

## LUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Hegarty, Hughes, Jones, Beeley and Nutt.

In Attendance: J. Madge (Clerk) County Councillor Horner, District Councillor Barnes and 3 members of the public

Apologies: Councillor Harriott

1. Public Participation: Mrs Higgins attended with drawings and a scale model of proposals for the landscaping of the round lock area at Luddington Lock to include a Memorial to David Hutchings, and produced by a landscape artist Jeremy Rye. At David Hutchings' Memorial Service it had been suggested that a memorial to his efforts in making the Avon navigable from Evesham to Stratford be created, and some funds were donated for this purpose, but the original proposal of steps from the lock area to the Church proved to be prohibitively expensive. The scheme now being suggested by Mrs Higgins would cost about £14,000.00 of which there are funds already available of about £9,000.00. The scheme has been produced to ANT. It was agreed to contact ANT and possibly invite them to a future Meeting to ascertain their view of the proposals or establish their own proposals.
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 had been circulated and were approved and signed.
3. Matters Arising:
  - (a) Benches: Cllr Jones has removed the bench opposite the Manor Farm entrance and the new bench has been ordered, with a £50.00 delivery charge added. Delivery has been requested to 196 Luddington Road.
  - (b) Telephone Box: Clerk has contacted BT to arrange for the adoption of the telephone box to be confirmed.
  - (c) Village Green: Clerk has responded to the offer from Ragley Estate Manager and a further response is awaited.
  - (d) Advertisement for new Councillor: The period within which a by-election could be called if more than one possible candidate comes forward expires on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016. If none come forward it will be possible to co-opt a new Councillor after that date.
4. County Councillor's Report: CCllr Horner sent a written report as follows:
  - (a) In my January report I told you the Government had applied a 39% cut to the County Council's financial settlement grant for next year. We received a final settlement on February 9 which reduced the savings required next year and the year after by £3 million. The revision was attributed to around 30 Conservative MP voicing their concerns. Savings the Council must apply to its base budget of £380 million are £14 million, £31 million, £23 million and £21 million yearly to 2019/20. The lumpiness in the numbers is due to the final two years being indicative and subject to change. The Council approved a budget on February 4 without the additional £6 million and another debate will be held to approve a budget with the revised numbers on February 23. Each political group will be

trying to spend the money that benefits their interests the most and the final outcome will depend of which two groups achieve a compromise.

- (b) Fire and Rescue has been transferred to the Home Office from Department of Communities and Local Government and the Government confirmed that it will pass legislation that will require Fire and Police collaboration and give the Police and Crime Commissioner the right to take over the Fire Service is a business case, considered suitable by the Home Secretary, is made. This circumstance means that the forthcoming PCC elections will have an added dimension.
- (c) A new seven year contract for roads maintenance has been signed with Balfour Beatty, our current supplier. The last contract was signed five years ago during the recession and prices this time are 20% higher due to the high demand for construction assets across the country.
- (d) Shared Lives Warwickshire was launched this month. Shared Lives is an exciting pilot scheme that will see Warwickshire County Council work in partnership with Coventry City Council to offer adults with additional needs a flexible form of supported living. Shared Lives centres on carers sharing their home, family and community life with adults that need extra support, it not only gives people entering into a Shared Lives arrangement the chance to be part of a family, but also to be part of the wider community. The scheme is already helping thousands of people with learning disabilities, mental health issues and older people to live more fulfilling and independent lives across the country.

5. District Councillor's Report: DCllr Barnes reported as follows:

- (a) All dogs are required to be micro-chipped from April. SDC Dog Warden is visiting a number of parishes to both publicise the change and to provide some free micro-chipping.
- (b) Core Strategy: There have been 19 planning application now approved that provide SDC with evidence of the required 5 year land supply, meaning SDC should now be in a stronger position to deal with further appeals against the refusal of development proposals.
- (c) There has been a reduction in the subsidies available to provide affordable homes for rental which is likely to lead to new affordable homes being sold rather than let, and most are likely to be sold at 60% of market value to qualifying buyers with local connections.
- (d) Planning Inspector's Report concerning the development proposal for 3000 houses at Long Marston and a western relief road is due between 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> April 2016 followed by a short period of further consultation. Sheldon Bosley acting for the owners of the racecourse suggest they have reached agreement for the proposed relief road to pass across their SSI field to link to the island proposed at the bottom of Bordon Hill to lead on to the proposed road through the Shottery development. At the other end there is likely to be a junction with Campden Road near the old Shire Horse Centre, and a possibility that the road would extend to the Shipston Road to provide access to possible industrial premises at Atherstone airfield. It was agreed to see if DCllr Molly Giles and/or Cala Homes could attend the next Meeting to clarify the effects on residents.

6. Finance:

- (a) The Community Account stood at £6,320.03.

- (b) The following bills were passed for payment:
  - i. £40.00 to Cllr Hughes to refund printing costs
  - ii. £599.00 to Bridgeman for new bench
  - iii. £50.00 to WALC for cost of Annual Briefing Day attendance by Cllr Hughes

7. Specific Agenda Items:

- (a) Public footpath along River Avon bank: Cllr Beeley confirmed that the damaged gate had been repaired, and access along the path was therefore possible.
- (b) Village Design Statement: Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at which contributors put forward their views and opinions, which will now be collated into a rough draft to be considered at the next meeting scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016. It is likely that a full draft will be ready for consultation in the summer.
- (c) Meeting dates: As it was apparent that Wednesday meetings were difficult for a number of Cllrs, the dates of future meetings have been changed so that the March meeting will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> March (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month) and will revert to the third Tuesday of the month thereafter.

8. Correspondence:

- (a) WALC – Warwickshire Local Councils’ Charter
- (b) CSW Broadband Update February 2016.
- (c) WALC – Annual Briefing Day on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2016 Myton School Warwick. Cllr Hughes wished to attend.
- (d) Alcester and Bidford Community Forum 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016.
- (e) NALC – updated model Financial Regulations
- (f) The Shakespeare Hospice – information to be put on the noticeboard
- (g) P. Rudge – Renewed Annual Insurance Certificates.

9. Planning: None

10. Business for Future Consideration:

- (a) Suggestions for an information event in advance of the EU Referendum
- (b) Village Design Statement update
- (c) Information regarding proposed Stratford Western Relief Road

Next Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.35pm.