



Locking Parish Council

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

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Minutes of the Meeting of Locking Parish Council held on Thursday 4 January at 7.30pm at Locking Parish Hall

Meeting opened: 7.30pm

Meeting closed: 8.42pm

Present: Councillors: Chairman P Jones, M Tremlett, W Ashdown, W Bearsby, P Lacey, E ap Rees, C Prosser, P Schofield, I Hilder

Also, in attendance: The Clerk, District Cllr T Porter and 3 members of the public

MATTERS FOR DECISION

118) To receive Apologies for absence and to approve reasons where appropriate:
Mr C Dumbell CPRE Rep

119) To receive Declarations of Interest by PCllrs and to consider any written applications for dispensations: None received

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

120) To receive and hear any person who wishes to address the Council, upon prior notice being received.

- a) Ward Councillor's Report: Cllr Porter had previously advised the Clerk that he would be attending but would be late due to a prior meeting.
- b) Community Policing Team Report: Reported Noted (copy available on request)
- c) Mr Dumbell reported on the following: Next CPRE Meeting would be on 10 January 2024

MATTERS FOR DECISION

121) Minutes:

- a) The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 7 December 2023 was agreed and signed by the Chairman.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 07/12/2023 (previously circulated), be taken as read, agreed as being a true and correct record and as a consequence, signed by the Chairman of the meeting. **AGREED.**

122) Finances:

- a) To receive and approve monthly receipts and payments from 1st December 2023 to 31st December 2023
AGREED and signed by Cllr Ashdown
- b) To receive and note the Bank Reconciliation for October 2023
AGREED and signed by Cllr Ashdown
- c) To receive and agree any Grant applications:
Application received from Little Ark Toddler Group for the sum of £250 to replace old play equipment and purchase new small tables. **AGREED** to award the grant of £250.

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123) Locking Skatepark – To receive and approve the final skatepark design and costings produced in conjunction with Maverick. Previously circulated to all Councillors. (Copies available from the Clerk).

- a) Final design for skatepark: Proposed by Cllr Prosser that the final design be approved, seconded by Cllr ap Rees, unanimously **AGREED**
- b) Costings for the design and build £304,000.: Proposed by Cllr Prosser that the costings be approved, seconded by Cllr ap Rees, unanimously **AGREED**

It was noted that funding would be sought to cover the cost of the build and design as per the approved Tender. If funding could not be sourced then the skatepark would not go ahead. Planning permission as previously agreed would be applied under Locking Parish Council, the cost of the application would be met by funds raised from the Skatepark Group.

124) To consider setting up a Community Events Working Group – Proposal from Cllr Clark. In the absence of Cllr Clark, it was **AGREED** to defer this item until the next meeting.

125) To receive recommendations from the Finance & Human Resources Committee for the financial year 2024/25.

Cllr Bearsby, Chairman of the Finance & Human Resources Committee reminded members to look closely at the expenditure for this next financial year with the consideration to begin to build Council reserves. Cllr Bearsby put for the following for approval:

(Previously circulated to Cllrs, copies available from the Clerk on request):

- a) Approval of Budget for Assets & Amenities Committee 2024/25: Proposed by Cllr Prosser that the budget for the Assets & Amenities Committee 2024/25 be approved and accepted, seconded by Cllr Ashdown and unanimously **AGREED**
- b) Approval of Budget for LPC General Account 2024/25: Proposed by Cllr Prosser that the budget for LPC General Account 2024/25 be approved and accepted, seconded by Cllr Hilder and unanimously **AGREED**
- c) Approval of Estimates for the F/Y 2024/25: Proposed by Cllr Jones that the Projects for 2024/25 be approved and accepted, seconded by Cllr Tremlett and unanimously **AGREED**
- d) Approval of Projects for the F/Y 2024/25: Proposed by Cllr Prosser that the budget for LPC General Account 2024/25 be approved and accepted, seconded by Cllr Hilder and unanimously **AGREED**
- e) Approval of the Precept for F/Y 2024/25: Proposed by Cllr ap Rees that the Precept for Locking Parish Council 2024/25 be set at £134,500. be approved and accepted, seconded by Cllr Prosser and unanimously **AGREED**

126) Chairman's Report: Noted (Appendix 1)

127) Planning (applications can be viewed via North Somerset Council Planning Applications website):

- a) **23/P/2660/LDP 7 Trenchard Road Locking** – Certificate of lawful development for the proposed erection of a dormer to the property to facilitate a loft conversion. **Noted**

Standing Orders suspend to allow Cllr Porter to give his report:

128) Cllr Porter reported on the following:

- a) NSC had commissioned more jets washers and operatives to help clear drains in areas worst hit by flooding. Members brought up the flooding of parts of the A371 and the poor condition of the drains as they were blocked by weeds and debris poor state of the A371. This was both sides of the A371 from Locking grove entrance down to roundabout next to Helicopter Museum. Cllr Porter advised he would look in to this.
- b) NSC Budget: Cllr Porter reported that there had been a large increase to the cost of care. There was pressure on all cost centre's to try and manage potential cuts.

