

LYNDHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Lyndhurst Parish Council held on Tuesday 12 November 2019 at 7.15 pm at Lyndhurst Community Centre.

Present: Councillors C Willsher (Chair), S Se-Upara (Vice Chair), G Bisson, T Dunning, F Green, B Preddy, C Read, G Reeve and A Wiltshire.

In Attendance: Mrs H Brand (New Forest District Councillor)
Mrs M Weston (Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer)
Mrs C Griffiths (Lymington Times)
10 members of the public (part of the meeting)

92. Disclosures of Interest

None.

93. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rolle, Stratford and Wilkins.

94. Public Participation

The Chairman explained that it was now necessary to inform the Clerk on the Friday prior to an LPC meeting if a member of the public wished to speak during public participation.

A local resident, Dr David Haslam, spoke about the network of roads in the Racecourse View to Empress Road area that were being used increasingly as a rat run and by motorists parking cars and leaving them to access the village on foot. There were no pavements on these roads (apart from Empress Road) and parked cars led to pedestrians inevitably having to use the central part of the carriageway. Residents felt that there had been an immense increase in the volume of traffic which was largely caused by motorists trying to avoid the build up of queuing traffic in Romsey Road. There were also two blind bends. The point was made that children play in the road and they use it as a route to and from school when they are unavoidably wearing dark uniform. Dr Haslam considered that traffic calming measures should be employed.

The Chair explained that this was a HCC Highways matter. Solutions could include the introduction of a one way system, blocking off the road at some point, pinch points, etc. However, there was a need for a consensus of opinion among residents that something should be done.

District Councillor Brand stated that a meeting of interested parties regarding traffic issues had been held as there was a move for a petition asking HCC to do a traffic survey of the entire village. Another meeting would be held in January. Councillor Brand also reported that she had met with Rachel Higgins at NFDC regarding the latest environmental report which was still work in progress.

The Chair advised that he was still waiting to hear back from NFDC in relation to their updated Traffic Management Plan and the establishment of a Lyndhurst Traffic Forum. He had been told in May that the publication of the report was imminent. District Councillor Brand said that this remained the case.

A local resident, Lisa Kaljura, asked why the Christmas light strings wouldn't be going across the High Street this year and felt residents should have been made aware of this fact, plus any alternative measures that would be taken, at an earlier opportunity. The Chair invited Councillor

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Bisson, as Secretary of the Lyndhurst Village Decorations Committee, the organisation that erected the Christmas lights, to respond and he said all traders had been informed and there would be a letter in the Lymington Times this week stating that the lights across the main thoroughfare had failed to meet the latest regulations and the Committee had devised an alternative. The situation was likely to continue although it would be assessed. This was not a monetary issue but a physical one due to the existing brackets that held the strings not being compliant with regulations. Councillor Bisson agreed to provide a copy of the letter that had gone out to traders to the Parish Council in order that the Clerk could incorporate it into the December issue of Clerk's Corner.

95. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 October 2019 are approved as a true and accurate record.

96. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Councillor Bisson asked if the addition to public participation regarding the need for members of the public to contact the Clerk on the Friday prior to the meeting if they wished to speak had been formally debated and agreed.

RESOLVED: That this matter is made an Agenda item for the December meeting in order that formal agreement can be sought.

Councillor Bisson clarified the historical aspect of the former access into the school field from Romsey Road.

97. Great Mead

Local resident Peter Head stated that the land is an open space and queried why the Parish Council wanted to put manmade objects on it and whether there were plans for a ground surface. The Chair said that this was the plan. Mr Head said the proposals would lead to noisy children and vandalism and there was no proper crossing from Cedar Mount.

The Chair, who, with the Clerk and Vice-Chairman, had assessed the results of both the SurveyMonkey and all other contributions to the survey said 55 votes had been disallowed from out of area - 48 yes and 7 no. Remaining votes amounted to 114 yes and 65 no. Ten of the negative replies had been because people felt that dog walking would be banned but it was believed that this opinion resulted from false information circulated on posters and in letters to local residents. Other comments related to whether planning permission would be required, whether the proposals conflicted with open space status and the fact that the land was wet. The Chair explained that the plan was to install a small fence around the equipment which would have a safety surfacing. Road crossing was inevitable from Cedar Mount whether the play equipment was at Coles Mead or Great Mead. The equipment would be small and cater for the very young age group. Issues relating to rats in ditches and other wildlife such as birds and bats probably also applied at Coles Mead. CCTV could also be installed at Great Mead. There was a lot more work to be done and it should be remembered that suggestions had been made that building on Great Mead could take place so there were tensions on both sides.

