

# Luddington Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Meeting held at Luddington Village Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017 at 19:30

Present: W Hughes (WH) (Chairman), D Nutt (DN) (Vice-Chairman),  
T Beeley (TB), A Hegarty (AH)

In attendance: R D Armstrong (Clerk), P Barnes (PB) (District Councillor), C Clements

Members of the public: None present

### 1. Record of members present

As shown above.

### 2. To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence

Apologies were received and approved from J Warrender (JW).

### 3. Declaration of interests in any item on the agenda

Councillors were reminded that they are required to disclose an interest in any item on the agenda. No interests were expressed.

### 4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and 28 January 2017

The minutes of the meetings were read and approved.

### 5. To receive any questions or representations from the public

No questions or representations were made by any members of the public.

### 6. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not covered in the agenda

**DN** reported that £800.00 had been raised to fund a Community Speed Watch device. The cost of purchasing the device, together with the required signage, would be £1037.20. The device must be calibrated annually at a cost of £247.00. **DN** proposed that the device and signs be purchased and this was seconded by **WH** and passed unanimously.

**DN** further reported that British Telecom had agreed to allow the telephone kiosk to be adopted by the village for a nominal fee of £1.00. A contract has been provided by British Telecom, which will be signed and returned by the Clerk on behalf of the Council. **DN** proposed that the kiosk be adopted and this was seconded by **TB** and passed unanimously.

**DN** will respond to the draft WCC Stratford-upon-Avon Area Transport Strategy.

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## 7. County Councillors Report

The Conservative and Labour groups at Warwickshire County Council agreed a joint budget in only seven hours on February 2. WCC will be investing £1m more to extend the successful school safety zones programme, will maintain the Home to School Transport budget, continue investing in LED lighting and maintain the current level of fire cover so that no retained fire-fighter post will be lost.

The £67 million reduction in annual Government grant by 2020 will be met by £62 million of annual savings and £5 million taken from accrued reserves. General council tax will rise by 1.99 % and there will be an additional 2% for adult social care making a rise of 3.99% on Council Tax next year.

New £2 million grant fund for businesses in rural Warwickshire. A new £2 million grant fund to grow businesses and create jobs in rural Warwickshire has been launched. For information about the range of support available to grow your business, including support with applying for the RDPE Growth grants, contact Coventry and Warwickshire LEP Growth Hub on 0300 060 3747, email [support@cwgrowthhub.co.uk](mailto:support@cwgrowthhub.co.uk) or visit [www.cwgrowthhub.co.uk](http://www.cwgrowthhub.co.uk).

Warwickshire County Council on coveted list of 'Top 100' Apprenticeship Employers in the country. The Top 100 list, announced in the Sunday Telegraph, celebrates the best apprenticeship employers across the UK and the county council was among ten selected from the West Midlands.

Rogue traders were sent to prison for defrauding an elderly Atherstone widow. A salesman and two insulation fitters who took advantage of an elderly Atherstone resident by charging her for work that was overpriced, unnecessary and in some cases not carried out, have been successfully prosecuted by Warwickshire County Council Trading Standards Service.

If you are worried about rogue traders Warwickshire Trading Standards has entered in to a new partnership with No Rogue Traders Here - an approved trader scheme. 'No Rogue Traders Here' puts customers in touch with traders who have been fully vetted. 'No Rogue Traders Here' vetted traders include: Builders – Roofers – Plumbers – Double Glazing – Central Heating & Boilers – Electricians – Carpenters – Decorators – Bathrooms – Kitchens – Driveways. They also have handymen who will carry out small jobs. To find out more and register, visit: <https://www.noroguetradershere.com> or phone 0800 233 5000.

## 8. District Councillors report

**PB** reported that the planning application for Boddington Farm had been referred to the Planning Committee. Members felt that it was essential that the Council is represented at the meeting.

The lease for the B & Q store in Stratford has been extended by 12 months to allow further time to identify a suitable site for a new store.

£800 has been made available to the Council to purchase a Community Speed Watch Device. Members thanked **PB** for his efforts in securing this funding.

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## 9. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that £6,632.38 was held in the Community account as at 29 January 2017. A financial report was also presented, detailing income, expenditure compared to budget for the year to date.

The following accounts were presented for payment :

P Rudge	Grass cutting	40.00
WALC	Councillor training	100.00
W Hughes	Newspaper subscription	35.10
British Telecom	Adoption of telephone kiosk	1.00
A Hegarty	Printing and bags for Litter Day	10.92

**DN** proposed that the payments be approved and this was seconded by **WH** and passed unanimously.

The Clerk presented the following policy documents to the Council :

- A timetable for the key events for the Clerk's year.
- A risk assessment and risk register.
- Model Financial Regulations of the Council.
- Model Standing Orders of the Council.

Members were asked to review these documents in preparation for the next meeting when any changes would be discussed and considered for adoption as Council policy.

The Clerk presented the report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

The Clerk reported that the Annual Return for 2015/16 had been forwarded to the External Auditor for consideration.

Members expressed their appreciation for the work carried out by the Clerk since his appointment. This additional workload will be recognised by means of an ex-gratia payment in due course.

## 10. Litter Day on 4th March 2017 in aid of Keep Britain Tidy

**AH** reported that litter collection bags and printed posters had been purchased for this event. Members express their appreciation to **AH** and **KH** for the work undertaken in organising the event.

## 11. Proposals to create a Neighbourhood Development Plan or improve the Parish Plan

**WH** and **AH** are in dialogue with SDC concerning finalised editing of the Village Design Statement. It was suggested that the 2006 Parish Plan should be reviewed as an additional planning guide for the parish. Identified actions that had not been achieved since 2006 and were still valid should be followed up, along with any other initiatives identified by the former Stratford and Old Drayton Parish, for the Luddington Road.

**WH** will identify any significant actions which are worthwhile following up.

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## 12. Fundraising for Action Groups

The following groups will require funding for future activities :

- Transport
- Conservation
- Community Support
- Risk

DN circulated a list of groups and their key activities.

## 13. Website and Communication Strategy

WH asked the Clerk to prepare a quotation for the establishment of an independent Parish Council web site to be used primarily to comply with the requirements of the Transparency Code and also to support communication with parishioners. Grant funding is available from the Transparency Fund and DN proposed that a grant application be made and this was seconded by WH and passed unanimously.

WH updated members on the work being undertaken by KH on the village web site and will continue to engage with her to discuss synergies between our projects.

## 14. Preparation of a Planning Checklist

WH asked members to review the Nation Planning Policy Framework to highlight those sections which should be incorporated in the checklist.

## 15. Quotations for mowing and maintenance

The Clerk reported that quotations had been received from P Rudge and AMS Landscaping. Members felt that the quotation provided by P Rudge represented better value for the community. DN proposed that this quotation be accepted and this was seconded by AH and passed unanimously.

## 16. Venue for future meetings

WH asked members whether they would consider holding future meetings at All Saints Church. The meeting considered that the church would be impractical for several reasons and felt that the current location provided the best facilities for meetings.

## 17. Community champions

DN circulated a list of key areas of engagement with the community and invited members to consider which they would consider adopting as part of their portfolio.

## 18. Business for future consideration

Parish Council Web Site

Planning Checklist

Adoption and revision of Standing Orders

Re-boot Crime Prevention awareness

Village Hall website – rota for Parish Council contributions

Date for special Conservation/ Environment discussion with residents invited to speak

Developing community health agenda- survey- basic parameters/ goals?

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## **19. Any Other Business**

There was no other business to consider.

## **20. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017 at 19:30 at Luddington Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 21:55.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ W Hughes (Chairman) Date: \_\_\_\_\_