

LACOCK PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Manor Room

THOSE TAKING PART:

J Boldon (Chair), P Glen, P Holliday, P Shaw, P Burkinshaw, L Heren, and S Wise.

Also present were Derek Walters, Sonya McMillan (NT), Nicky Hamilton (NT) and two members of the public.

1 APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from J Durrant, S Gregory and H Shepherd. Also absent was C Doel.

2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

Mrs Culshaw had sent in an official complaint, Corsham Road is in need of desperate repair. No money has been spent on it for at least six years. The goalposts have been removed by GreenSquare and the children have nowhere to go - it's a long walk into the village. So as an estate they feel cut off by the A350 and isolated. DW advised that GreenSquare Accord are willing to contribute towards the cost of new goalposts and he is happy to pursue this with GSA.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no declarations of interest.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Item 9 - Village Hall - Fees

PS asked that the following amendment be made to the minutes on Page 2

As the VHC and school could not reach a satisfactory financial conclusion that the school could afford the PC would arrange a 100% discount on the playing field licence fee.

It was agreed (PG/CD) that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2023 be signed as a true record.

5 UPDATE FROM MINUTES/ACTION LOG

The action log was reviewed and updated.

A response to the PC letter to Hilary McGrady has been received from Ian Wilson.
Review of the weight limit and whether coaches travelling into the village should be allowed to use the Bowden Hill route.
Another quote needed for memorial tests.

6 NATIONAL TRUST UPDATE:

SM introduced Nicky Hamilton newly appointed Volunteer Manager - she will be working part-time. There was no update from the Lettings Officer.
Works on Bowden Hill - JBr has met with contractors/members of PC - the build-up of materials and damage to the edges of the road/common will be sorted by the contractor when the final works are completed.

Timings for the ditching work - on the Ranger's list of jobs to do - no confirmed timescales at present. NT have continued to mow and leaf clear the areas from the FTM to the car park.
Lacock Parish Community event Wednesday 29 November 2023 following TANT meeting. Great Hall and Courtyard open with carols. Festive drinks and nibbles in the Village Hall afterwards.

Have commissioned the conservation work on the Lacock Lock Up doors. This will take 1-2 days to complete and the contractor is currently looking to be on site late November/early December. This is an aspect of the prep work needed to re-open the lock up.

Planning Applications for the two large developments proposed to the east of Melksham - these have been forwarded to NT planning department to ask if they are aware of them and if they will be submitting a response.

SM was asked about the NT contribution to the Local Plan – not known what the response will be. It was agreed that PC does not need to send another letter to NT in response to letter from Ian Wilson – just a thank you and PC looks forward to hearing from SM about her plans for the forthcoming financial year.

The path to the Abbey bridge will be cleared of leaves.

7 BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION:

An email had been received from Sarah Cozens asking if the PC has ever considered entering Lacock into the Best Kept Village Competition run by the Council for the Protection of Rural England. The PC is invited every year to take part and it was agreed that from past experience this was not something members would wish to consider but has declined as it is not possible for the PC to compete in a NT village.

8 AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY – REPORTS:

P Burkinshaw –

Waiting for next software update. Website traffic - 20 people/day.

P Glen –

We can move forward with tidying up the graves - need to remove some of the items which are not permitted. Will need 4 bags of soil and 2 bags of gravel to level up the plots. Also some landscaping will be required. Agreed that the materials be purchased. A landscaping person will be needed.

P Shaw –

Bewley Lane has been flooded several times this month. The problem is that if both bridges and the Naish Hill junction flood the properties in the Lane are isolated.

Weight limit - does not apply to coaches only goods vehicles. A possible coach ban (except the school bus) from Sandy Lane to NT car park needed.

Residents Parking Scheme - apply through LHFIG - for available finance 2025/26. Proposed in principle by PH, seconded SW - all in favour (PB abstained).

Speed Watch Camera has been moved further towards Abbey bridge. DW to raise what happens to the results data.

