

LACOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Lana Steward

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 October 2023 at 7.30pm in the Manor Room

THOSE TAKING PART:

J Durrant (Chair), J Boldon, P Glen, P Holliday, P Shaw, S Gregory, P Burkinshaw, L Heren, S Wise, H Shepherd and C Doel. Also present were Derek Walters, Sonya McMillan (NT) and James Bradshaw (NT).

1 APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies

2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

There were no members of the public present

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:

P Glen declared an interest in Planning Application PL/2023/08135 (neighbour)

P Burkinshaw declared an interest in item 9 on the agenda (school governor)

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

It was agreed (PG/CD) that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2023 be signed as a true record.

5 UPDATE FROM MINUTES/ACTION LOG

The action log was reviewed and updated.

A further letter had been sent to Hilary McGrady – no response as yet

JB will contact Police for a presence at Remembrance Sunday.

Contact Wiltshire Council for a meeting to discuss the 1975 weight limit and the need for better signage – there is no enforcement of the current limit. DW to contact WC for a meeting to consider different limit – the present one is being ignored – and what are the issues etc?

Gully survey – the road is now closed and could WC come back to do the work they could not at the time of the survey?

6 NATIONAL TRUST UPDATE:

SM introduced James Bradshaw who is taking over from Tim Barter as the new Estate Manager.

At present there are 9 voids – 5 High Street being re-let.

Planning to get the pond on Bewley Common dredged this year and the rest over the next 6 years.

This will also include repairs to the overflow pond; clearing the ditch above the pond and create a new pond and winter scrape on the common. With contractor for a quote for the work. NY was asked in 2021 to do this – it is a long-standing issue and it needs to be done whilst the road is closed – make sure it is done by 2 November. JBr will emphasise the importance of doing this as soon as possible. A volunteer group from Heelis to repair fencing at Lacock.

A Community Christmas Event on 29 November from 7pm including Christmas Carols in the Great Hall and festive drinks and nibbles. Invitations will be going out very soon throughout the Parish. Empty houses in the village have a knock-on effect – there are no small children in the parish at the moment. In 2019 roof leak reported in the store room and nothing has been fixed.

Abbey wall from the pedestrian crossing to the river bridge – nettles very high -why have they not been cut down?

One thousand new houses planned for Melksham – presumably NT Planning Department will be commenting on the planning applications and how these will be affecting the village and Forest Lane? Remembrance Sunday – volunteers from NT helped last year – a couple this year would be appreciated. JB to email SM with request.

7 TRAFFIC ISSUE RAISED BY MICHELLE DONELAN:

MD had notified PC of constituents' concern about cars speeding down the hill past Bewley Crescent and the fact that there was no pathway for a portion of this route into the village. PC is trying to put in interventions and would like a walkway for pedestrians – is there anything MD could do to help with this?

SM will also speak to NT planning advisers re this and arrange a meeting with Planning Department.

8 LPC LOGO:

This matter remains unresolved.

9 VILLAGE SCHOOL – FEES:

HS reported that VH and school had met. The school has a £1500 deficit and could PC help with this? The school needs the hall four days a week to meet the legal requirement. The PC currently charge the school £1280pa for using the playing field. JD proposed that the PC give the school a 100% discount this year ie not charge the £1280, seconded by PH – all in agreement.

It was pointed out that at the meeting with the school the VHC suggested that whilst the school could have the VH four days a week that they pay only for the hours they actually use.

10 AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY – REPORTS:

P Burkinshaw –

Experiencing broadband issues – nothing happening at the moment.

P Holliday –

Playing field – struggling with Idverde to get things done.

P Glen –

Cemetery grass cutting – struggle to get the payback team to turn up. The area has been transformed with the new contractor (Falcon Landscapes). Quotes for all the grass cutting to be undertaken by one contractor rather than three separate ones needs to be considered for next year and the schedules need to be drawn up as soon as possible. It was proposed by PH seconded by PG that quotes for the whole village be sought – agreed.

