

Corsley Parish Council

Minutes of a Quarterly Meeting of the Parish Council held on 7 December 2015 in the Reading Rooms at 19.30

Present: M Bird (MBi)
N Britten (NB) Chair
R Chapman (RC)
O Hares
Mrs G Parkinson (GP)
Mrs J Helliar
S Jasper
J White (JW)

In attendance: J Willcox Clerk
3 x Parishioners

15/97 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from M Butler.

15/98 Declarations of Interest

None

15/99 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 November 2015

The minutes of the meeting had previously been circulated.

Following discussion the minutes were agreed to be a true record and signed by the Chair

15/100 Matters Arising

The PC formally confirmed the decision taken via e-mail communication that the proposals regarding the exclusion of badgers from the sett under the temporary classroom at the Corsley Centre be approved.

15/101 Finance

Accounts for 2015/2016

A schedule detailing the receipts, payments and amount set aside for 2014/15, receipts, payments and set aside for 2015/2016 to date and a suggested basis for the precept for 2016/2017 had previously been distributed, copies were also tabled.

It was reported that, regrettably, for administrative reasons beyond the Clerk's control, a separate account had still not been set up for the Leonard White Trust. It was anticipated that this would be resolved shortly. It was also reported that there would be some additional income in the current year arising from the decision to allow contractor access to the Old School via the car park.

Signed.....

Date.....

The Chair took the meeting through the schedule. Following discussion, it was agreed to continue to set aside £250 for the future maintenance of the Old School car park. It was noted that for the previous financial year (2014/2015) the Parish Council had sought bids from interested parties who were seeking financial support. It was felt that a similar approach should be adopted for the current financial year, albeit the requirement to support a particular 'project' rather than as a contribution towards running costs should be relaxed. It was agreed that the Chair would prepare something for The Bridge alerting those who might be interested. It was further agreed that the PC should have a written procedure to cover the subject for future years.

(**Action** : Clerk and Chair to draft a procedure covering grants and donations.)

It was noted that the balance brought forward from the previous financial year into the current year, after taking account of the set aside for the car park maintenance, was less than in previous years. The Chair suggested that the PC should formulate a policy on reserves and that for future years this should be part of the precept calculations. This was agreed.

(**Action** : Clerk and Chair to draft a policy on the reserve the PC should hold.)

Following discussion it was agreed that the PC should retain the Lloyds Bank shares it holds.

Leonard White Memorial Trust

See above for the position regarding a separate account for the Trust monies.

It was confirmed that the balance available for disbursement was £1579.16, being the interest to date on the original fund. To date the PC has not received any requests for donations from the fund and PCs were not aware of any likely candidates. It was agreed that Councillors should consider future uses of the fund and that mention of the fund should be included in the Chairs Bridge briefing.

(**Action**: Chair)

It was agreed that the Lloyds Bank shares held on behalf of the Trust should be retained.

15/102 Parish Precept

Following discussion it was agreed that from 2016/2017 a line should be put into the accounts for future repairs to the bus shelters. It was further unanimously agreed that the Parish Precept should be set at £8,200.

15/103 Planning Applications

15/11430/FUL; 15/11527/LBC At the Corsley Centre; these relate to two previous applications that had been approved but that had been resubmitted due to some changes brought about by some necessary cost cutting measures.

Notwithstanding that the previous applications had been approved there was considerable discussion, largely centring on the detached garage and the intention to cedar clad one of the exterior walls. Concern was expressed about the possibility that the detached garage could be converted to a separate dwelling and that the cedar cladding was inappropriate when compared with the rest of the external walls. With respect to the former, it was proposed by SJ and seconded by JH that the PC should make comment in the PC's response to the planning

Signed.....

Date.....

authority about the concern. When put to the vote the PC voted 4 for the proposal and 4 against. The proposal was defeated on the Chairs casting vote against the proposal. On the issue of the cladding it was proposed by OH and seconded by JH that this be objected to. When put to the vote, the PC voted 3 for the proposal and 4 against. The proposal was defeated.

It was agreed that the PC would have no objection to the applications.

15/104 Street Scene

SJ reported.

After the decision to only take reactive maintenance action there appears to have been some drawing back from the original position. A steward scheme has been proposed by Mr Whitehead the Councillor responsible for roads. This would continue to cover the clearing of ditches, grass cutting and minor pothole filling. In fact, what has always happened in terms of routine maintenance, is being presented as novel and new. This has been put out through the Council communications arm, but no contact has yet been made with Parish and Town Councils. I expect us to see the same individuals delivering our basic maintenance after 1 Apr 16.

