

# **LACOCK PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Clerk: Lana Steward**

The Griffin, Bowden Hill, Lacock  
Chippenham, Wilts. SN15 2PP

Email: [stewardpc@btinternet.com](mailto:stewardpc@btinternet.com)  
Tel: (01249) 730254

## **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10 July 2023 at 7.30pm in the Manor Room**

### **THOSE TAKING PART:**

J Durrant (Chair) J Boldon, P Glen, P Burkinshaw, S Gregory, C Doel, H Shepherd, S Wise P Shaw, and L Heren. Also present Paul Alexander (National Trust) and six members of the public

### **1 APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were received from D Walters

### **2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**

Mr Hardy expressed his appreciation of the white lining at the corner of Church Street/Nethercote – it is a great improvement. He asked if the 4ft high nettles on the road between the Abbey bridge and JD’s house could be cut back. He also commented on the traffic during the scarecrow trail weekend - it was total chaos.

### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

P Burkinshaw declared an interest in Planning Application PL/2023/04589 – his neighbour

### **4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

It was agreed (HS/PG) that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2023 be signed as a true record.

### **5 UPDATE FROM MINUTES/ACTION LOG**

The action log was reviewed and updated.

### **6 NATIONAL TRUST UPDATE:**

Article in the Sunday Telegraph about Cantax House. NT does have a contractor for the garden. It is not straight forward to relet such a property – amount of work needed on the doctor’s surgery.

Coach parking meeting – we had a round table discussion with a view to managing the situation with coaches better. Draft document “How you should behave if you are driving your coach into this village”. Suni at The Red Lion is contact in line of communication.

5 bar gate tubs – NT would like to take over upkeep of them. Owned by WC.

New bench installed opposite zebra crossing by NT as part of their safe space for people initiative.

## **7 PRESENTATION/UPKEEP OF VILLAGE:**

PG had requested this item be on the Agenda as the village and environs were looking noticeably scruffy and unkempt. PH advised that Kevin Bowler was very elusive but he is aware of all the works that need doing under the new grass cutting contract. The Clerk was instructed to write a letter of complaint to Idverde re their performance to date.

There are weeds growing outside NT properties and the Brash, overhanging branches and ivy over the wall on the footpath along Abbey Road. Weeds are the responsibility of the Parish Steward but their solution is to use spray on the weeds. SG will ask the Parish Steward to spray the weeds.

## **8 NEW FOOTBALL CLUB:**

The PC has received a request from Biddestone Athletic for permission to use the football pitch at the playing field. Four of their members were present at the meeting. They have 22 players signed on currently and would bring 16 to Lacock on a home fixture. They will play on Sundays. They would be prepared to pay match fees upfront. It was agreed that permission be given for this new team to use Lacock football pitch. The Clerk to look out and update the Licence, annual fee of £350 agreed to be paid in advance of start of season.

## **9 HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTION OF MEMORIALS IN CEMETERY:**

The Clerk advised that a Health and Safety check of the memorials in the cemetery is needed. James Long could do a safety inspection for £1200 plus VAT. This was considered and it was agreed that a further quote be obtained. The Clerk was instructed to contact Sandridge Stone to see if they could undertake an inspection. PS to look into what is involved in an inspection and whether a PC member could do this.

## **10 AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY REPORTS:**

**P Burkinshaw –**  
Website – up to date.

**S Wise –**  
Orchard - Only one volunteer last Saturday. Wild Life Group regularly at the orchard on a Tuesday. Will be putting up information notices throughout the site.

Annual grit bins survey to be done. There will be no top-ups only when bins are completely empty. Three bins have been replaced in the past year.

### **H Shepherd –**

School – The Village Hall Management Committee have put up the hiring fees wef 1 September and removed the discount the school has previously had, the school is unable to afford this increase.

Scarecrow Trail – well organised this year and very successful.

### **L Heren –**

Weekly inspections of play area carried out. Padlock for gate sorted out by PH.

### **S Gregory -**

A copy of SG's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

SG has emailed Dave Arnup who has instructed that the "Keep Clear" road marking at the corner of Church Street and Nethercote be repainted and this is on the schedule.

Blocked Grids and Gullies – PG has completed a survey of the blocked gullies and the Clerk was instructed to forward a copy of this to Dave Arnup requesting an action plan and time frame for the remedial action needed.

### **P Glen –**

Brambles on hedge between Red Lion car park and the playing field.

After Jubilee NT confirmed they would repair entrance to playing field from Red Lion carpark as it floods badly. LS to request update as no progress to date.

### **P Shaw –**

The Speed Watch camera has been moved to new location outside the old chapel on The Wharf.

Raised to 38 mph uphill – the fastest recorded was 69mph – some are accelerating from the Abbey Bridge to The Bell pub. The police will not use this for enforcement action but they will send letters to speeding motorists.

