

LUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th JANUARY 2016 AT 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Hughes, Jones, Harriott and Nutt.

In Attendance: J. Madge (Clerk) and 1 member of the public

Apologies: County Councillor Horner, District Councillor Barnes and Councillors Hegarty and Beeley

1. Public Participation: None
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 15th December 2015 had been circulated and were approved and signed.
3. Matters Arising:

Email from Planning Officer regarding the application from Smith (15/04033/FUL) for 10 houses at land off Luddington Road seeking approval for the application to be dealt with by way of delegated powers, and the recommendation is for refusal. It was agreed to accept that the application could be dealt with as suggested.
4. County Councillor's Report: CCllr Horner sent a written report as follows:
 - (a) The Government's financial settlement for next year contained two surprises. Firstly it was on time and secondly it was not the "give away budget" trumpeted in the press. The Government assumes that over the next four years WCC will raise council tax each year by 4%, and will receive an additional £10 million from the Better Care Fund in 2019/20. The grant from Government will reduce from £56 million this year to £37 million next year with further reductions in later years. With additional duties that have been imposed on counties this amounts to a cut of 39% in the year.
 - (b) London and the metropolitan boroughs like Birmingham and Wolverhampton have done much better with reductions of only 20%. District Councils are facing an average of 37% reduction and so the two tier councils, almost entirely Conservative controlled, have suffered most. Much has been said about councils retaining business rates but it is now understood that this will be top sliced to help the disadvantaged metropolitan areas. In other words central Government will still control the destination of business rate monies. The new homes bonus has been made less generous and is still in the gift of the District Councils. It is hoped that grants for specific tasks will be made available in the future by the Government.
 - (c) Electric vehicle grants for Rural SME are available and sixteen rural businesses in Warwickshire have received grants for leasing electric vehicles. The Rural Growth Network is among five pilot projects across England and has been created to support small firms in rural areas as part of a major initiative to boost the rural economy. For more information about the Warwickshire rural electric vehicle project (WREV) <http://bit.ly/1N4m0Uj>
 - (d) Remember sale goods are also fully covered by consumer rights. The new Consumer Rights Act has strengthened and extended a consumer's shopping rights. Consumers can obtain more help and advice from Trading Standards via

their consumer advisors at the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 040506.

- (e) A car dealer pleaded guilty to fraud after an investigation and prosecution by Warwickshire County Trading Standards. Complaints from buyers led Warwickshire Trading Standards to look in to Connan Harvey's second hand Audi business. Trading Standards Officers received numerous complaints concerning Harvey's business practices between November 2012 and February 2014. The three year investigation shows how long it takes to bring criminals to justice.
5. District Councillor's Report: There was no report from DCllr Barnes but he had advised Cllr Hughes that the trustees of the Race Course had agreed with Cala Homes a location for a proposed new bridge over the Avon for the new road to link to the proposed developments at Long Marston. Cllrs to consider the effects of the proposal on the Parish and particularly for the residents of Stannells Close and the East Ward and prepare their points of objection to the proposal and send them by email to the Clerk for collation and submission to the Planning Inspectorate, with copies to be sent to the MP and Head of Planning.
6. Finance:
- (a) The Community Account stood at £6,401.03.
 - (b) The Budget comparison for the current financial year and a draft Budget for the year 2016 to 2017 were considered. It was agreed to allow a budget of £1,000.00 for costs including printing costs for the proposed Village Design Statement and a sum of £600.00 for replacement bench. It was, therefore, agreed to set a precept totalling £6,895.00 for the year
 - (c) The following bills were passed for payment:
 - i. £36.00 for annual subscription to CPRE
 - ii. £45.00 to Luddington Village Hall for hall hire for 3 meetings October to December 2015
7. Specific Agenda Items:
- (a) Public footpath along River Avon bank: agreed to postpone discussion to the next Meeting.
 - (b) Letter received from Mrs Alison Higgins: This raised four issues, some of which had already been considered by the Council:
 - i. The condition of the benches by the Church drive and opposite the entrance to Manor Farm. Quotations for possible replacement benches had been obtained and were considered, and it was agreed to replace the bench by the Church drive with a teak bench from Bridgman at a cost of £549.00. It was also agreed to have a plaque on the replacement indicating that the bench is provided to mark the Queen's 90th Birthday. Cllr Jones also volunteered to remove the existing bench opposite the entrance to Manor Farm. He further volunteered to try and re-furbish the old bench and replace it on the Council's land adjoining the churchyard past the stile into Manor Field.

- ii. The condition of the Telephone Box. It had been agreed to adopt the box, and the Clerk is to chase up its adoption and the supply of the materials to improve its appearance.
 - iii. Trimming of the chestnut tree on the Village Green over the bench. It was thought that Mrs Higgins was prepared to undertake the trimming back of the lower branches of this tree, and it was agreed to give her the authority to do so.
 - iv. The condition of the land adjoining the entrance to Church Close. It was confirmed that the land concerned does not belong to the Council, but it is unclear who does own it. Various options for taking action to ensure the land is tidied up were considered, and it was agreed that Cllr Hughes would approach the tenant of 1 Church Close to appeal to his sense of good neighbourliness in the first instance.
- (c) Village Green – a response has been received from Ragley Estate offering the Village Green at a price of £5,000.00. Clerk to respond pointing out the liability of maintaining the green and suggesting a reduced consideration.

8. Correspondence:

- (a) WALC – Agenda for WALC Parish and Town Council Liaison Meeting 23rd March 2016
- (b) WALC – Deadline to opt out of Sector Led Body to set external audit contracts from 2017.
- (c) WALC – Notes on Spending Review
- (d) WALC – Nominations for attendance at a Royal Garden Party on 24th May 2016.
- (e) SDC – The Queen’s 90th Birthday Celebrations – Birthday Beacons and Street Parties
- (f) NALC – Legal Topic Note on Staff Pensions
- (g) SDC – Clean for the Queen 4th to 6th March 2016.
- (h) WALC – summary of pilot Lengthsman project at Rugby Borough
- (i) Dept for Transport – recommendations for 2017 New Years Honours.
- (j) Stratford on Avon & District CAB – update on services
- (k) SDC – Consultation on Draft Supplementary Planning Document for New Settlement Proposal at Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath closing on 26th February 2016.

9. Planning:

- (a) Findon (16/00061/FUL) 196 Luddington Road Luddington – proposed porch canopy. No objection
- (b) Keenan (16/00050/FUL) 28 Luddington Road Stratford – two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. No objection.
- (c) Lang-Sadler (16/00120/TREE) Deepfield Luddington – remove cherry tree. No objection.

10. Business for Future Consideration: Fly tipping of garden rubbish at the corner in Luddington Lane.

Next Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 16th February 2016 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.23pm.