H Shepherd –

HS had submitted a report which had been circulated prior to the meeting the contents of which were noted.

J Boldon -

Local Plan - It was resolved to object to any more new houses to the east of Melksham until a new bypass is built. Also, to object to any more development to the south of Chippenham but not to object to a new link road between the A4 and A350 at the Lackham roundabout.

S Wise

Footpaths - no new issues.

Community orchard - materials for raised beds in and ready for construction - there will be a lot to do.

L Heren –

Picket fence uprights have been repaired. Graffiti reported to PC has been sanded away.

9 CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1 Idverde Community Engagement 6-month Review – March – August
- 2 Briefing Note 23-28 – Police and Crime Panel – explaining the role of Wiltshire’s Police & Crime Panel to reflect on the Panel’s challenges and achievements over the past year
- 3 Briefing Note 23-29 – North Meadows Mitigation Strategy
- 4 From Mrs Darbyshire – re non-existent road signage – Reybridge
- 5 From Ian Wilson – response to PC letter to Hilary McGrady dated 22 September 2023 - Thank you to IW for his reply and PC looks forward to hearing from SM about plans for the forthcoming financial year.
- 6 Briefing Note 23-30 – Consultation on potential changes to Wiltshire Council Tax Reduction Scheme for working age people
- 7 From Ginette Anderson re Lacock Playground graffiti - **dealt with by LH**
- 8 From Sarah Cozens re Best Kept Village competition – **past negative experience rules out entering.**
- 9 PCC – More Community Groups receive grants through the PCC’s Community Action Fund
- 10 From Graeme McFaull – Flooding, drainage and ditch maintenance on Bewley Lane - **PS to draft response**
- 11 From Louise Roberts – Flooding/Bowden Hill closure - **PC objected to the BH closure - WC has final say**
- 12 Briefing Note 23-32 – Wiltshire Council response to recent Council Climate Action Scorecards
- 13 From Wessex Environment Agency – Reporting Flooding - **CD to note**
- 14 Wiltshire Area Boards Facebook and Twitter pages now live
- 15 From Wiltshire Community Foundation – Business Grants for Young People from Wiltshire & Swindon – open for applications

- 16 PCC Visits youth mentoring service after group recently received grants to fund detached projects
- 17 Official complaint from Lisa Culshaw - **PH to respond**

10 FINANCE:

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

Idverde Ltd	£246.20	*(grass cutting - (September)
Idverde Ltd	£246.20	*(grass cutting - October)
S Steward	£449.63	(for October)
S Steward	£ 14.99	(office expenses - October)
Mant Leisure	£630.00	(retrospective - swing repair)
Playsafety Ltd	£205.20	(RoSPA inspn play areas)
J Bolton	£229.20	(Road signs 12 November)
RBL Poppy Appeal	£ 20.00	(Poppy Wreath)
Mant Leisure	£360.00	(Retrospective - fence repair PF)
Mant Leisure	£683.08	Retro. -New cradle seat shackles

* Agreed to withhold payment until work completed satisfactorily.

ii) Statement of Account –

It was resolved (PH/LH) the statement of account showing a balance of £45390.45 as at 6 November 2023 in the Co-operative Bank current account (statement no.234) and £39464.16 in the Cambridge & Counties deposit account should be signed by the Chair as being correct.

11 PLANNING:

PL/2023/09339

Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area – Lacock Cemetery, Melksham Road, Lacock **NO COMMENT**

PL/2023/08491

Proposed Livestock Building - Field near Goodleys Hill Farm, Gastard, Lacock **NO OBJECTION**

PL/2023/01779 & PL/2023/02309 - LBC

Proposed extension, construction of detached double garage and associated works (Resubmission of PL/2022/03570) - Front Lodge, Lacock **NO OBJECTION**

12 GENERAL PARISH MATTERS:

i) SW - PC email account - not working

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 11 December 2023 at 7.30pm in the Manor Room

The meeting closed at 10.18pm

Signature of Chair upon approval of Minutes

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11 December 2023