Cllr Porter left the meeting.

Returned to Standing Orders.

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129) The Spinney – Update

Due to the heavy rainfall, it was reported that The Spinney footpath had been under water and the culvert flooded. Water was running down from the top of the footpath from the A371 as well as the school site.

Cllr Prosser had taken videos and had sent these on to NSC, he would also forward to Cllr Porter.
Update from NSC:

Tree works were hoping to commence 23-25 January, to remove the dead Elm and Ash dieback trees and carry out the crown lift and re-pollard the Willow whilst they are carrying out the main works along the path.

The footpath will need to be closed while the works are being carried out for safety reasons.

Confirmation regarding times of work etc., will be sent out to Locking Parish Council, the affected neighbouring residents including the school and other path users accordingly.

In terms of the design for the footpath and the associated lighting we currently anticipate that we will have a full design by the end of January and will then be in a position to produce a programme of works with the contractors.

130) Old Banwell Road Playing Field Car Park:

The Chairman via his report had reported that additional works had been completed by the Contractor and he had visited the site with the Contractor on numerous occasions over the Christmas break. He reported that the swales were working and had improved the situation with regards to water runoff. It was acknowledged that the swales were still in the 'tweaking' phase.

The attenuation pond was discussed at length and the possibility of installing smaller holding ponds similar to the swale as well as clearing out and extending the existing attenuation pond.

The Clerk was requested to look up correspondence with Locking Primary School re lease of triangle area near the attenuation pond and report back for next meeting.

131) Privacy Notice – To receive and approve draft Privacy Notice. **AGREED** to adopt the Privacy Notice with no amendments.

132) North Somerset Council – Invitation to attend NSC's Weed Management Inquiry.

Cllr Jones, Cllr ap Rees and Cllr Prosser expressed an interest in attending. Cllr Hilder agreed to stand in if required. Items to be raised:

- A371
- The Spinney
- Elm Tree Road
- Locking Rhyne outfall

133) Correspondence & Items for next Agenda:

(Please note that the Council is unable to make any formal decisions under this item).

Note any correspondence received since the last meeting that is not an item on the Agenda and note items for the next Agenda.

- a) **Invitation to attend a public meeting to consult on the proposal for an ASD Resource Base at Priory Community School WSM: Noted.**
- b) **Subject Access Request received 27 December 2023: Noted.**

Items for next Agenda:

- a) Assets & Amenities Committee:
Drainage and attenuation pond
GP Surgery Working Group

- b) Full Council:

Correspondence relating to an enquiry to lease an area of land at Locking Primary School
Review of Freedom of Information Policy
Vexatious Communications Policy

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PART TWO


Exclusion of press and public.

(The Council is recommended to resolve that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the agenda item/s below by reason of the confidential nature of the item/s of business to be transacted, in accordance with section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

134) To receive and confirm the Confidential Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 7 December 2023

RESOLVED: That the Confidential Minutes of the Council meeting held on 07/12/2023 (previously circulated), be taken as read, agreed as being a true and correct record and as a consequence, signed by the Chairman of the meeting. **AGREED.**

There being no further business the meeting Chairman closed the meeting at 8.42pm.

Signed (Chairman).......... Date..... 1/2/24.....

The next meeting of Locking Parish Council will be on 1st February 2024 7.30pm

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability) Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights.

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Appendix 1

Chairman's Report - 4 January 2024

Welcome Councillors to this our first Full Council Meeting in 2024. Firstly, I must wish everyone a Happy New Year!

I am sure all of you have noticed that over the festive season we have encountered unprecedented high volumes of rainfall which has left the OBR Playing Fields and other areas in the Parish waterlogged and saturated.

Yesterday, I met with our Swale and OBR Carpark Contractor, we walked the OBR Playing field, the A371 and the Spinney. Even after the recent storms, the Swale was holding back large volumes of water however, there were other areas that could not hold back the amount of water coming off the field. These areas included the pond near the A371 and the hedgerow and ground alongside Locking Primary School. There were torrents of water running down the A371 pavement into LPS entrance and the Spinney. Photographs were obtained of the flooding and have been circulated.

I thank Councillor Prosser for sharing his photographs and movies with Council, hopefully NSC will take action to mitigate the effects of these unprecedented events. Firstly, perhaps by clearing drains on both sides of the A371 would assist in moving water from the A371 into the road drainage system.

Last year was a very busy year for us, with phases of our project at the Old Banwell Road Carpark being successfully completed. Hopefully, in this coming financial year we will be able to complete further phases and hopefully meet any other challenges. We will continue to help parishioners with our Parish Pantry which is open on a daily basis and our Warm Space and Book Exchange on Tuesday mornings – all are welcome.

Paul Jones
Chairman

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