

LYDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Held in the Nicholls Hall on Tuesday 16th June 2009

66-2009 Present:

Cllrs J Gannon (Chairman), S Holland (Vice-Chairman), L Cole, K Boyd, C Moriarty, I Hammerton
Mrs A Martin (Clerk)
Cllr I McPhie (WDBC)

Parishioners and others in attendance:

Twelve members of the public were in attendance.

67-2009 Apologies for Absence:

There were none.

68-2009 Declaration of Interests:

The Chairman noted a personal interest in the planning application at Heather as the applicant is a friend of her family.

69-2009 Parishioners and Visitors Time:

69.1 Inappropriate vehicular traffic: It was reported that large 4x4 vehicles have been using Silver Street, including the unsurfaced section. The Council responded that this is perfectly legal, as Silver Street is a public highway. There was also some discussion of the vehicular use, in particular by organised groups of trail bikes, of the By-way by Bolt's House, again perfectly legal. It is anticipated that inappropriate use of these ancient trackways will increase as the internet and commercial organisations are used to draw drivers to them, and that there is nothing that can be done unless there is a change in legislation. The Council will draw this to the attention of Geoffrey Cox MP.

69.2 Sustrans review: A parishioner had heard that Sustrans is intending to review the opening of its network to horses, and was concerned that this would open the Granite way to horses. The Council responded that it was aware of the moves, but that it had been assured by Devon highways that there would be consultation before any decision was made. A letter will be sent to Sustrans to ensure that the Council is included in this consultation.

69.3 Granite Way: There was a complaint about dog fouling on the Granite Way. In addition some goats had recently escaped onto the Granite Way and added their own contribution. Cllr McPhie offered to check with WDBC which organisation is responsible for keeping the Granite Way in a useable condition, and the Council will contact the probable owners of the goats to alert them to the fact that these escapologists have found a way out of their enclosure. A reminder to dog owners to act responsibly will be included in the next parish magazine, but there was scepticism as to whether this will make any difference to the behaviour of the irresponsible owners who do not use the dog bins provided.

69.5 Planning Application: The applicant at Heather spoke in support of his application.

70-2009 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 21st April, Tuesday 19th May and the Annual Parish meeting on Tuesday 7th April were approved as a true and accurate record.

71-2009 Matters Arising:

71.1 Highways, Parking and Traffic Issues - The Council had received two separate complaints about hedges having grown out into the public highway in the upper section of the village. One of these was from the School, and as the safety of the children is at stake the complaint will be immediately forwarded to Devon Highways. A member of the council had already spoken to the owners of one of the properties, and it was believed that the hedge had been subsequently cut. Another property is itself owned by Devon County Council, and this will be pointed out when the complaint is forwarded on.

71.2 Parish Plan update – A spreadsheet of the results of the tick boxes on the questionnaires had now been received, and the individual answers and comments had been anonymised ready for analysis.

71.3 Beating of the Bounds – Letters of thanks had been sent out to those who helped with the day, and the Certificates for all participants had been prepared for signature by the Chairman. These will now be distributed.

71.4 Community Land Trust Update – It was noted that there was an article with information in the current Village Green magazine.

71.5 Granite Way The “No Horses” sign has at last been reinstated.

71.6 The Council’s Website Cllr Hammerton had prepared a tender specification that he thought covered the new requirements imposed by the ICO. This will be circulated among councillors ahead of the next meeting.

71.7 Ancient Spring Ongoing Maintenance – A letter of thanks had been sent to Mr Pettitt. All councillors had seen the written maintenance plan that he had produced.

71.8 Councillor Vacancy It was reported by the Clerk that only one candidate had come forward and therefore there would be no need to go any further with the statutory selection process. It was unanimously resolved that Mrs Judy Brookes would be co-opted onto the council, and that she would complete her declaration of acceptance and take her place on the Council at the next meeting, having joined three of the existing members at a WDBC training event on the Codes of Conduct in the interim.

