

LACOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Lana Steward

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2 August 2021 at 7.30pm In the Village Hall

THOSE TAKING PART:

J Durrant (Chair), J Boldon, A Turnbull, P Shaw, S Gregory, Chris Doel, P Glen, H Shepherd, P Holliday, P Burkinshaw and L Heren.

There were also 20 members of the public present.

The meeting had been called during the summer recess to discuss the Council's response to the A350 Melksham Bypass Consultation which required comments by end of 8 August 2021

The Chair welcomed Sonya McMillan (Graham Heard's replacement) to the meeting.

1

APOLOGIES:

There were none.

2 TO AGREE THE PARIH COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE A350 MELKSHAM BYPASS CONSULTATION

Public Comments -

- Everybody I have spoken to is against this proposal. It shows a total disregard for the historic and cultural essence of the village. More traffic will be directed through the village.
- It is not necessary – the money could be spent on better things. Smacks of a decision having already been made at Wiltshire Council. The proposal has not been thought through. I think making Lacock a UNESCO site would be a very good idea.
- Why is PC not supporting this proposal? Key will be delivery of a safe access onto the A350.
- This is a opportunity of a lifetime – now we will be stuck with the status quo for years to come. Take advantage of this. We want to get rid of traffic through the village – we want change. Ultimately we will effect change by doing something about the southern junction of the village. NT has opportunity for access to the car park at the back – I suggest and recommend the PC support anything to get the roundabout there and sort out the junction turning North onto A350.
- Funds are already available. We recommend this proposal should go ahead and negotiate with WC that adequate access to the new road is included.

- This is a unique opportunity to preserve a special village – urge you to strongly oppose the proposal.
- Concern about flood issues bridge will cause along with infill development and further run off into the river.

The Chair asked each Councillor to give their view on the proposed bypass

SG In 2016 the Traffic Group did a survey with 119 respondents – over 70% agreed that the traffic issue affected their lives. I contend that the bypass will improve things for parishioners. There will be a full environmental impact study. There will be a 3rd plan. We have fought for this bypass. I propose we vote to support this emerging bypass proposal.

PS I am in support of the bypass and the southern junction. We need to have an effective roundabout. It has to be close enough for people to want to use it.

PG I concur with PS.

PH I agree with PS. I have spoken and surveyed villagers of which 21 voted in favour of the roundabout at Lacock and only 2 against. Therefore, I will be voting in favour as that is what the majority of the villagers have asked me to vote for.

LH Traffic through the village uses it as a rat run. Beanacre and the heavy traffic using the A350 does not use the village. I am against any new road building.

SW The southern junction is separate from the Melksham bypass – two separate issues. I am against this proposal.

HS With the Chippenham A4 to Lackham junction already agreed this emerging route will mean that Lacock will be surrounded on its North, South and West sides by major roads. The route will be visible and audible from the abbey, village and conservation area of Bowden Hill together with all the environmental issues that this would bring. The overpass on Woodrow Forest will increase rat run traffic. A local issue is being engulfed by a major road scheme to the detriment of the whole parish and major parts of the village. I cannot support this in any way.

CD We need to get it right this time. I do wonder if this money is available. This new road will definitely be seen from Bowden and Naish Hill. I would like to know what the National Trust stance is on this. Where they have put the bridge and viaduct is the widest flood plain area.

PB I have lived near a number of controversial highways projects in the past. After completion you could not reasonably claim any were a mistake to go ahead, or have caused lasting damage to their local areas. The houses are indeed coming but rather than viewing the bypass as promoting growth, from my experience the bypass will actually limit growth by providing a psychological barrier to otherwise endless housing expansion. As a village already benefitting from its own bypass it seems unsympathetic to oppose a bypass for another local community.

JB I share the views of HS and CD. Potential for housing to come nearer to Lacock. I am opposed to the scheme before us.

JD We need WC to explain to us – this is a Melksham bypass. I do not understand the rationale. There is concern about safety at the southern junction. We supported the eastern bypass A and B are still in being the same consultation as this route. I would not support this.

We have received significantly more objections than approvals from parishioners.

The PC welcomes opening discussions with WC and NT with a view to finding a mutually satisfactory conclusion.

It was proposed by JB, seconded CD that the PC object to the current emerging route. In favour 6 and 5 against.

PS – we should not send an objection but consultation comments.

Based on opposition to the current proposal on the table we would request WC respond to a number of concerns raised:-

- Removal of access on to the bypass from Woodrow Road
- The emerging route appears to mix a solution for two issues, safety of the southern junction at Lacock onto existing A350 and where the Melksham bypass should rejoin the existing A350,
- Environmental and Heritage impacts to the village
- Location of the bridge and viaduct
- What is proposed from bypass to Lackham roundabout
- How does this road construction satisfy national targets for limiting emissions.

3 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

PL/2021/06001

Variation of Condition 1 of 17/08786/REM Relating to Approved Plans, Rowden Park, Patterdown Road, Chippenham. **NO COMMENT**

PL/202/06548

Demolish the existing redundant glass houses and erect a replacement building for caravan storage – Piccadilly Caravans, Folly Lane, Lacock. **NO OBJECTION**

PL/2021/06098

Proposed Potting Shed – The Old Mill, Reybridge, Lacock. **OBJECT**

- 1 The proposed development is clearly in excess of that required for a potting shed and as the first design and access statement, accompanying the planning application, stated it is for a “summer house”. This means that the description of the development provided in the planning application does not accurately describe what is being proposed.
- 2 The proposed development lies in the flood plain and with the proliferation of development taking place on this site in the flood plain, there is concern over the adverse effect this will have on flooding in the area.
- 3 There is concern over the amount of ad hoc development that is taking place on this site.

Signed by the Chair

13 September 2021