

The Parish Council of Leckhampton with Warden Hill

Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 7th March 2019 at 7.15 pm, Leckhampton Village Hall, Church Road, Leckhampton

Parish Council members present: Councillors Dr Adrian Mears (Chairman), Vivienne Matthews, Margaret White, Stephen Cooke, (*) Martin Horwood (*) Ian White, Iain Dobie (*) (**), James Parker, Emma Nelson, Chris Nelson and Peter Frings
Ms Arlene Deane (Clerk).

(* Indicates also a Borough Councillors; ** also a County Councillor).

Members of the Public: 2 members of the public were present.

1. Declarations of Interest.

Nothing declared other than those recorded in the Declaration of Interest book

2. Apologies for absence.

Councillors Penny Henty, Tony Oliver, Anne Regan, Rosemary Bailie and Elizabeth Barker.

3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting held on 7th February 2019

Many members had not had time to read and check the minutes. Members were therefore given until 13 March to propose any corrections.

4. Actions and matters arising (other than those that are separate agenda items)

See action list.

Air pollution monitoring is on going; Cllr Frings circulated the latest report. The diffusion tube monitoring process is working smoothly and is producing good data. The spot monitoring is not going as smoothly as the equipment is not yet working; more calibrations are being undertaken.

The Meeting was opened to the public for questions and comments on any issues not covered as agenda items. No issues were raised.

5. Brizen Young Peoples Centre - flooring refurbishment

Cllr Emma Nelson advised that the flooring, which was installed 10 years ago, is in need of repair. Quotes have been received from:

- St James Carpets - £1,995 + VAT
- Dixon's Flooring (to follow) - £2,278.50 + VAT
- ATC Flooring Tivoli (to follow) - £2,500 + VAT

It was agreed unanimously to approve the refurbishment by St James Carpets. It was also agreed that because this is long term maintenance the full cost should be met from the BYPC Contingency Reserve and Repair Fund (CR&RF) rather than from the BYPC management account. It was recognised that drawing on the CR&RF may necessitate increasing the annual amount put into the Fund from £750 pa to £1000 pa in future years in order to keep to the target growth of the repair fund to meet the major liability of future repairs to the car park. However, it was also noted that the BYPC Charity currently has enough reserves to cover the cost of the youth work for two years and therefore the Parish Council can afford for the present to reduce the amount held in the Contingency Reserve from the current level of £10,000. **Action:** Clerk to order the repair as per St James Carpets quote.

6. Yellow lines/TRO and traffic monitoring

All discussed at Highways meeting of 8th February.

TRO for yellow lining of vulnerable corners

Cllr Emma Nelson advised that the TRO and the painting of the yellow lines will cost approx. £15K. Alexis Newport (GCC) advised, in writing, that GCC would fund 50% of the TRO cost if we want to go ahead with the roads identified. This would necessitate more detailed consultation with residents. It was agreed that the cost-benefit of the investment is uncertain and more work and consultation with residents is needed before a final decision is made. The process can take two years. The Council should see whether there are any other sources of funding and also examine what other demands there are likely to be on the budget for environmental projects over the next few years to make sure that the TRO does not squeeze out other investment that is more important. **Action:** There is an on-going action on members to bring forward any proposals.

Traffic monitoring

Cllr Cooke reminded those identifying suitable lamppost for mounting the equipment that they need to specify the road and number of each post, the diameter or circumference of the post at the height where the mounting bracket is to be placed, the direction that the sensor is pointing and the suitability of the position – view not obstructed, sufficient straight length of road, location must be where speeding occurs if speed is being monitored as opposed to just counting of vehicles, plus any other relevant comments. Photographs of the location may also be useful. Cllr Emma Nelson advised that the kit the Parish council has bought includes the brackets. All the lampposts to be used will need to have approval by GCC highways division. **Action:** Members to complete the identification of suitable lampposts.