72-2009 Receive Reports from Councillors on respective outside bodies:

72.1 DNPA Consultative Forum The forum met on 22nd May and the Council was represented by Cllrs Moriarty and Holland. The meeting began with an item on the new Dartmoor logo, which is now in operation for goods and services generated within the National Park. There was then a presentation on planning policy, and this led to a lively discussion on signage. Lydford has called for a more consistent approach to the application of the law, and it seemed that others agreed with the views expressed by the councillors at the meeting.

The archive manager of the Dartmoor Trust explained how the Trust is arranging for the digital storage of old photos of the moor, and that it would appreciate the temporary loan of any such photos so that they could be added to the database. Volunteers to help with this task would be very welcome, and visitors are also welcome by appointment. The Trust is based on the South side of the moor at Cornwood.

Finally there was information on the Haytor Hoppa, a new bus service designed as a hop-on, hop-off service along its route, with no limit on the number of times passengers alight and

reboard the service. Although this is also on the far side of the moor it is hoped that a similar service might soon be set up centered on Tavistock.

72.2 Police Authority No meeting this month.

72.3 Southern Parishes Link Committee A meeting is scheduled for later in the week.

72.4 Nicholls Hall Committee The Committee had met since the previous Parish Council meeting, and had agreed that a letter box into which parishioners could leave signed correspondence for the Council could be erected in the vestibule. This had already been done, and the parishioner who had kindly fixed the box into position was thanked for his help.

The committee had also agreed to appoint a professional cleaner for the hall.

A successful "Tea at Three" event had been held for the children's hospice.

The committee room is currently being painted.

The next Bistro Nite is scheduled for Friday 10th July, to feature spicy and fragrant North African cuisine.

72.5 WDBC Cllr McPhie reported that WDBC had recently adopted the Tamar Valley AONB Management Strategy.

An Environmental Grant scheme, giving small grants for environmental enhancements such as the installation of bat boxes, has been extended to last for another year.

The Waste Contract bidding process is continuing.

73-2009 Finance:

73.1 Copies of the Annual Accounts had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk, as RFO, reported that the Internal Auditor had passed the accounts and had signed the Audit Commission Return. It was unanimously agreed that the accounts be accepted, and they, and the Audit Commission return, were duly signed by the Chairman.

73.2 The Clerk read out the individual sections of the Annual Governance Statement, and each was unanimously agreed as an affirmative response by the members present. When all parts had been dealt with the Chairman signed the Annual Governance Statement on behalf of the Council.

73.3 The Clerk distributed the monthly statement to all members.

The following balances were reported:

Current account – £577.62

Deposit account - £8454.41

Parish Plan - £1204.23

Ancient Spring - £163.10

A tax repayment of £96.40 had been received from HMRC. The following cheques were authorised from the general budget: Clerk salary & expenses £344.93: HMRC £55.26: T

Liversidge (grass) 17.00: Allianz Insurance £442.21: Mainly stationery £19.00: Lydford PCC

(donation of internal auditor's fees) £45.00: Eurooffice Ltd £9.11. A transfer of £1000.00 from the Council's flexi account to the current account was also authorised.

74-2009 Correspondence

74.1 Correspondence requiring action or decision:

1. Letter from a parishioner requiring a reply: The clerk was requested to reply on behalf of the Council acknowledging the letter and its contents.
2. A letter had been received from the webmaster of Lydford.co.uk requesting that the council clearly state that this website had no connection with the website LydfordFS in the light of an item in the previous minutes, and this was done.

74.2 Correspondence for Information Only

1. DNPA Agenda and Reports
2. WDBC update to electoral register
3. WDBD reminder to keep register of interests up to date
4. WDBC response to the Boundary Committee
5. DAPC Newsletter
6. WDBC e-connect
7. S Devon & Dartmoor Community Safety newsletter
8. WDBC Draft Revision to Affordable Housing Code of Practice
9. WDBC Housing Strategy annual update booklet.
10. WDBC re Core Strategy Development Plan Document – booklet in appendix
11. WDBC “Your Help in difficult times” information booklet in appendix
12. WDBC invitation to councillors to attend one of a selection of training events on the Code of Conduct for Parish Councils in West Devon.

