

The Minutes of Lindridge Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 16 January 2019 at Lindridge Parish Hall, Eardiston

Present: Cllr S Workman (Chairman), Cllr D Evans, Cllr N J Benbow,
Cllr Mrs G Hazeldine, Cllr Mrs Lowe, Cllr H Williams, Cllr Mrs Winwood.

In Attendance: County Councillor K Pollock, District Councillor C Dell, Members of the Public.

PC67 Receive Apologies for Absence

None.

PC68. Declarations Personal and Prejudicial Interest

Cllr Benbow declared that he was the Financial Officer of the Parish Hall and a signatory on their bank account, although not a member of the Management Committee.

Cllr Lowe declared that she was Chair of the Menith Wood Community Association.

PC69. Minutes of the 14 November 2018 Meeting

The Minutes were adopted and signed by the Chairman.

PC70. Agree, check and minute accounts

Cllr Mrs Lowe and Cllr Mrs Hazeldine agreed, checked and signed accounts.

Accounts paid since last meeting

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| a) | Parish Clerk, Salary – Nov & December 2018 | £637.00 |
|----|--|---------|

Accounts Unpaid

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| b) | Parish Clerk, Expenses for Nov & December 2018 | £ 29.75 |
| c) | Parish Lengthsman – Nov & Dec 2018 | £324.00 |
| d) | Lindridge Parish Hall – Hire of Hall 14/11/2018 | £ 20.00 |
| e) | Brook House Personnel – Internal Audit Review | £ 45.00 |
| f) | SLCC – Annual Renewal Fee | £ 89.00 |
| g) | HMRC DD Payments – October/November/December 2018 | £ 12.00 |
| h) | Malvern Hills District Council – Planning Fee, Parish Hall Sign | £ 66.00 |

Members had received a copy of the Month End Financial Statement as of 31 December 2018. Cllr Mrs Lowe asked for an explanation of the £175 receipt described as “other,” which comprised a grant received towards the purchase of the Devil’s Pitch litter bin. The figures were approved and the bank reconciliation was signed by the Chairman as a record.

PC71. Progress Reports for Information

District Councillor – Cllr Dell had no specific matters to report and took questions from Councillors.

County Councillor – Cllr Pollock spoke to the attached report. In response to questioning about the failure of the County Council to make any improvements to road markings in Eardiston, Cllr Pollock explained that hatched white lines were not appropriate in the village because of the narrowness of the carriageway. Cllr Workman asked whether the lights outside

Lindridge School were now working again, having been out of action since September 2018. They were not and Cllr Pollock conceded that the contractor's response time was not good enough.

Carrington Bridge was due to open in 2021.

Cllr Mrs Lowe noted from Cllr Pollock's report that 70% of the County Council's budget is spent on 12000 vulnerable children and adults, but commented that in her experience the Children's Service was "chaotic." Cllr Pollock explained the actions that were being taken successfully to improve the quality of the service and noted that there was an improving trend in the six Ofsted inspections since it had been rated inadequate.

Parish Hall Representative – Cllr Williams reported that the Committee were pursuing a grant to purchase projection equipment to enable films to be shown in the Hall ("Flicks in the Sticks"). It had been found necessary to apply for planning permission to erect the new Parish Hall sign (previously at the "Nag's Head"). A grant towards the cost of installation had been offered by Cllr Pollock from his fund. Some electrical works were required. The Committee were considering carrying out the actual installation of the sign with volunteer labour.

Public Path Warden – No report.

Councillors

Cllr Mrs Hazeldine – Reported that residents were still experiencing difficulty walking the pavement from Pensmill Close because of the overgrowth from the adjoining verge. However, the work is programmed to be addressed as part of the footway improvement scheme and was regarded as too costly (given other budgetary pressures) for the lengthsman to deal with.

Cllr Mrs Winwood – reported that the resurfacing work in Lower Frith had been completed but a section had almost immediately been dug up for water mains repairs.

Cllr Williams – praised the resurfacing work in Lower Frith pointing out that residents now had the benefit of emergency vehicle access should it be required. He was also pleased with the response of the electricity company who, having been requested to assess the risk that overgrown trees posed to the power lines, planned to complete pruning work within one month.

Cllr Mrs Lowe – was pleased with the resurfacing work in Menithwood and the planned installation of posts to enable VAS signage and speed monitoring.

Cllr Benbow – had recently attended a seminar and discovered that Shropshire CC verge management strategies had been adjusted to be more cost effective and environmentally sensitive.

Action; Clerk to obtain contact details from Cllr Benbow and explore the possibility of a presentation to the Council.

Cllr Workman – reported that the bin for Devil's pitch was now under construction.

Clerk – Reported that the lengthsman had suggested that the bus shelter be retreated and had offered to complete the work for £70 including materials. After discussion about the budget implications this was approved.