7. Application for residential development of up to 25 dwellings off Kidnappers Lane.

Following the rejection of their previous planning appeal in April 2018 by Inspector Bridgwater, Robert Hitchins have submitted a revised application that aims to address the previous reasons for rejection. The main change is that the number of dwellings is reduced from 45 to 25 and the layout is slightly more winding with the purpose of giving a more rural impression. However, what is proposed is still an estate and far from the type of sympathetic semi-rural type of development that the Parish Council discussed with Hitchins as being potentially acceptable in 2015/16. The new proposal is also contrary to the draft Cheltenham plan which includes no development in area ON. It was agreed that the Council needs to object to the proposal and Councillor Mears took the action to produce a draft response. It was also discussed whether and how any development on area ON should be included in the emerging neighbourhood plan to which Robert Hitchins have made a submission. However, the response to the current application needs to focus on the problems with the current proposal and the issues identified in Inspector Bridgwater's report. **Action:** Cllr. Mears to produce a draft response.

8. Footpath and dog fouling

Cllr Mears advised that he has received complaints about the amounts of dog fouling on the AONB land between Pilford Road and Daisy Bank Road. He had viewed the area and had found several instances on the footpath immediately south of the entrance to the land from Pilford Road, close to the 'No dog fouling' sign warning that offenders could be fined £1000. Cllr. Horwood said that he used the footpath very frequently as it is close to his home and he felt that the dog fouling was not serious except near the entrance. There is currently no dog bin and the Council asked the Clerk to investigate the possibility of installing a dog bin on the AONB side of the entrance close to the 'No dog fouling' sign. Cllr Cooke also said he had received complaints about fouling in Burrows Field and about overflowing dog waste bins. **Action:** Clerk to speak to UBICO

9. Cheltenham plan examination

Cllr Mears referred to the brief on the hearings that he had previously circulated to member. Cllrs Mears and Horwood attended various sessions. The main points worth reporting are:

Proposed new secondary school.

1. In the session on the proposed secondary school the Parish Council submitted that the school buildings as shown on the GCC plans required an area of only 0.54 ha including the 0.1 ha sports building and therefore all the buildings and the car parks could be put on the Northern Fields without taking up more than a modest area of 1 ha. CBC also argued for putting the buildings on the Northern Fields.
2. The Parish Council submitted that putting the playing fields on areas CF1 and CF2 was acceptable provided they were sensitive to the landscape and preserved the route of the public footpath through CF2. The issue here is that GCC wants to fence the playing fields for reasons of safeguarding.
3. The session on transport considered the problem of the impact that pupils travelling to the school by car, particularly from Charlton Park, would have on the A46 queue at the Moorend Park Road junction and on the congestion in Church Road. GCC Highways submitted that they could overcome the traffic problem by having two inward A46 lanes south of the junction instead of one. These lanes would need to be very narrow to fit within the existing road width. The Parish Council argued that based on the current single lane CBC's traffic modelling indicated that the school would have an impact equivalent to around 1000 additional dwellings. It was not clear how much improvement having two lanes would make as it would depend greatly on how long the lanes are and how narrow, since narrow lanes will slow the traffic speed and reduce or nullify any improvement in throughput through the junction. It was crucial for have the figures from GCC on how much the two lanes would increase the throughput in order to model the traffic congestion and the impact of the school. GCC Highways undertook in the transport session to provide this but nothing has been received from them so far. **Action:** Cllr Mears to write back to the inspector if the information is not forthcoming from GCC.

Leckhampton Fields Local Green Space

1. Cllr Horwood took the lead in this session and had hopefully been able to demonstrate to the Inspector that the 39.1 ha area of the proposed LGS was not 'an extensive tract of land' as defined in the NPPF. Cllr Horwood had explained to the Inspector that as the Lib-Dem spokesperson on environment it was he would had original proposed the LGS concept and the wording and that 'extensive tract of land' was intended to distinguish LGS from green belt.
2. Miller Homes submitted that the boundary of the LGS should be along the smallholdings footpath through the smallholdings and not along the northern boundary of the smallholdings. The Parish Council had emphasised the importance of maintaining the rural character of the footpath by retaining all of the smallholdings in the LGS. The Inspector had referred the issue to John Rowley who had confirmed that the boundary did not run through the smallholdings.
3. The Inspector is critical of the large amount of local green space proposed in the Cheltenham Plan and feels that areas already well protected such as Burrows Field should not be designated as LGS since this could interfere with their primary purpose.

Action: Awaiting Inspector's response to CBC in mid April.