75-2009 Planning Applications

75.1 Decisions Received: Consent (some conditional) had been received for:

- i) Approval had been received for the flue at Lot Cottage
- ii) No tree preservation order had been placed on trees adjacent to the Castle Inn

75.2 Response made under delegated powers:

- i) An application to demolish a bungalow and build a new one at Heather (0232/09). The existing bungalow is of non-standard construction and has asbestos roof tiles. It would be virtually impossible to bring it up to the standard required by modern building regulations. The proposed new bungalow would be better sited within the plot. It was unanimously decided that: *The Council supports this application.*
- ii) An application for alterations and extension to the rear at Barn Hayes (0220/09). The proposed works would have minimal visual impact in the village. It was unanimously decided that: *The Council supports this application.*
- iii) An application for the replacement of existing timber play equipment with new at Lydford Primary School. It was unanimously decided that: *The Council supports this application.*

76-2009 Items raised at the previous meeting for inclusion on this agenda:

There were none.

77-2009 Items raised for inclusion on the next Agenda

There were none.

78-2009 To agree the date of the next meeting:

The date of **Tuesday 21st July 2009** was agreed commencing at 7.00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 8.15 pm.

Annie Martin
Clerk to the Parish Council

17th June 2009

Signed as a true and accurate record..... (Chairman)

Date.....

LYDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

June 2009

ACCOUNT		CURRENT	FLEXI	AN.SPR	P PLAN	TOTALS
BALANCE B/F	19 May 2009	577.62	9821.74			10399.36
FLEXI AC SPLIT BALANCE			8454.41	163.10	1204.23	
RECEIPTS						
Tax Overpaid		96.40				96.40
TRANSFER						
Flexi to Current a/c		1000.00	-1000.00			
PAYMENTS	CHQ NO:					
Clerk - A Martin	881	-344.83				-344.83
HMRC - Post Office Ltd	882	-55.26				-55.26
T Liversidge - grass	883	-17.00				-17.00
Insurance	884	-442.21				-442.21
Mainly Stationery	885	-19.50				-19.50
Lydford PCC (internal audit)	886	-45.00				-45.00
Eurooffice Ltd	887	-9.11				-9.11
FLEXI AC SPLIT TOTALS			7454.41	163.10	1204.23	
CLOSING BALANCE	16th June 09	741.11	8821.74			9562.85

NOTES:

PROVISIONS:

Ancient Spring £163.10
Elections £700.00

Parish Plan £1,204.23
Grant availability £240.00

PRECEPT:

Payments received 5th April £3075
plus Burial Grant
£84

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY 2008/09

2007/08		2008/09
£	RECEIPTS	£
84.00	Burial Grant	84.00
6150.00	Precept	6350.00
52.20	Interest on Investments	110.08
0.00	VAT recovered	669.61
120.00	Grass cutting (DCC)	140.00
200.00	Training bursary	0.00
6606.20	TOTAL RECEIPTS	7353.69
	PAYMENTS	
327.41	General Administration	215.05
20.00	S 137 Payments	50.00
550.00	Grants (CAB)	50.00
405.18	Insurance	420.49
189.00	Audit fees	168.00
62.00	DAPC Subs	65.00
80.00	SLCC Subs	80.00
65.00	Room hire at Nicholls Hall	65.00
230.00	Office Provision	300.00
102.00	Travel expenses	151.20
117.00	Grass cutting	153.00
522.00	Clerk Salary (D Evans)	0.00
3196.92	Clerk gross salary (A Martin)	3358.44
167.00	Website	166.09
110.00	Equipment (filing cabinet)	0.00
365.00	Training	73.00
0.00	Parish Plan	127.15
0.00	Ancient Spring	9225.99
2325.85	Capt Hunter New Memorial	256.09
8834.36	TOTAL PAYMENTS	14924.50