

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LICKEY & BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE TRINITY CENTRE, LICKEY ON MONDAY 2nd MARCH 2015
MINUTES NO 9, 2014/2015

1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES: There were no apologies.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs J Harvey (Chairman), K Crockett (vice chairman) J King, P Harvey, S Nock J Eales A Boehm P Rudd and N Forknell; District Councillors Cooper & Ruck and County Councillor Peter McDonald, Mrs H Doherty (Executive Officer) and 2 members of the public.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST REGISTER: 3b Disclosable Pecuniary interests
3c Other Disclosable interests.

None

The Meeting was closed for Public Question time.

3. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES AND COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

Cllr Cooper reported that BDC had now set its budget.

Cllr McDonald reported on services being lost from WCC, including mobile library services, some gritting and youth provision. By 2019 WCC aims to be self sufficient – ie- not reliant on central funding

John Ruck reported on his duties as civil head including a successful job fair and the March Past by the Mercian regiment.

4. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2015

It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

5 FINANCE and GENERAL PURPOSES

5.1 Payment of the attached Bills was approved.

The invoice for ELC Contractors for the work on the Blackwell Road footway was debated. The invoice was for a reduced amount (£2140) as work was not carried out on the path closest to the motorway bridge as there is a ditch, which was not apparent on first inspection. If the Highways department agree, the ditch can be dug out but permission is required which the EO will seek. The contractor has also agreed to cut back the bramble on the far end of the path, and use a clay material to strengthen the edge of the path, like a kerb, in some parts. On this basis, payment of the invoice was approved

5.2 Quality Parish status has 3 tiers of competence and needs some explanation. A meeting will be agreed to discuss so that a recommendation can be put to the new council in May

5.3 It was agreed to appoint Diane Malley as internal auditor at a cost of £160

5.4 Cllr King agreed to set up a meeting with the organiser of the inaugural 'LICKY POETRY FESTIVAL' to obtain more details and make a recommendation to the council, whether it relate to financial or other involvement

5.5 The ward map was reviewed and it was agreed that currently, due in part to co-option to vacant seats, members are not always representing the ward in which they live. We need to avoid, if possible, a contested election in any of the 5 parish wards, if other wards do not have sufficient numbers standing to fill the places. Costs of a contested election will be from £1057 to £2700 per parish ward. You are no longer able to withdraw after 3 days as has previously been the case.

5.6 It was not thought necessary to enclose a flyer in the newsletter to Lickey Grange, where we have not had representation for some time, but to refer to this in the content of the newsletter

6. PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

6.1 The Planning minutes were approved.

Cllr Crockett reported from the recent Marlbrook Tip meeting at BDC. The Environment Agency attended and reported that because of the Reservoir Act the owner has to employ an engineer and his recommended works must be undertaken – within a year. If this does not happen, then the EA can step in and undertake the works. BDC have employed a consultant to monitor what is being done

6.2 Neighbourhood Planning group had a useful meeting last month with Mike Dunphy in attendance offering guidance. We are looking to secure some funding now available from Locality. In March, there will be a workshop on Historic Environment and Neighbourhood Planning workshop to which all are invited

6.3 Cllrs Forknell and J Harvey will represent L&BPC at a meeting tomorrow (3rd March) with Barnt Green Waters and District Councillor Deeming to discuss the Greenbelt review in relation to the land around the reservoirs.

7. HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT GROUP REPORT

7.1 To advise that Peter McDonald has stated that Rose Hill resurfacing is about to take place. We await instruction from WCC as to where we should locate the new speed sign. Twatling Road to be resurfaced from Fiery Hill to Lickey Square

7.2 To report that the Blackwell Road work has been undertaken (see 5.1 above)

7.3 The items for Cllr Rucks Divisional Allowance were agreed

8. SOCIAL SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS GROUP REPORT

- 8.1 Report from Cllr J King
- 8.2 March newsletter copy which should contain achievements from the year 2014/15 is due to EO on FRIDAY
- 8.3 The Residents Meeting held on 25th February was a huge success with 51 people in attendance. Richard Clewer is confirmed to speak at the Assembly, Jon Fraser being unavailable

9. TRAINING MATTERS AND DIARY DATES

- 9.1 Bromsgrove CALC meeting Tuesday 11th March (NB – it has since been agreed to cancel the NP meeting)
- 9.2 NP Workshop on Sustainability – Top Barn Farm Holt Heath, 6pm 24th March

10 ADMINISTRATION

- 10.1 Cllr King reported that it is likely that a Shindig event will go ahead, in cooperation with Cofton Hackett PC

11 CORRESPONDENCE

- 11.1 WCC acknowledgement of our letter re budget
- 11.2 WCC Statement of Community Involvement update

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 13th April 2015 at the Wheel at 6.00pm followed by Assembly at 7.45pm

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20.54

Signed

Chairman