinary Meeting of Lighthorne Parish Council - Held at Lighthorne Village Hall -
On Tuesday 12th March 2024 At 6.45pm

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: Cllr Driver, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Reynolds, Cllr Hickman, Cllr Eason
Cllr Mills (WCC) & Cllr Parry (SDC).

IN ATTENDANCE: 7 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllr Lewis.

2. Declarations of interests and consideration of dispensation requests

Cllr Driver re item 8. Cllr Driver & Cllr Thomas re item 9.e.

3. Acceptance of minutes from February.

The minutes were agreed.

4. Public Participation

A resident asked what is being done to fence off the sewage works - which must not be walked on. LPC will take advice on what fencing is suitable given that access is required at all times as well as making sure it is safe. *Carried forward*.

A resident asked that the hedges and over grown areas are cut back around the Broadwell to Bakers well. The shrubs etc bordering John Pearce's garden are very over grown and need cutting back, but will need to be cautious so as not to leave his garden completely exposed. Groups have been organised to tidy up these areas previously, an action group to do the same to be organised. There appears to be internal damage at The Broadwell causing water to pour from one side - clerk to ask Farm Services to come and look at it. *Carried forward*.

A resident reported a blocked drain on Church Lane causing excessive water on the road - believed to be WCC. He will report and clerk to report also. *Item closed*.

5. To confirm contributing to a new back door at the pavilion.

It was resolved to contribute to the new door - LPC had been unaware that the door was in urgent need of repair rather than being simply a security upgrade. LPC will offer to contribute up to the value of what a 'like for like' door would have cost. *Item Closed*.

6. To hear a presentation from Innova regarding the proposed Deer's Leap Solar Farm.

Richard Turner, project manager, had been due to attend but his car broke down on route and he was unable to make it. He will attend on 9th April instead. *Carried forward*.

7. To consider the ongoing problem of dog faeces not being picked up by the owners.

A resident emailed LPC raising the ongoing problem of some dog owners not picking up after their dogs around the village - a number of solutions were suggested to try and solve the problem. Another resident suggested stickers on black bins allowing them to be used to dispose of poo bags, problem being that bins were only out once a week. It was resolved that the clerk would print and put out posters on the offending routes and an article would be put in the parish magazine. LPC would consider a more direct approach of leafleting the village if this proved ineffective. *Item closed*.

8. To consider purchasing a storage shed for the allotments.

It was agreed to purchase an appropriately sized shed for £549, the allotment association would construct it. A quote for the base to be obtained. *Item Closed.*

9. Matters arising from the minutes and previous meetings

(a) David Wilson & Barrett Homes.

Their representatives have met with groundworkers and are pricing the area, they will then see if Taylor Wimpey can contribute. They will meet with LPC again to finalise. *Carried forward.*

(b) To consider LPC's response to the issue of Primary Healthcare at GLH

Andy Smith reported: Very little to report since March. The GP selection is still expected in April. All involved are keeping a close eye on the process. *Carried forward.*

A web site has been created as a one-stop-shop for the background and current status of this issue - smithdom.uk/ulnhs.

(c) Report from volunteers re: the coppice behind the Pavilion Café.

The planted bulbs are showing signs of life. Bird boxes are all installed. There will now be no further work until the autumn, a skip will be required for then. It was noted that the footpath currently has tree roots etc blocking it. These to be cleared. *Item closed.*

(d) To consider a scheme to use the £19,000 CIL grant.

Outstanding is the moving of the large container to the far side of the outfield and creation of further spaces where the container had previously been. *Carried forward.*

(e) To consider purchasing swift boxes.

Andy Smith reported: A request was made for a budget of up to £700 for manufacture of the bird boxes. Individual households will be asked to cover their installation costs. It was agreed to cover the costs of the swift boxes. *Item closed.*

(f) To consider a new fence and gate (with padlock) at the pavilion car park – adjacent to new netball area, additional security for the outfield.

No new progress as this linked to netball area. *Carried forward.*

(g) To consider repairing or replacing the bus shelter roof.

Cllr Hickman has spoken to the developers of Curacy Farm who have very kindly offered to provide all the tiles for a new roof. *Item closed.*

(h) To consider the terms of the annually renewable agreement with Khalsa for 2024 re: terms of use of the outfield and facilities.

Khalsa asked to put in clear terms what it is they are requesting as LPC will not simply remove the timing restriction. Khalsa and Pavilion Café to be asked liaise to see if they can reach an agreement for the timings of those 4 Sundays. *Carried forward.*

10. Planning

(a) Applications for comment since last meeting

i. 24/00339/TREE Tomten Fell various trees

(b) Decisions to note since last meeting

ii. 24/00144/TREE Sunny bank Granted

(c) Enforcement

Home Farm – SDC have opened an enforcement case and are investigating possible breaches of planning conditions.

11. Parish Council Reports – To receive reports on:

(a) Playground – Once weather improves a team will cut back overgrowing vegetation.

12. Reports from Ward Representatives of SDC and WCC – on website.

We would particularly like to highlight that the Gaydon Fire Service are offering free home visits to check that everyone's smoke alarms are working and adequate. See Cllr Parry's report for contact details.

13. Financial Administration

(a) Lighthorne cash book balances at 7th March 2024	
i. Current account	£3580.22
ii. Allocated reserves account	£22697.64
Total	£26277.86
(b) Income since last meeting	
i. February rent from Pavilion Café	£740.00
(c) Expenditure since last meeting	
i. Clerks wages 30 hours @ £16.50	£495.00
ii. Water (March)	£48.49
iii. WCC annual lighting contract	£250.06
iv. SPE Ltd – empty sewage plant	£282.00
v. WCC – new lighting column on Church Lane	£1,819.52
vi. SPE Ltd – service sewage plant	£228.00
vii. L Newberry - Lamination pouches	£4.99
(d) Agreeing accounts for payment	

14. Correspondence.

Roseann Mann has looked after the Lighthorne Tennis Association for 25 years and now wishes to stand down - thanks to her for all her hard work over the years. LPC are looking for a volunteer to take on the admin side of the Tennis Association. Anyone willing to take this on to contact the clerk at lighthornepc@gmail.com. *Item closed.*

A resident raised concerns that the weeds around the Broadwell needing dealing with. This can be dealt with as part of the item raised at item 4. *Item closed.*

A resident raised concerns at the state of the grass verges either side of the new entrance to the pavilion car park, asked whether it can be levelled and seeded and large stones put as parking barriers rather than orange cones. Cllr Lewis to go back to the original works team and ask for the area to be tidied up. *Item closed.*

A resident raised concerns about the increased level of litter around the village especially Chesterton Road. Cllr Hickman informed that a team of litter pickers from The Bank will be litter picking at the end of April. Another resident is undertaking 3 months of litter picking and helping with village maintenance as part of her DofE award. *Item closed.*

15. Other reports and items for future agendas.

Cllr Hickman asked that the Beacon be on April's agenda for an update.

16. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 6:45pm.

MEETING CLOSES at 7:45pm