With regard to costing for play equipment this would be in the region of £25,000 to £30,000 and to redevelop Coles Mead would cost approximately £200,000, including fencing and installation. It should also be borne in mind that to date only one estimate had been obtained.

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Councillor Reeve gave a brief visual presentation of the area of ground (approximately 11m x 18m) that the proposals would cover in the form of a block plan which was further illustrated by the fact that a further 24 areas of the same size could be fitted into Great Mead.

Councillor Green said she felt it was important that LPC showed they cared about young families. Councillor Reeve stated that at Planning Committee meetings we are now looking at affordable homes for young families and would like to work with the Lyndhurst Park Hotel regarding any development of that site. A local resident mentioned security of neighbouring properties at Great Mead, with Councillor Preddy stating that she felt that the area was too busy to attract vandalism. Councillor Bisson said the area was already used successfully by children.

RESOLVED: That the possibility of providing play equipment at Great Mead be investigated further and reported on further in due course. The vote was 7:2 with Councillors Bisson and Wiltshire voting against.

98. District Councillor's Report

District Councillor Brand said she had communicated with the owner of the former post office regarding its deteriorated condition and would be talking with him further next week although it was understood that he was having a legal battle with the lease holder. There would be a meeting at the Tea House regarding issues with the roads in and around the village. The NFDC local plan allowed for 10,000 homes to be built which will have an impact on traffic.

Councillor Dunning stated that there was some timber missing on the new wooden barriers, etc around the car park and Councillor Brand agreed to report this matter. She also asked Councillor Se-Upara to get in contact regarding the repositioning of the bus shelter in the car park.

99. Planning Committee Meeting

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 22 October were received and noted.

100. Update on former Lyndhurst Park Hotel

Councillor Reeve reported that he had contacted Hoburne as the new owner of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel, suggesting a meeting with LPC and awaited their reply.

It was also noted that Budgens would cease trading at the end of February and would vacate the premises at the end of their lease on 21 March. There are various rumours including the fact that the premises may be boarded up for five years. It is understood that the head lease is owned by Misselbrook & Weston.

Nine members of the public left the meeting.

101. Heritage Centre Forum

In the absence of Councillor Stratford, who was due to report, this item was held in abeyance until the December meeting.

102. VE Day Commemoration

Work was continuing with this project although concerns were expressed that more assistance would need to be forthcoming to achieve a successful outcome.

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Councillor Wiltshire reported that he had met with George Kershaw, 17 Port and Maritime Marchwood. They will be working in Germany at the time of VE Day but will endeavour to undertake an event – more details in due course. The Junior Football Club will have their fun day on the same day using Coles Mead.

103. Wellands Road Football Club Lease

The Chair explained that LPC, through himself, Councillor Rollé and the Clerk met first with Alicia Booth, Assistant Land Agent at Forestry England, as a result of which we can secure a lease of 40 years for a rent of £700 per annum for the Wellands Road Football Field, plus two other parcels of land. It may eventually be possible to secure both Coles Mead and the Football Field as one site.

The Chair explained that as a result of this and if we are to move forward it will be necessary to secure the services of a solicitor; Julia Davies of Dutton Gregory had been recommended to us. Contact had been made with her to gain an idea of likely costs involved and she had come back with a likely legal fee of between £1,750 to £2,500, hopefully keeping to the lower end of the scale. The Land Registry fee would be £40 per lease with approximately £750 for property searches. It has been pointed out that it may not be necessary to obtain all property searches as we have local knowledge of the site. We will also try to negotiate a pathway through from Southampton Road into the Recreation Ground which will involve further costs. The total cost involved would be in the region of £7,000.

RESOLVED: To instruct solicitors to act on our behalf and to proceed as outlined above.

104. Finance

- (a) Accounts for the financial year to 31 October 2019 were outlined as in Appendix A
- (b) Invoices paid between meetings and due for payment at today's date were outlined in Appendix B and authorisation was requested.
- (c) Authorisation and signature were requested for the October 2019 bank reconciliation as Appendix C.
- (d) To note interim audit report (Appendix D).

RESOLVED: To note and authorise items 88(a), (b), (c) and (d) above.

105. Budgetary requirements and Precept – 2020/21

The Chair explained details of the document he and the Clerk had produced concerning budget planning for 2020/21. Councillor Bisson stated that he was very disappointed that he had not been involved in any way regarding the project at Great Mead.