## **11 CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 1 Scottish & Southern Electricity £280,000 funds to boost community resilience
- 2 Salisbury & Wilton Swift re Land East of Showell Farm Planning Application
- 3 Daniel Tyrrell (Planning Enforcement Officer) re King Johns Hunting Lodge sign
- 4 Briefing Note 23-18 - Explore Wiltshire Heritage App
- 5 CPRE invitation to talks on 13 July 2023 at 1830 at the Corn Exchange, Devizes
- 6 From Pageant Master - invite to participate in D DAY 80 on 6 June 2024 **Include on September agenda**
- 7 Wiltshire & Swindon CC - Community Groups tackling major issues selected for PCC funding
- 8 National Highways notification A36 Bathampton to Beckington road closures from 10th to 15th July 2023
- 9 From Peter Glen re Presentation/Upkeep of the village
- 10 From Ben Thomas - Biddestone Athletic looking for permission to use Lacock football pitch
- 11 From Daniel Tyrrell re King Johns Hunting Lodge - sign has been removed and file now closed
- 12 Briefing Note 23-19 - Update on Draft Wiltshire Design Guide
- 13 From Derek Walters - BART Testing local waterways - volunteers needed DW has a test kit
- 14 Wiltshire Council re Consultation on Draft Wiltshire Design Guide document - comments invited 3-30 July 2023

- 15 Wiltshire PCC Philip Wilkinson's July column  
 16 From Tim Barter re internal conditional of sports pavilion  
 17 Wiltshire Council - Winter Preparations 2023/2024  
 18 Freedom Of Information request re Corsham Road play area goalposts

## 10 FINANCE:

i) It was resolved (PH/PG) that the following accounts be paid:

S Steward	£ 474.22	(for June)
Idverde Ltd	£ 233.99	(PF mtce – May)
Idverde Ltd	* £ 246.20	(Grass cutting – May)
Idverde Ltd	£ 156.00	(Dog bin)
HM Customs & Excise	£ 337.20	(PAYE)
Idverde Ltd	£ 233.99	(PF mtce – June)
Alarms & Electrical	£ 69.60	(Svc fire extinguisher in pavilion)

\* Note – it was agreed that this Idverde payment be withheld until satisfactory completion of outstanding grass cutting.

## ii) Statement of Account –

It was resolved (LH/PH) the statement of account showing a balance of £17816.19 as at 26 June 2023 in the Co-operative Bank current account (statement no.227) and £39464.16 in the Cambridge & Counties deposit account should be signed by the chair as being correct.

## 11 PLANNING:

### PL/2023/04589

Two storey rear extension with single storey elements – 18 Bewley Lane, Lacock

**NO OBJECTION**

### PL/2023/04381

Fell Cherry tree – Lacock Abbey, High Street, Lacock

**NO COMMENT**

### PL/2022/02309

Proposed extension, construction of detached garage and associated works – Front Lodge, Lacock

**NO OBJECTION**

### PL/2023/04417

Outline planning application with all matters reserved except for access – Land East of Showell Farm, Chippenham -

**STRONG OBJECTION**

**Lacock Parish Council considers that the protection of this open countryside is most important in preventing built development coming ever closer to the historic village of Lacock. This principle was backed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in its recent review of boundaries in Wiltshire. In reviewing the boundaries in the vicinity of Chippenham it resolved to extend the boundary of Chippenham Town southwards to include all the areas allocated for development in the Chippenham Site Allocations DPD. This southerly extension did not include the area of the present planning application, which remained as open countryside.**

**Turning now to the emerging Development Plan. Most recently in July 2023 Wiltshire Council has published the Wiltshire Local Plan Review. This proposes the site for employment use. The Plan has yet to be subjected to public consultation and therefore for there to be any reliance on this Review for development to take place on the planning application area is premature. In any event the Local Plan Review shows the land is proposed for employment use not housing.**

**The Parish Council considers that the proposed layout is ill conceived. It is unrelated to the approved housing developments to the north, is nothing more than a gigantic cul de sac, but most importantly through the proposed position of the 3 housing blocks in the north eastern part of the application area it represents a major incursion into the proposed area of the Riverside Country Park. This is of grave concern to the Parish Council as it erodes the Green area in the valley of the River Avon and it adds further hard surfaced areas close to the river plain resulting in additional run off and exacerbating the risk of flooding, especially downstream in the vicinity of Lacock Abbey and the village of Lacock.**

**12 GENERAL PARISH MATTERS:**

- i)** Volume of cars in Church Street
- ii)** Parking of cars at the bus stop and in front of farm gate at Melksham Road
- iii)** Parking Services need to enforce parking issues
- iv)** Remembrance Service in November – road closure notice needed. JB to action
- v)** Cricket Club has benefitted from having the new nets – they haven’t lost a match this season.
- vi)** Bowden Hill House – works being carried out?

**13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Monday 11 September 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall  
The meeting closed at 9.53pm

Signature of Chair upon approval of Minutes

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11 September 2023