There have been complaints that the grass on Cantax Hill and the piece where the Lacock sign used to be have not been cut.

C Doel –

Allotment lease now in Dropbox.

Attended Flood meeting last week – there was a presentation by Thames Water and they will be represented on the committee going forward.

H Shepherd –

Wise Owls – thank you to S Wise for use of the community orchard.

School has been contacted by Highways about moving the pots outside the school. The PC is in favour of the school keeping the pots.

Sune from the Red Lion has issued an invite to Remembrance Sunday attendees to the pub for tea and cake after the event.

White lines to denote safe pathway for children to access the school.

S Wise

(Waiting to hear from Simon exactly what was said)

L Heren –

Nothing to report. Waiting for recent RoSPA report.

S Gregory/P Shaw -

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

(Not sure what Pete Shaw said about Residents' Parking)

SG/PS met with Mark Edwards from Stongate re entrance improvements and they have agreed to fund the cost, once the improvements have been decided.

11 CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1 Community Governance Review 2023/24 – Lacock and Chippenham (Limited Review)
- 2 Lisa Culshaw – Play Area behind Corsham Road estate – goal posts missing and request for dog poo bin
Goalposts brought back to Playing Field for football season; dog bin by bus stop and a large waste bin nearby

- 3 PCC marks National Rural Crime Action Week by focusing on tackling organised crime groups
- 4 Connect your community to the Slow Ways national walking network
- 5 Briefing Note 23-24 – Workplace Health Support in Wiltshire
- 6 Spatial Planning Policy – Consultation on the pre-submission draft Wiltshire Local Plan – consultation period Wed 27 September – 5pm Wed 22 November 2023
- 7 From Michelle Donelan – constituents concerned about cars speeding down the hill past Bewley Crescent – no pathway for a portion of this route into the village
- 8 Briefing Note – 23-26 – Polling District and Polling Place Review in Wiltshire
- 9 From Derek Walters – relaunched Tree Warden Scheme and funding which the Council has secured towards delivering tree and biodiversity targets
- 10 From Derek Walters – re Byde Brook Report – “the analysis has not been carried out yet but should be complete by the end of the year”
- 11 Briefing Note 23-27 – Community Governance Review
- 12 From Wiltshire Council – Information Governance – response to PC FOI request – WC accept it is an agricultural unit and that they have permission for agricultural storage – permitted development. 20 trees to be felled and as WC is very short of staff, they are not in a position to investigate.
- 13 From Melksham Without PC – Proposals for large developments East of Melksham that may be of interest for Lacock PC – **thank you to MWPC for advising PC. MWPC have objected to the latest development because it is premature to their local plan. – that land is not allocated in the plan. JB to draft a similar objection – increase in traffic along Forest Lane and the village.**

12 FINANCE:

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

Idverde Ltd	£233.99	(PF mtce - September)
Idverde Ltd	*£246.20	(grass cutting - September)
S Steward	£468.42	(for September)
HMRC	£337.20	(PAYE)
PKF Littlejohn	£378.00	(External audit)
Falcon Landscapes	£265.00	(cemetery mtce)

* Agreed to withhold payment until work completed satisfactorily.

ii) Statement of Account –

It was resolved (HS/PH) the statement of account showing a balance of £47930.09 as at 28 September 2023 in the Co-operative Bank current account (statement no.232) and £39464.16 in the Cambridge & Counties deposit account should be signed by the chair as being correct.

13 PLANNING:

PL/2023/08081

Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area – Red Lion, High Street, Lacock

NO COMMENT

PL/2023/08135

Proposed porch, carport and glazed roof over courtyard – Redcot, 22 Bowden Hill, Lacock

14 GENERAL PARISH MATTERS:

- i) Forest Lane is manic
- ii) M4 strategic route to Dorset
- iii) Showell development – what had happened?

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 13 November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Manor Room

The meeting closed at 10.04pm

Signature of Chair upon approval of Minutes

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13 November 2023