10. Neighbourhood planning update

Unfortunately Cllr Bickerton had not arrived at the meeting in time for this item and was not able to give a report as chairman of the Neighbourhood Forum. Cllr Margaret White as the

secretary of the NP explained that in order to submit the draft neighbourhood plan for public consultation a list of statutory consultees is required from CBC. She was having great difficulty obtaining this. **Action:** Cllr Horwood took an action to try to get this information from CBC. **Action:** It was agreed in Councillor Bickerton's absence that a meeting of the Neighbourhood Forum is needed urgently to review and progress the work.

A member of the public asked if 'rural and sympathetic to landscape' design principles apply to school builds as well as housing development. Cllr Mears advised that they would not but the Parish Council would seek to ensure that the buildings were screened by tall trees as far as possible to mitigate their impact on the view particularly from Leckhampton Hill.

11. Leckhampton Primary School

Cllr Dobie informed the Council that the proposal for creating a new rear entrance to the school via a short foot/cycle path between the school playing fields and the existing cycle path in Burrows Playing Field had been rejected. The Parish Council had thought the rear entrance was a very good idea because it provided off-road routes for children to walk and cycle to the school away from dangerous and heavily polluted roads. This seemed a win-win for both health and safety. A parent survey carried out by the school showed that a new rear entrance would be well used. **Action:** The Chairman undertook to send a letter to GCC Director of Education expressing the Council's disappointment and recommending that the idea be reconsidered. **Action:** Cllr Horwood took an action to discuss the issue with the Head Teacher.

12. S137 grant application

Sue Ryder, FOLK and Cotswold Voluntary Wardens have all applied for a grant.

The following was agreed:

Sue Ryder: £1,000 specifically towards the maintenance of Leckhampton Court recognising its great importance to the environment of Leckhampton Village.

FOLK: £ 250 towards the maintenance of Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common

Cotswold Voluntary Wardens: £150 towards the maintenance of local footpaths

Cheques will be signed at the April meeting.

Grant applications are expected from Warden Hill Scouts and Leckhampton Scouts for consideration at the April meeting.

13. Parish Council LOGO

The Clerk advised that several members had requested that the PC should have a logo. This could be used on letterheads, ID cards, high Vis jackets, the website etc. Cllrs Horwood and Frings volunteered to produce some options and asked that members send them three sentences each on what they feel LWWH Parish stands for and how the logo should be representative of the Parish. **Action:** Cllrs Horwood and Frings said they would submit options at the April meeting.

14. Move to electronic banking

Cllr Mears has developed a new integrated accounting spreadsheet that is easily understood by all members. This will facilitate the transition to Internet banking. **Action:** The Clerk will put a proposal on internet banking to the next meeting of the Finance Committee.

15. Reports from Borough and County Councillors and C5 issues.

- **Cllr Dobie** – highways local has £25,000 to spend on roads and footpaths. Moorend Grove is on the list to be repaired. Salisbury Ave and Highwood Ave has recently been repaired. Cllr Dobie asked members to send their recommendations to him.
- **Cllr Cooke** – the tree outside the Co-op, which was due to be cut down, has now been deemed ok and will stay. The pavement around it will be repaired.

16. Any other matters including report from the Clerk.

- The Mayor, Cllr Mears and Cllr Dobie officially opened Salisbury Ave play area. The ceremony was well attended and the play area has been more heavily used since the refurbishment.
- Cllr Lynch's funeral has been arranged for March 13th at 12:30pm at St Christopher's Church Warden Hill.
- PKF Littlejohn are holding 19/20 AGAR training on March 19th
- Leckhampton Rovers Football Club wishes to present their Burrows Football field improvements proposal to the meeting on April 4th.
- Pictures of blue marks on pavements of Warden Hill have been sent to the police for identification as some residents had concerns about them being indicators used by burglars. The police have advised they are not burglary marks.
- A donation of £50 is proposed to be sent to the Church In Warden Hill in recognition of Rev Grady having conducted free of charge the public memorial service for Cllr Peter Lynch.
- As the Brizen centre now has regular Thursday evening events, the PC has been asked to move venues on three occasions. Cllr Emma Nelson has organised the replacement bookings with the United Reform Church. The Clerk has updated the website.
- The Brizen treasurer has now forwarded the latest Brizen accounts
- The planters in Warden Hill that have now been transferred to the Parish Council as part of the close down of Bloom in Warden Hill need to be added to the Council's insurance.

