

LUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19th APRIL 2016 AT 7.00pm

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

In Attendance: J. Madge (Clerk), District Councillor Barnes and 5 members of the public

Apologies: County Councillor Horner and District Councillor Giles

1. Public Participation:
None
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 22nd March 2016 had been circulated and were approved and signed.
3. Matters Arising:
 - (a) There had been no appeal by Smith regarding the refused application for 10 dwellings on land at Luddington Road so far.
 - (b) The Clerk has been in contact with Homes and Communities Agency regarding the former Veterinary site and invited them to attend a Meeting.
4. County Councillor's Report: CCllr Horner sent a written report to be presented to the Annual Parish Meeting:
 - (a) 2015 was the second year of a four year programme to remove £92 million of costs from the Council's budget. Some £18 had been delivered in 2013 and I warned that the coming year would see a number of difficult decisions being made as inevitably circumstances do not turn out as we expected. There were cost overruns in Adult Social Care, Safeguarding and Home to School Transport due to numbers entitled to these services being greater than forecast. A revised budget was prepared for this year that used up all windfalls caused by less people claiming benefits and receiving council tax rebates due to the pick-up in the economy and lower than expected inflation. However the first National Budget after the election required the Council to make an additional £10 million in savings in 2016 and £20 million 2017. This means the Council must make £95 million savings between now and April 2020. These numbers assume tax increases of 4%. Principal cost pressures are adult social care and safeguarding. So far the cost savings (£96 million from 2010 to 2015) have been achieved by innovation in service delivery and there has not been a noticeable reduction in services.
 - (b) The Government has determined that localism, an EU initiative, would be delivered through Combined Authorities. The building blocks were to be the Local Enterprise Partnerships, but would require agreement of all parties. In June the Labour administration in Coventry announced without consultation with its LEP partner, Warwickshire, that it would reconstitute the West Midlands County Council group in and join a Combined Authority with Birmingham. Pressure has been put on Warwickshire to join the West Midlands and a business case for joining, or not, is being developed by the County officers for delivery in late May, 2016.

- (c) The development of the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) was completed. In the MASH practitioners and managers of agencies working with children and adults will be co-located and provide efficiencies in service delivery and improve outcomes for Warwickshire residents. This method of working has been successfully demonstrated by the Youth Justice Centre in Leamington.
- (d) The success of the Council's Priority Families initiative has been recognised and WCC has been asked to join a small group of Local Authorities to design the new National Evaluation Programme for Phase 2. Phase 2 widens the criteria for inclusion on the programme and so more families will be helped.
- (e) Trading Standards have been active in pursuing dodgy car dealers and illicit and illegal tobacco vendors along with a big push to make people aware of Internet and telephone crime. In addition they have been advising on the new Consumer Rights Act.
- (f) Responsibility for 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 if a business case, considered suitable by the Home Secretary, is made. This circumstance means that the forthcoming PCC elections will have an added dimension.
- (g) 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 due to the good economic recovery we are enjoying.

5. District Councillor's Report: DCllr Barnes reserved his report for the Annual Parish Meeting

6. Finance:

- (a) The Community Account stood at £4,988.82.
- (b) The Annual Accounts for year ending 31st March 2016 were considered together with a comparison of the actual expenditure as against the budget. The Accounts were approved and the Annual Governance Statement was considered approved and signed.
- (c) The following bills were passed for payment:
 - (i) £345.00 for P Rudge for work between 29th February and 18th March 2016
 - (ii) £75.00 for Luddington Village Hall for 5 Meetings between January and March 2016.
 - (iii) £19.50 to reimburse Cllr Hegarty for printing notices re proposed Western Relief Road

7. Specific Agenda Items:

Co-option to fill Vacancy on the Council – Jon Warrender was willing to stand. It was agreed to co-opt him.

8. Correspondence:

- (a) SDC – Consultation on Main Modifications to the Submission Core Strategy 2014. Cllr Hegarty had drafted a proposed response to the consultation concerning the proposed new Western Relief Road to link the possible development at Long Marston Airfield. Further points were discussed including the existence of a number of transport companies at the Airfield and therefore the likelihood that much of the traffic would be HGV's with increased risk of diesel pollution, and concerns over recent research into health risks caused by diesel fumes, additional litter, traffic chaos caused by race meetings and car boot sales and the effect that new roads have on increasing traffic generally.
- (b) Notice of Election of Police and Crime Commissioner
- (c) Alcester Police North Safer Neighbourhood Team update.
- (d) WALC – New Broadband Universal Service Obligation Consultation

9. Planning:

Brookes (16/00635/FUL) – 6 Avon Bank Drive Stratford on Avon: replacement dwelling with integral garage and associated works. No objection but seeking conditions to limit lighting visibility by insisting on sensor time-limited external lighting, and screening of internal lighting visible from the glazing in the large central atrium

10. Business for Future Consideration:

Next Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 17th May 2016 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 7.37pm followed by the Annual Parish Meeting.