

Loddiswell Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at the Congregational Hall on Tuesday 2nd April 2019

PRESENT: Emma Hemmins (Chair), Martin Widger (Vice Chair) Derek Brooking, Malcolm Dicken, Mike Hine, Peter Sheard, Francis Baker, Cllr Paul Harvey, Emma Sweet, Ian Satterley, District Cllr Ian Bramble

APOLOGIES: PC Ryan Hayhurst, County Cllr Rufus Gilbert

IN ATTENDANCE: Fiona Stace (Parish Clerk) 3 members of the public

MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 5th March 2019, have been circulated and were approved by the Chair

Standing Orders Suspended: Public Participation and to receive reports from Cllr Gilbert and Cllr Bramble

Item no:

1732 Policing Matters

Total crime between 26/03/19 – 01/04/19: 0 Crimes (this is the period since the APM)

Same period 2018: 0 Crime

1733 Public Comment

One member of the public attended the meeting asking for LPC and local villagers help with repair work to the bridge on the permissive path at Ham Farm. The owners of the land have maintained the bushes, grass and hedgerows for many years so that the public can use and enjoy the path, but due to ill health and a lack of funding, they are reaching out for some help. The bridge is collapsing and needs rebuilding. LPC have asked them for a quote for the materials that are needed. Anyone who can help with the labour, should please get in touch with the parish clerk at: loddiswellparishclerk@gmail.com

Richard Barney and one other attended the meeting to discuss the future of The Playing fields and Village Hall trust. The report is below:

“It has come to light that for many years the running of the Trust has strayed from the original constitution and that health and safety policies needed bringing up to date. The latter is simply a case of instructing qualified agents to carry out risk assessments and take the necessary practical steps to ensure compliance. This is now being done but it is estimated that the cost will be in the region of £5000. The former is more complicated. The Trust is supposed to have a management committee consisting of one representative from each organisation that shares the use of the facilities, clubs and associations (not individual hirers). These representatives elect the officers from among themselves and can co-opt up to three people who are not representatives on the committee.

Somewhere over time, due to necessity and societal changes, this has morphed or shrunk into permanent Trustees 'for life' and a management committee of volunteers with no particular connection to any organisation, simply a willingness to keep things going. The current numbers are 4 trustees and a committee comprising of a chairman, a treasurer and an acting secretary. The trustees have now come into the management committee in order to help progress the health and safety issues, one of which taking on the secretary role until the AGM. Six people in total.

We have been assured by the Charities Commissions that this is acceptable for now as an emergency interim measure, but only until the AGM. Each organisation will be asked to nominate a person to form a new committee prior to this. The problem arises when an organisation can not find someone willing to take this on, which in today's society is quite probable. Why would a playing field user be prepared to take part in the running of the village hall and vice versa. Is it in the best interest of the village that the facilities are run this way?

Advice has been sought initially from Martin Rich Community Projects advisor with special responsibility for Playing Fields of Devon Communities Together, who is happy to talk to concerned Parish Councils looking to involve themselves in the running of facilities.

In summary it is in theory, possible to rectify the current Trust constitutional deficiencies with the support of the clubs and institutions at the next AGM. This is what we will endeavour to achieve for the survival of the trust. However, moving beyond this financial constraints will come into play. If the conditions of the constitution cannot be changed or met, then the Trust cannot continue and is likely to fail financially without outside funding eventually, due to the ever increasing costs managing health and safety issues."

The LPC Chair sympathised with people not wanting to become trustees. Cllr Brooking, having spoken to a legal advisor, said that it is not difficult to change the constitution and has asked Mr Barney to forward the details for him to read. The sale of the Village Hall was suggested but because it is a public facility there would have to be a public vote. Clerk to speak to the Community Project Advisor, to see where LPC can help. Ideally, a new Pavilion would be built up on the Playing Fields and the Village Hall sale could fund this, however, the Pre School is still housed there and this will not be changing for the foreseeable future. The Health and Safety checks will be done over the Easter Holidays. The question is, is there enough support from the community to keep the Trust going? LPC will do what they can to help and will meet again after the AGM in June.

1734 County Cllr report - Rufus Gilbert

Cllr Gilbert was not present

1735 District Cllr report - Ian Bramble

Commercial development: The council approved, in principle, that it's prudent to borrow over £60 million to produce net income towards the council's revenue budget. Councils cannot borrow unless there is a proven need i.e. social housing and helping support local commercial projects. The council's current commercial estate is worth over £70 million and this is all handled by a management team.

Neighbourhood plans are now all beginning to gain momentum,.

1736 Public Pathways

No update

1737 Neighbourhood Plan

The surveys have arrived and there are some volunteers for distribution. Please fill out the forms and return them to help with this project.

1738 Planning

0236/19/HHO - Support

1739 - AOB

- a) Richard Barney - Village Hall and Playing Fields discussion - covered in section **1733**
- b) The Clerk advertised the 4 year LPC election at the local school, on both public notice boards, in the local shop, on the Loddiswell what's on facebook site, and sent emails to the Village Hall and Congregational Hall for adverts to be placed there also.
- c) The Clerk has quotes for some traffic signs LPC would like put up in the village, mainly the road narrowing by the playing fields however, this needs some more research. Clerk to email a more local company and Cllr Mike Hine to speak with Darts Fire
- d) The clerk has sent over all the necessary details to LPC insurance company regarding a lorry damaging the railings and flower basket on Fore Street, outside the shop. We have several witnesses and despite several telephone calls to the lorry company by Cllr Hine, the Clerk and the Police, it seems the only way forward is through insurance
- e) No comments following the APM - 6 members of the public attended

1740 Added at the Chairs discretion:

Michael Stopher has been in touch regarding the plans for the old school site. This will be added to next months agenda for discussion.

Cllr Mike Hine has been up and done necessary repair work to the play equipment in the Playing Fields, Clerk to contact Allianz insurance and let them know this has been done. Cllr Mike Hine also noticed some rotten wood that he will replace with metal tubes and bolt them on. He has laid more crumb and taken the lichen off the mats.

Emma Hemmins, the Chair, has now formally stepped down from the Chair responsibility after 8 years of service. Many thanks to Emma for her outstanding duty to LPC. A new Chair will be nominated at next months meeting.

1740	Balance at the start of the meeting	£46,210.45
	a) F. Stace - Clerks wages & disbursements	- £316.70
	b) Richard Barney - Maintenance	- £512
	c) HMRC	- £138
	d) Greenspace grass cutting	- £80
	e) Credit from SHDC for finger posts	+ £200
	f) Parish Footpaths payment	+ £750
	g)The Plastic Company for the new bench	- £383.04
	Balance at the close of the meeting	£45,730.71

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Signed Dated

The next meeting will be held at the Congregational Hall on Tuesday 7th May 2019 at
7.30pm

**Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend and take part at the start of
the meeting.**

The Clerk

The Clerk to Loddiswell Parish Council: loddiswellparishclerk@gmail.com