Discussion took place regarding the most effective way of providing more information to Councillors on LPC's budgetary requirements for the financial year commencing 1 April 2020.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk provide a pack containing the previous F&GP minutes to all Councillors together with the budgetary requirements discussed at this meeting and a copy of the audit figures as required by the internal auditor. The Precept requirements would then be discussed and a decision taken at the December LPC meeting.

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106. Reports from Representatives of Outside Bodies

It was noted that the Service of Remembrance and Parade had been a great success. There had been a minor problem in that the church service had finished early at 11.40 am. This led to everyone leaving the church and assembling in the road leading to an early road closure. The Parade did lead off eight minutes early which had caused some negative comments. It was agreed that in future publicity should give a broader timing. It was noted that the road closure was a legal obligation with LPC making the application and therefore it did need to show accuracy.

RESOLVED: To extend thanks and congratulations for an excellent day to Councillor Wiltshire in his capacity as event organiser and to add a note of explanation in the Community Centre What's On.

Councillor Bisson reported that he had attended the HALC AGM. Among topics had been the Town and Parish Council fund, the Rural Communities Fund and the fact that the Lengthsman scheme may come to an end. Hook have made a village app. Affiliation fees have gone up although payment by BACS would lead to a discount.

Councillor Bisson had attended a meeting of NFALC at which LPC had not been otherwise represented. Nor had LPC been represented at the boundary review.

Councillor Se-Upara reported that he would be attending the opening of new Citizens Advice Bureau in Lymington.

Councillor Wiltshire reported that there would be a piece in the Community Centre What's On by way of an explanation regarding the timing of the Remembrance Sunday Parade.

It was reported that it was considered the oak tree in Coles Mead needed remedial action and the Clerk undertook to look into this matter.

Councillor Green reported on Neighbourhood Watch in as much as there have been a number of scams including something about pension reviews this week.

The Clerk undertook to report a large rain puddle at the end of Forest Gardens that had appeared following remedial road works in Romsey Road

107. Dates of Future Meetings

Planning Committee – 26 November at 7.15 pm in Lyndhurst Community Centre
Village VE Day event meeting –28 November 2019 at 7.00 pm in Lyndhurst Community Centre
LPC Meeting – 10 December 2019 at 7.15 pm in Lyndhurst Community Centre

108. Items for Discussion at the Next Meeting

Items brought forward from the November Agenda
Items brought to the Clerk's attention by Monday 2 December 2019

109. Exclusion of the Press and Public

In accordance with Paragraph 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the Councillors are invited to resolve that the Press and public be excluded from the meeting during

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consideration of the following item owing to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and the public interest would not be served in disclosing that information. This exclusion relates to Agenda Item 19 (Minute 109) only. As there were no members of the public present at this stage it was unnecessary to pass a resolution.

110. Staffing Matters

Chairman _____

Date _____

Action Points

Minute	Action required	By whom	By when
96	Agenda item to be added in December regarding public participation at meetings	MHW	01.12.19
97	Further investigation regarding possibility of play equipment at Great Mead	CAW/MRR/GWB/MHW	Ongoing
101	Heritage Centre Forum Update	BS	10.12.19
102	Update on VE Day Commemoration	All	10.12.19
103	Wellands Road Football Ground lease	CAW/MRR/MHW	Ongoing
105	Budgetary requirements and Precept Request	All	10.12.19

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Accounts presented to December 2019 Parish Council meeting:

	Amount	VAT	Total
Accounts due for payment:			
CF Corporate	600.00	120.00	720.00
Photocopier lease rental			
ADH Cleaning & Maintenance Services	50.00		50.00
Office window cleaning			
Lyndhurst & District Community Assoc	75.00		75.00
Room hire - VE Day, Planning. LPC			
NFDC	75.00		75.00
Election expenses - 2 May 2019			
ITEC	28.75	5.75	34.50
Photocopier costs			
Imperative Training Ltd	252.00	50.40	302.40
Replacement parts for defibrillator			
Mrs M Weston	1733.96		1733.96
Clerk's Salary and expenses			
TLC Online	1413.95		1413.95
2020 calendar design and print			
Total	4228.66	176.15	4404.81

Bank Reconciliation - 01.11.19 - 30.11.19	
Bank Reconciliation – November 2019	
Opening Balance - 01.11.19	158,229.13
New Income	224.50
Sub-total	158,453.63
Payments made	8,988.36
Total	149465.27
Balance at 30.08.19	149465.27

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