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Locking Parish Council

01934 820786

clerk@lockingparishcouncil.co.uk

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

Minutes of the Meeting of Locking Parish Council held on Thursday 7th March 2024 at 7.30pm at Locking Parish Hall

Meeting opened: 7.30pm

Meeting closed: 8.25pm

Present: Councillors: Chairman P Jones, M Tremlett, W Ashdown, W Bearsby, P Lacey, C Prosser, P Schofield, J Carter, I Hilder

Also, in attendance: The Clerk, Mr C Dumbell (CPRE Rep)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

- a) Unitary Cllr/Liaison Officer Report:
 - Laney's Drove Parking Issues: Cllrs Porter and Solomon, will meet with management from Oaktree Park on 18 March regarding parking issues at Laney's Drove.
- b) Police Report: Noted (copy available from the Clerk)
- c) CPRE: No report.

AGENDA

MATTERS FOR DECISION

149) To receive Apologies for absence and to approve reasons where appropriate:

- Cllr E ap Rees: Approved
- Cllr L Clark: Approved
- Cllr T Porter

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

151) Minutes:

- a) The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 1 February 2024 was agreed and signed by the Chairman.
RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 01/02/2024 (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.**

152) Finances:

- a) General Account: To receive and approve monthly receipts and payments from 1st February 2024 to 29th February 2024
AGREED and signed by Cllr Bearsby
- b) General Account Budget Control 01.04.2023-29/02/2024 **Noted**
- c) To receive and note the Bank Reconciliation for January 2024
AGREED and signed by Cllr Bearsby
- d) To receive and agree any Grant applications: None

Mrs
4/4/24

MMS
4/4/24

153) Chairmans Report:

Welcome everyone to this our March Full Parish Council Meeting.

Firstly, I wish to thank all those who gave up their time in helping to plant the fruit trees in the orchard at the Old Banwell Road Playing Field. The holes for the trees were prepared on Sunday morning 25 February 2024, we were very lucky as the rain kept away whilst we were busy digging holes. On the following day a group of school children from Locking Primary School came to the orchard to help in planting fruit trees. What a pleasure it was to see those youngsters enjoying themselves, directing and helping us 'older ones' plant the trees. Photographs were taken of us all enjoying ourselves, they have been well circulated.

I would also like to commend the Clerk who was instrumental in securing the grant from The Tree Council for the 9 trees, posts, straps and the bags of bark. The Clerk also successfully organised delivery, planting and the involvement of the school children which was no mean feat. A further two apple trees were also kindly donated to the orchard which were planted on the day. I was requested not to identify the donor – Bill, it is okay your secret is safe with me, thank you for your kind donation.

It goes without saying that the involvement of the children from Locking Primary School in our orchard project was an excellent example of how we as a Council can work with our partners in making our community a better place for all. Hopefully over the years we will see the benefit of our endeavors especially when the fruit is ready to be picked.

During February, the OBR Playing Field Working Group met to discuss and identify ways of reducing water outfall from the playing fields which is causing the old pond near the A371 to overflow during exceptional heavy rainfall. The findings will be discussed later during this meeting.

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

- a) **23/P/2689/RM – Land South of Churchland Way, Wolvershill Road (Parklands, Mead Fields)** – Reserved Matter application for approval of access and landscaping in relation to the construction of cycle and footpath connection along Grumblepill Rhyne to the M5 bridge crossing, pursuant to outline planning permission 12/P/1266/OT2. **AGREED** to support.
- b) **24/P/0098/FUH 10 Mendip Road, Locking** – Proposed loft conversion and creation of rear dormer. Works to include, raising external wall height and ridge height alongside installation of 5no. roof lights and rearrangement of existing PV panels. **AGREED** to support.

156) Old Banwell Road Playing Field:

Min Ref: Full Council 142 01/02/2024: Old 'Allotment/pond Site' at Locking Primary School: Update from the Working Group and action any recommendations.

A detailed report of the meeting held with the Working Group and contractor who constructed the swales and french drain was held on site on the 17th February had been previously circulated along with plans for an additional attenuation pond. The Chairman thanked Cllr Tremlett for producing both. Copy of the report and drawings available from the Clerk.

1. *Enquiring/progressing the pursuance of obtaining additional triangular parcel between OBR pond and school to further extend pond capacity.*
Members discussed the report at length and at this time **AGREED** that pursuing the additional parcel of land would be difficult, costly and would not add value to the Parish.
2. *Consider alternative pond enhancement/extension options.*
Cllr Tremlett explained the requirement and the plan showing an intercept pond, these were discussed at length.
It was therefore the recommendation of the working group that the intercept pond is pursued. Funds for this would be used from the ear marked reserves set aside for the attenuation pond. The benefit to the Parish will be clear to see and easy to achieve. **AGREED** to obtain quotations for the installation of an intercept pond.

157) The Spinney – Re fly tipping. To receive correspondence from a member of the public.

Copy previously circulated to members.

