



LOCKING PARISH COUNCIL



The Parish Hall, Grenville Avenue, Locking, BS24 8AR

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Minutes of a Meeting of Locking Parish Council's Estates Committee held on Thursday 18 February 2021 via Zoom

Meeting opened: 7:38pm

Meeting closed: 8.33pm

Present: - Cllr Bill Bearsby (Vice Chairman) Cllr Peter Lacey, Cllr Carl Prosser, Cllr Janet Searle, Cllr Tony Hetherington Cllr Mike Tremlett & Ex-Officio Cllr Paul Jones, Cllr John Keate

Also, in attendance: The Clerk

MATTERS FOR DECISION

E179 Appoint Temporary Chairman – Vice Chairman Cllr Bearsby was experiencing technical difficulties accessing Zoom, therefore until those issues were resolved it was **AGREED** that Cllr Jones was appointed temporary chairman.

E180 To receive Apologies for absence and approve reasons where appropriate.
None

E181 To receive Declarations of Interest by Cllrs and to consider any written applications for dispensations: None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

E182 To receive and hear any person who wishes to address the Committee: None

MATTERS FOR DECISION

E183 Minutes of Meeting: To confirm the Minutes of meeting held on 17 December 2020
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the committee meeting held on 17/12/2020 (previously circulated), be taken as read, agreed as being a true and correct record, and as a consequence, signed by the Chairman.

E184 Finance:

a) To approve the expenditure report (17/12/2020 to 17/02/2021)

RESOLVED: The expenditure report was approved and to be signed at the next available opportunity by Cllr Prosser

b) To note the budgetary control report (01/04/2020 to 17/02/2021):

The budgetary control report was noted.

E185 Reports: To receive brief reports (if available (and take any actions if required)) from:

a) Parish Orderly/Dog Bin Coordinator:

- Parish Orderly had spoken to person who was driving on the playing field. The male was verbally confrontational when Parish Orderly reminded him that vehicles were not allowed to be driven on the playing fields and that signage was clearly in place as was CCTV. It was acknowledged by all Cllrs that LPC had a duty of care to all employees and that as the Parish Orderly was a lone worker that the Clerk investigate the costs of a body worn video camera and report back at next full council meeting on 4 March, Clerk advised that Parish Orderly would need to be consulted beforehand **AGREED**
- Litter picked whole village every Thursday after bin men.
- Bins emptied around village.

b) Playing Field Groundsman: Nothing new to report everything all in order

E186 Overseers:

a) Playing Field/The Triangle: Correspondence received regarding frisbee golf a company had sent details – Clerk to investigate further.

b) *PROWS – Letter received from resident complaining about poor walking surface along the PROW behind Church car park to allotment gate. Clerk had advised the resident that LPC were not the landowner **AGREED** to contact NSC.

- c) Allotments – All Agreements had been signed and returned. There were no plots available and a waiting list of approx.10 people.
- d) Open Spaces – Litter bin at the Elm Tree Road park entrance being used as a dog bin – Parish Orderly has to sort the rubbish from the dog mess.

20.00 AGREED that Cllr Bearsby takes over as Chairman

E187 Old Banwell Road Playing Field:

- a) Security of the Field – Due the playing field surface suffering damage due to quad bikes and a small tractor and trailer accessing the playing field, along with recent criminal damage to CCTV camera. A site meeting had been arranged with Katy Waterman Avon and Somerset Police Crime Prevention for advice on projects for long term plan but these security issues could also be looked at, Chairman, Cllr Jones and Cllr Tremlett to attend and report back
- b) CCTV – To receive a quote for repairs to existing camera and installation of an additional camera, also new none switchable socket. **AGREED** to accept the following:
 - The cost to replace the faulty camera £185.00 plus vat,
 - the cost to add an additional camera £235.00 plus vat
 - and the cost of changing the power socket for the CCTV to a none switchable one £65.00 plus vat.

E188 Dog Bins Consultation for New Dog Bins to be installed:

The Orchard/Orchard Close – 20 consultation letters were hand delivered to residents overlooking the grassed area:

No correspondence received in support of installing a dog bin

22 Dec 2020 - Petition received with 16 signatures against installing a dog bin

2 emails received from residents who had signed the petition giving the following views:

- We live in The Orchard Close and we have children that love playing on the grass. Local children are often there in the summer. One of the first things they wanted to do when it was snowing today was to run out and play in it there. I am worried that having a dog bin so close to this area would be unpleasant and potentially unsafe.
- I understand that dog mess is a growing problem, but I wonder if you could rethink this idea and find another location?
- This green space has always been used by the children in the street to play on. It is a large, grassed area that is in use all year round. Children kick footballs here, have tea parties here, sit and just chat with their friends. It is a very well used, communal space. Placing a dog bin where you propose is a potential health hazard to these children. Having the bin there will encourage dog walkers to let their dogs defecate on the grass so they can put it in the bin. With the best will in the world the dog poo will get into the grass so that not every piece is removed by the owner. Dog poo, as you will know, can cause a large number of very serious illnesses in humans and encouraging dog fouling on the only open green space in the area could be very serious for the children and adults, that use this space.
- A lot of people stop and look at the Parish noticeboard on the green space. If you situate a dog mess bin right next to it then people won't want to stop and the read the notices. Seems this is a conflict of interests.
- Despite your reassurance that the bins will be emptied weekly we all know this is not the case. It is rare to pass an empty or nearly empty dog poo bin. They are usually overflowing with poo bags, and when there is not space in the bin the bags are left either on top, on the floor adjacent to the full bin.
- I live right opposite the Parish notice board and regularly sit out in my front garden in nice weather. My bedroom is at the front of the house and I sleep with my windows open all day year round. I do not want the smell of rotting dog poo infiltrating into my house and garden so making it impossible to sit outside or have my bedroom windows open.
- Dog poo causes flies. For the same reasons as No. 4 above on the green space adjacent to the Parish noticeboard is not the place to put a dog poo bin.
- I spend a lot of time looking out of the front windows of my house and can honestly say there are not many non-resident dog walkers using The Orchard to walk their dogs. Those that live in The Orchard will walk out of the road to walk their dogs and those walking through the village tend to use Elm Tree Road far more than The Orchard to get from one side of the village to the other. So why the need for a dog poo bin right in the middle of our street?
- I have lived here for over 18 years and my husband has lived in this street for the whole of his life, some 50+ years. We do not have a problem with dog poo on our street, so I fail to understand the need for a dog poo bin to be placed right opposite my house. The village already has 9 of these bins. If they are always full then why not empty them more frequently rather than put another one in a residential street right where children play and in a position that is closely surrounded on all sides by houses.

- I trust you will take on board my comments and make the right decision not to put a dog poo bin in our street.

Ransom Strip/Manor Gardens – 20 consultation letters were hand delivered to residents of Manor Gardens

1 Telephone call received in support of installing a dog bin – there is dog mess left on the pavement in Manor Gardens most days would be in support of a dog bin

4 Against installing a dog bin

Views:

- I would like to take this opportunity to object to the placement of a dog poo bin around the ransom between Manor Gardens and Beechwood Avenue. I am objecting, because the pavements can become punch points there because of parked vehicles the growth on the ransom and the fact that people are so lazy they may well pick it up and just throw it in the direction of the bin, which will be unhygienic and unpleasant for both residents and walkers. There are a large number of parents who walk their children to and from school on this route.
- Simply installing a bin will not solve the problem, as many people dont even pick up the pooh, they just leave it, so what is more important is finding who the culprits are and taking action on individuals.
- I am emailing to strongly object about the Parish Councils proposal to site a dog waste bin on the Ransom strip between Manor Gardens and Beechwood Avenue.
- My reasons for objecting are that we see people walking dogs currently and some don't even pick up dog waste at the present time. The siting of a bin will not educate them. My other concern is that bins also attract other waste in the form of litter and once the bin is full people will continue to dump rubbish
- I do not consider that this will address the problem that we have with dog mess being left on the pavements in both Beechwood Avenue and Manor Gardens. Since the Covid-19 restrictions started in March 2020 there has been an increase in dog walking along these roads and this is fine and not a problem, but the people that do not pick up after their dogs now, are unlikely to start doing so if there is a dog bin especially as 2 of the offenders witnessed actually live in Manor Gardens.
- I can also see a problem with bags of dog mess, and probably other rubbish, being thrown into this ransom strip rather than being put in the bin.
- The Ransom/Nature Strip of approximately 5 metres in width that you have earmarked for the location of a dog bin, is edged by 2 walkways/pavements on either side. This through - way is continuously used by walkers of all ages including very young children and young parents with babies in pushchairs. It is my opinion that to have a dog bin in this location is totally inappropriate and certainly not ideal. A foul smelling bin particularly in hot weather and so close to pedestrians, despite the best laid plans to empty it every week, poses a 'heavy duty' health and safety risk.
- May I suggest placing the bin, or perhaps even 2 bins, on the area of grass alongside the sub station around the corner into Beechwood Avenue which is a bit of a 'no - mans land' and frequently used by dog walkers all the time. It would make much more sense to have the dog bin/s placed there and more importantly, encourage dog owners to do the right thing!

Given the strong feelings above it was **AGREED** not to go ahead with installing the dog bins.

Clerk to put a reminder re picking up after your dog in Looking at Locking

Suggestions required for other suitable locations.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked the members and closed the meeting at 8.33pm.

Signed (Chairman).....

Date

The next meeting of the Locking Parish Council Estates Committee will be Thursday 22 April 2021 19.30hrs via Zoom.