

Lydford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting

held on Tuesday 9th September 2014

Present: Cllrs Moriarty, Fowler, Skeaping, Dicker, Evenett, Leigh-Tyrer, Tainsh

Also Present: Ms D Moyse West Devon Borough Councillor. No members of the public.

Absent: Ms L Rose, Borough Councillor for the Ward of Lydford

Cllr Fowler welcomed everyone to the meeting and conveyed apologies from the Parish Clerk who had been unable to attend due to an emergency. It was agreed to continue with the meeting and a councillor to take minutes. Cllr Fowler opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.

1. Apologies

None

2. Declarations of interest

None. Otherwise as recorded in the register.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2014

One grammatical amendment was noted and the minutes were agreed as accurate and signed by Cllr Fowler.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2014

Use of horses on the Granite Way

This matter arising from the July minutes was also linked to correspondence received from the Devon Countryside Access Forum. The DCAF had enclosed a report recommending that Devon County Council (DCC) grant formal permission for horse use between Bridestowe Station and Lydford subject to certain conditions. These include: advising Lydford and Bridestowe Parish Councils of the changes and providing an opportunity for local concerns to be raised; notification and consultation of landowners on the route and a number of signage / gate issues.

There was some discussion regarding use by the hunt; funding and suitability of proposed changes to gates and signage; the importance of the tarmac path for physically less able / pushchair users; the need for an all-weather bridle path with reduced bridleway maintenance funding. The conclusion was to invite Mrs R Mills, Public Rights of Way Manager for DCC to the October meeting to clarify these issues.

Parish website

As no additional information / volunteers from the parish was yet available, Cllr Tainsh agreed to briefly review and document the options for creating a parish website for the parish council to review.

Speed limits

The Department for Transport provides a speed limit appraisal tool to help assess the full costs and benefits of any proposed schemes and make evidence-based decisions for

speeds limits that reflect the needs of all road users. Its use is free of charge and is not restricted to local authorities. However at a prior Southern Links meeting DCC Highways had indicated they were unable to accept input from other parties on this tool due to Health and Safety concerns. At the same meeting DCC Highways had also indicated general support for 20mph speed limits outside schools.

Cllr Fowler agreed to contact the DCC Highways representative and ask for guidance on how DCC Highways and the Parish Council can best work together in order to achieve the optimal speed limits for the village.

5. Borough Councillors report

Borough Council report (Cllr Moyse)

Reporting on the latest borough council meetings, Cllr Moyse noted that following a report on housing needs in West Devon, the targeted number of new build per year in West Devon had been agreed at 250 in total. In addition, changes to the management structure of the borough council have resulted in a new role of locality officer being created.

6. Reports from outside bodies

Southern Links meeting (Cllr Tainsh)

Cllr Tainsh reported items of particular interest to the parish from the June meeting and on the agenda for the September meeting. Items which have not already been covered on prior points include:

- TAP fund applications: these must be jointly made by two or more councils. £27,000 was allocated for West Devon parishes this year and a significant amount remains available. The last applications for the TAP fund must be received prior to the December meeting. Examples from other parishes include: Village hall wi-fi and equipment to reduce speeding. It was agreed to circulate details of the fund and examples to the Parish Council and to create an article with links in the Parish magazine. This article will also publicize the “Your Dartmoor Fund” and “Dartmoor Communities Fund”.
- It was noted that a DCC voluntary guide to a road warden scheme will be discussed at the next meeting.
- The inclusion of an agenda point for parishes to raise concerns that covered multiple areas / requests for best practice sharing. Cllr Skeaping raised the issue of broadband speeds in the village and it was agreed to follow up with Cllr John Sheldon via Southern Links on progress affecting Lydford.

7. Finances

No financial reporting

8. Correspondence

- In response to correspondence from Nicholls Hall on the flagpole and sundial: Cllrs Skeaping and Leigh-Tyrer have agreed to examine and action the cleaning of the sundial. The parish council is to seek guidance from Nicholls Hall on what action is required for the flagpole.
- Parish council agreed to defer the adoption of the amendments to the Code of Conduct sent by the WDBC until the return of the Parish Clerk.
- The refusal of planning application 0279/14 for 3 Rose Cottages was noted.

- In response to the approval of application 0269/14 for Lydford Farm Shop. It was noted that the Parish Council is in support of the shop which provides a useful amenities for villagers and visitors. It was agreed to write to DNPA regarding the signage that was approved in the initial application.
- Regarding Plymouth Citybus turning in Hawthorne park. Cllr Fowler noted the company had been very helpful and responsive in communicating and finding a solution. The bus should now normally be able to go around the triangle and an application is being made for a no parking – buses turning sign.
- TAP Training courses correspondence: Cemetery Management course information to be forwarded to Barbara Weeks. No members to attend Open Spaces and/or Financial Management courses.
- Cllr Moriarty read a letter from a member of the public regarding a closed gate to Lydford Castle from behind Castle Inn. It was agreed to determine whose gate it was and why it was now locked.

9. Planning applications

0422/14 Conversion of outbuilding, extension and alterations to dwelling together with external works, Castle house, Lydford. Councillors discussed the application and agreed to support it.

10. Agenda items and date of next parish council meeting

The date of the next meeting will be October 14th with agenda items for grass maintenance, website and speed limit.

11. Urgent additional business

The matter of the poor condition of the BT telephone kiosk exterior was raised again. The latest correspondence was that this should be repainted by March 2014. However Cllr Fowler will liaise with the Parish Clerk and follow up to confirm.

The meeting was closed at 8:20 pm

Signed

Date