17. Reports from Members.

- **Cllr Emma Nelson** asked if the Council could approve spending £33 on a newsletter explaining the Bloom in Warden Hill changes. This was approved. There is also a fun day run by the church who would like permission to hold it at the MUGA. It will be on the same day as the table tennis final 8th June. This was agreed to with the proviso that the organisers take out their own insurance.
- **Cllr Parker.** CBC and GCC have separate activities/meetings regarding cycling. GCC have issued a cycling infrastructure draft plan, which is out for consultation. CBC have a meeting prior to the PC's April meeting which Cllr Parker will attend.
- **Cllr Ian White** advised members of a street party to be held in Warden Hill. Cllr White asked if the PC would give a modest donation. It was agreed that anything under £100 would be allowable. Cllr White will notify the clerk of the amount and payee.

18. Local planning matters. (10 mins)

- 34 Charlton Lane - Infill side extension, skylights to existing extension roof, installation of window to side elevation, change to existing rear French doors and installation of rear gable window. **No objection**
- 1 Rectory Court Kidnappers Lane - Single storey extension **No objection**
- 5 Charnwood Road - Demolition of existing single storey side extension and replacement larger single storey side extension **No objection**
- 13 Leckhampton Road Cheltenham - single storey rear extensions to garden room and utility **No objection**
- 74 Salisbury Avenue - Removal of existing garage and erection of single storey side/rear extension.
- 39 Charlton Lane - Single storey rear/side extension **No objection**
- Unit B1 Liddington Industrial Estate Old Station Drive - Erection of 3 no. Flagpoles. **No objection**
- 6 Hillier Drive -Single storey rear extension
- 8 Trowscoed Avenue - 2 storey extension to existing dwelling (revised scheme to application no. 17/01583/FUL)
- 58 Farmfield Road -Demolition of shed and erection of a single storey side extension

- 18 Hillier Drive - First and second floor side extension above existing single storey structure plus garage conversion.
- The Old Lodge Church Road - Single storey side extension and a two-storey rear extension to an existing stone lodge house with existing bradstone alterations, and replacement double garage.
- 1 Halland Road - Proposed single storey side/rear extension, attached garage with office above and new enlarged rear dormer
- 27 Naunton Lane - Single storey rear extension

19. Approval of accounts for payment as shown below:

100567	Gradko Diffusion tubes Jan	£	50.28
100568	Clerks salary March	£	719.05
100569	HMRC Jan- March	£	1,539.20
100570	Proludic	£	63,599.99
100671	Donation to St Christopher's Church	£	50.00
100672	Reimbursement to Cllr Regan for costs incurred Cllr Lynch's public memorial service	£	60.00
100673	Reimbursement to Cllr Mears for printing for Council submissions x4	£	11.80

20. **Date and time of the next meeting**, arranged for Thursday 4th April 2019 at the United Reform Church at 7:15pm

The meeting closed at 22.12pm see additional note on the next page.

NOTE

Cllr Bickerton arrived as the meeting was about to close. As per agenda item 10, Cllrs Mears, Horwood and Chris Nelson, took time to discuss the NP. Cllr Bickerton emailed the clerk with the results of that meeting and asked that the following be included in these minutes.

Cllr Bickerton is talking to NPIERS, an independent group of examiners who have been very helpful in moving our plan forward and preparation for public consultation. Andrew Matheson read the draft NP and quickly made recommendations, a two stage process was agreed. Firstly for Cllr Bickerton to complete a document restructure and the NPIERS recommended edits to meet the basic NP conditions and then work on the policies and final proof read which would incur costs. The first stage has been completed, the draft NP has been restructured to bring the policy sections forward, to section 4 and 5, one section moved to an annex, and many edits to meet broad NP requirements following NPIERS quick read through. The changes are redlined so that the NP forum members can see and agree the changes. The second stage, which will incur costs, but keep to the original agreed budget of £1200, Cllr Bickerton will circulate the redlined plan to NP Group members. A policy to cover the old Berries Nursery, area ON on the LGS map, will now be added and will be similar to what we have done on our Northern Field Policy.