Action – Clerk to arrange for the work to be completed.

PC72 – Smartwater - Cllr Benbow summarised the progress to date and set out the financial implications of agreeing the scheme. Should the Council choose to completely fund providing kits to 70% of the properties in the Parish the cost would be of the order of £1500. However, by charging £5 per household this would result in a net cost of around £275. General Reserves could be used to fund the scheme and subsequent sales used to replenish them in due course.

The discussion then progressed to explore the combined costs of Smartwater and an election, given that the Council had to be dissolved in April and recent expressions of interest indicated that a contested election was a real possibility. Cllr Benbow informed the meeting that the Council's reserves holding was sufficient to fund both Smartwater and an election but our general reserves holding would, in the short term, fall below our policy threshold until the Smartwater sales replenishment kicked in.

After discussion, in particular focusing on the crime prevention benefits, the Council unanimously agreed to deliver the Smartwater scheme on the funding basis described.

PC73 - Budget and 2019 – 2020 Precept - Cllr Benbow explained, in some detail, the draft precept that had been previously circulated and discussed at the November meeting. He drew attention to the fact that the Council had managed to avoid precept increases in recent years but increases in the Clerk's salary, CALC membership and the ICO registration meant that the Council would have to draw further upon reserves or increase the precept to the identified figure of £6950.

After discussion it was unanimously agreed that the Council's precept for 2019/20 should be set at £6950.

The Clerk had requested clarification on how the 2018/19 Donations budget should be allocated. £50 had already been awarded to the local pre-school leaving £200 to be allocated. The Council agreed that, as in previous years, £100 would be allocated to Temespan and £50 to the local mother and toddler group. The remaining £50 would be divided equally between the Tenbury Transport Trust and Tenbury Leisure Centre improvement scheme as both offered services of benefit to residents of the Parish.

PC74 - Standing Orders - The Council agreed to adopt the Press and Media Policy that had been previously circulated. This left only the Grievance Management Policy outstanding. The Council agreed to adopt the previously circulated Standing Orders and to bring forward a draft Grievance Management Policy.

Action – Cllr Mrs Lowe to draft a Grievance Policy at the earliest opportunity.

PC75 - Road and Drainage Issues - The Council noted the progress identified on the previously circulated list of outstanding activities.

PC76 - GDPR – The council agreed to adopt the amended Privacy Policy but deferred further discussion to the next meeting when the Clerk would be present to provide an update.

PC77 – Update on Speed Reduction Measures - The council noted with disappointment the most recently circulated speed data from the VAS system that indicated no significant reduction in average speeds through the village.

PC78 – Review planning matters, applications and decisions

PLANNING REFERENCE – 18/01591/HP & 18/01592/LB
Bramley House, Newnham Bridge, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8NX
Removal of existing timber clad utility building and construction of an outbuilding.
NO COMMENT

PLANNING REFERENCE – 18/00373/FUL
The Moor, Eardiston, Tenbury Wells

The Council noted the revised planning application relating to the disused buildings at the Moor and, in particular, the adjustments proposed to the on-site traffic managements arrangements and the limitations to B1 and B8 commercial use. The Council saw both of these adjustments as beneficial and likely to ease the concerns of local residents.

Action – Clerk to write to planning authority indicating that our earlier comments still stand but the Council recognises the merits of the adjustments identified in the amended application and continues to support the proposal.

Action – Clerk to write to recent correspondent directing them to our comments that would appear on the planning website.

PC79 – Report of Matters Arising from Last Meeting -

Cllr Williams – recent adjustments to his broadband service had resulted in significant improvements.

PC 60 – Clerk had now received responses from all correspondents in relation to key contacts for the Emergency Plan and was in the process of updating the document.

Action – Clerk to finalise

PC 64 (i) Clerk had received correspondence from WCC indicating that Featherbed Lane might be included in this winter's gritting programme given its use as a school bus route. The Council would continue to monitor the situation and consider the purchase of a grit bin if WCC failed to amend the gritting programme accordingly.

PC64(m) The Council noted the lack of progress on the telephone boxes in both Eardiston and Frith Common. This was of particular concern given that both projects had received grant funding.

Action – Clerk to write to project leaders asking them for details of proposals and timescales.

PC80 – Correspondence for information -

Previously circulated list was noted.

PC81 - Items for future agenda

- Standing orders – supporting grievance policy
- Smartwater

- GDPR – Update on progress towards achieving the archiving policy

PC82 - Items for Temespan and Next Meeting Date

The Council agreed that it would be inappropriate to rerun the advert for new councillors but Cllr Mrs Winwood suggested that an item should be drafted to explain the process that would result in dissolution of the Council and subsequent elections in May.

Action - Clerk.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 13th March at 7.00pm at Lindridge Parish Hall, Eardiston. The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.