Ongoing Work

Court Lane Flooding. Mr Trevor Malton the responsible Council drainage officer reports: “The landowner eventually got in touch with me using his land agent and insisted on using the bales to prevent the run off from the field. This was against my advice. I spoke with my manager Danny Everret and we are in the position that the Act stipulates that the riparian land owner just has to prevent water accessing the highway. We cannot stipulate how he does that. To that effect I am seeing if the bales do the job after a sensible period of time.” There is also work booked for the reworking of the kerb in an attempt to divert the water away from the Court Lane entrance. Mr Malton has also discussed with the 2 householders concerned the action they can take on their own property to minimise the impact of floodwater.

Geys Hill. Mr Martin Rose reports the following on the implementation of the Geys Hill passing place: “With regards to Geys Hill, we were unable to agree the traffic management with BBLP as they were insistent on a full temporary road closure. Not only would this have pushed up the cost significantly (for which I’d need to get CATG approval for) we’d also not to have sufficient time to organise the closure prior to the end of BBLP’s contract on the 31st March 2016. There is also a moratorium on new orders to BBLP from the 1st December 2015 which makes thing even more difficult. At the moment the best I can offer you with regards to an implementation date is sometime after the 1st April 2016.”

30mph Limit. Mr Rose also reported: “With regards the 30mph speed limit on the C274 the cabinet member report to deal with the single objection is currently being prepared. Once it has gone through the system we will look to implement the new restriction sometime in early April 2016, once the new highways contractor has been appointed.”

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Road Resurfacing. The work briefed to the Parish Council last January happened during the summer with most of the unclassified roads South of the A362 being re-surfaced. The outstanding major work required is the resurfacing of Cley Hill Lane. This is well reported and supported by the Parish Council. The Area Engineer tried to get it included in the 2016 programme, but was not successful. He has promised to continue raising it with the Major Maintenance Team and in the meantime will monitor the road's state and carry out minor repair work as required.

15/105 Old School Playing Field (OSPF)

The Chair reported that following the last meeting of the PC advice had been sought from Wiltshire Council regarding the terms of the lease and the possibility of changing them. The advice received was that it would be unwise to try and change the terms of the lease until at least 10 years after the lease had been taken out – December 2017. Until this time, any ‘changes’ would have to comply with the existing terms.

The Chair also reported that a letter had been received from Little Cuckoos requesting that the PC consider extending the area sub leased to them by the PC. Following discussion it was agreed that whilst the proposal would not contravene the existing terms of the lease there were a number of issues that would require clarification. It was agreed that the Chair would seek to address these and that any decision on the proposal should be deferred until a future meeting. **(Action:** Chair to clarify areas of uncertainty)

15/106 Broadband

The Chair reported on the ongoing discussions between himself and Messrs Carpenter and Deed. A report on the results from the questionnaire has been drafted and attempts are being made to arrange a meeting with representatives of BT Openreach and Wiltshire Online.

15/107 Bay Tree Close

A ‘drop-in’ presentation had been arranged by Wiltshire Council prior to the PC meeting. It was reported that the officers of the Council had been happy with the response to the presentation and the numbers that attended. The comments made will be collated and a copy passed to the Parish Council. One particular issue that the PC had expressed concern at was the pedestrian access to the site. This will be raised by the PC at the appropriate time.

15/108 Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

The Chair suggested that Broadband be the major topic at the APM. This was agreed.

15/109 Correspondence/Communications

The Clerk reported on the various communications that had been received and/or circulated. These were noted/approved as appropriate

15/110 Any Other Business

It was reported that the light on the defibrillator, situated at the Royal Oak, is not working. The fault has been reported.

Signed.....

Date.....

M Bi advised that he is moving from the village. It was confirmed that he does not need to resign as a councillor until the next election. Mike agreed to stay on. It was noted that Mike is the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and that a substitute will need to be found.

There was some discussion about the Queens birthday in 2016 and whether the PC should be involved in whatever celebrations are being planned. It was agreed that this subject be raised again at the next meeting.

The state of the Millennium Stones was raised again and John WHITE agreed to expedite his previous commitment to clean them.

(Post meeting note – this has now been done by JW, SJ and helper.)

It was reported that there was a significant accumulation of leaves in the Bus Shelters, SJ and RC agreed to clear them.

It was reported that the traffic flows into and out of Longleat and Center Parcs was causing some issues, at certain times of the day and week there was significant queuing and hold –ups. It was felt that there was little the PC could do about this. The Chair agreed to do some investigation into the entry and egress patterns of the two attractions.

GP requested that Footpaths be on the agenda for the next meeting

15/111 Date of the Next meeting

Annual Parish Meeting 7th March 2016, 19.30

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21.30

Signed.....

Date.....