An incident of fly tipping at the bottom of The Spinney had recently been reported. It had appeared that a vehicle had driven over the footpath at Leafy Way to obtain access to The Spinney and had fly tipped a sofa and other household waste. 2

MMS
4/4/24

Mrs
4/4/24

The Clerk had reported this to North Somerset Council and it had been removed. The resident suggested that removal bollards be installed as a deterrent to further incidents. Members suggested that as North Somerset Council were in the process of upgrading the footpath the Clerk to contact Michelle Dickinson and request that bollards or similar be added to the works.
AGREED

158) The following documents were received and it was RESOLVED to adopt with no amendments:

- a) Safeguarding Policy
- b) Equalities and Diversity Policy
- c) Operation Menai Bridge

159) To review the meeting dates for the following:

- a) Annual Parish Assembly (current scheduled date 25 April 2024) due to Annual Leave of members and the Clerk it was **RESOLVED** to move the Annual Parish Assembly to 18th April 2024.
- b) Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (due to take place 1st Thursday of the month 2nd May 2024) due to Locking Parish Hall being used as a polling station on the 2nd May and some members not being available it was **RESOLVED** that the meeting be moved to 9 May 2024.

160) Clerk's Assistant Vacancy: Due to timescales and holidays to consider delegating the decision of employing successful candidate to Executive Committee. Recommendation from the employment panel and Executive meeting to be held before 19 April. **AGREED** with ratification of the appointment at the next available Full Council meeting on 9th May 2024.

161) Launch of draft North Somerset Mental Health and Wellbeing strategy for 2024 to 2029 Consultation. **AGREED** to delegate to the Clerk for completion.

162) Apply for WESTlocal public transport funding: **AGREED** that the Clerk submit an expression of interest in the first instance.

163) Clerk's Report, Correspondence & Items for next Agenda:

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

1. Clerk's Report:

- a) Scribe Booking – onboarding has begun. Looking to go live 1st April. – lots to get head around in particular uploading our hire charge structure which is very complicated. Scribe suggesting that we relook at this, but I may be able to work around it.
- b) Hall Hire risk assessment and for hirers a safeguarding agreement form drafts to be approved by A&A at their next meeting.
- c) Internal Auditor visit is scheduled in for 19 March.
- d) L@L should be out for delivery next week – The Print Hive quoted cheaper than our usual printer by £65.
- e) The Green – picnic table to be installed this weekend.
- f) Playing Field: Grass mower stuck on field (next to changing rooms) 4x4 required to pull it out. Countrywide will make good the ground.

2. Correspondence:

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

- a) Laney's Drove: Incident involving a vehicle in the ditch at Laney's Drove. The Clerk had written to North Somerset Council Highways (NSCH) to request if any sort of barrier could be installed to stop this type of accident occurring again. NSCH responded by advising that the highway at Laney's Drove was not adopted therefore not their responsibility. Cllr Porter & Cllr Solomon would be meeting with Oaktree Park management on 18 March to discuss parking at Laney's Drove. Noted
- b) Internal Drainage Board: 23/P/2160/AOC Construction Training Centre – sustainable Drainage Scheme Enquiry. The Internal Drainage Board gave the following response:
"The IDB did not object to the 2018 planning application and subsequently granted consent for this surface water attenuation and discharge into the rhyne. The size of the attenuation pond and discharge rate would have been agreed based on the amount of additional hardstanding

Mrs
4/4/24

MMS
4/4/24

area created as a result of the development.

For a permanent structure a 40% climate change factor would have been applied to the calculation. For a 5 year temporary application we would not have requested any climate change allowances.

As the application is to retain the same area of hard standing, and for an additional 5 years, we have not requested any revision to the surface water attenuation provision. However, if the structure was to remain beyond this 5 year extension, we would be requesting additional capacity is provided to the attenuation pond to take Climate change into consideration.

Our latest response to the local planning authority reflects this position. Clerk updated that she had already sent the enquiry to the IDB along with Environment Agency but it seems no one wants answer the enquiry”

Members noted the response and requested that the Clerk make a note on the planning application folder for future applications.

- c) BSIP Plan Update and invitation to attend: North Somerset Council on Tuesday 12 March 2024 from 5:00 – 7:00pm on Teams to discuss bus service updates in the area. **Noted**
- d) Weed Management Enquiry Day: Presentation slides had been received and circulated to members. **Noted.**
- e) EV Chargers in Locking Parish: Update from Tim Middleton, Rural EV Charging advising that one of their charge point operators was interested in placing charge points at the car park on Old Banwell Road Playing Field. The had requested a new connection quote from the distribution network operator and assuming it was a viable prospect they would come back to the Parish council with an offer. **Noted.**

3. Items for next Agenda:

- a) Assets & Amenities committee to review prices structure for the new booking system.

There being no further business the meeting Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

Signed (Chairman).....  Date. 4/4/24

The next meeting of Locking Parish Council will be on 4th April 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.