

Draft minutes subject to approval

Lydford Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 9th December 2014

Present: Cllrs Fowler, Moriarty, Leigh-Tyrer, Skeaping & Dicker.

Apologies: Cllrs Evenett & Tainsh

Also Present: 13 members of the public.

Cllr Fowler welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the Parish Council's error in advertising the meeting date as the 8th December instead of the 9th December.

Cllr Fowler summarised the Parish Council's aim to gather views of parishioners about the possible reinstatement of the railway line. She explained that, as yet, Parish Councils have not been consulted, nor is it clear to whom views might be submitted. Cllr Fowler read aloud the latest information from the Tavistock Times Gazette dated 4th December which refers to a Feasibility Study being implemented by the Department of Transport.

Parishioners' outlined a number of concerns which included, the effect on property sales and values, the loss of the Granite Way, public cost and disruption, levels of passenger usage and lack of local access. There was some support for the reinstatement as it could alleviate congestion on the A386 and this was discussed amongst the public. Alternative solutions to rail disruption were discussed for example the use of buses which would be a far more economical solution to the few times that the line at Dawlish is out of action.

The Clerk summarised the letters and emails received, with the majority in objection to the reinstatement.

Cllr Fowler thanked the public for their attendance and comments and opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

- 1. Apologies**
Cllrs Evenett & Tainsh.
- 2. Declarations of Interest.**
None. Otherwise as recorded in the Register.
- 3. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th November 2014.**
With the amendment to the date of the next meeting to 9th December, the minutes were agreed as accurate and signed by Cllr Fowler.
- 4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th November 2014.**
Cllr Leigh-Tyrer advised that Mr S Powne also assisted with the flagpole.

Cllr Skeaping advised that he had met with Mr Freeman of DCC Public Rights of Way on site and discussed the gates to the Granite Way. Mr Freeman put forward the argument that the gates are troublesome and not in keeping with the concept of multi use. He agreed that a sign, warning motorists of the entrance to the Granite Way could be erected. Cllrs expressed their dissatisfaction over this as Mrs Mills had advised differently when she attended the meeting last month. The Clerk was asked to email Mrs Mills to ask that she and Mr Freeman reconsider this response to Cllr Skeaping.

a) Parish Website.

The Parish Council Website has been taken over by a local resident and is currently being redesigned. Councillors will be asked for input before this website goes live in the New Year.

b) Proposed Playground Management Agreement.

Now that final comments and amendments have been made by all parties concerned, it was agreed to adopt the latest version of this agreement.

c) Proposed railway reinstatement.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Department of Transport to enquire about the process involved in the Feasibility Study and clarify whether there will be any public consultation.

d) Speed Limit.

The Clerk advised of a letter received from a member of the Community Speed Watch just before the meeting therefore not circulated for consideration prior to the meeting. It was agreed to place the letter in the correspondence box for the January meeting.

Cllr Fowler moved for Item 7 to be taken now for the benefit of those members of the public in attendance for Grant Applications (in correspondence).

7. Finances.

Cllr Fowler advised of 5 Grant Applications and these were discussed in summary ahead of January's meeting:

Lydford School. The school's grant application was noted for funds towards the purchase of mini Ipads for the school children. Cllr Fowler read aloud a draft response requesting more information. It was agreed that the letter be sent.

St Petroc's Church. The application was noted for the difference in churchyard maintenance costs and income from burials at £592.00. It was agreed by all to make this grant payment to the Church immediately as a detailed financial breakdown had been submitted.

Lydford Playground Project. The application was noted for £500 towards the Project. It was noted that the Playgrounds finances already sit within the Parish Council's accounts.

Lydford Sports Field. The application was noted for funding towards field and pavilion maintenance. This was discussed and Mr Brookes, the Sports Field Committee Chairman, answered the Councillors questions. Cllr Fowler requested that the treasurer submit a set of accounts in addition to the income/expenditure figures supplied and Mr Brookes agreed to request this.

Tree Tops (early years group, Bridestowe). The application was noted for funding to improve access, by rural families, to the organisations services. Cllr Fowler read aloud a draft response requesting more information on how the children of Lydford Parish would benefit and a copy of their accounts. It was agreed that the Grant applications would be further discussed and determined at the January meeting.

a) Budget and Parish Precept 2015-2016.

The Councillors agreed that the Precept should remain unchanged at £6300 for 2015-2016.

The Clerk advised of the cheques for payment:

£43.06 – 123 Reg, Parish Website Domain Charge

£289.45 Mrs Luke for December 2014 including expenses

£57.60 Inland Revenue December 2014

£215.82 Tavistock Times Gazette – advert for Clerk’s vacancy

The payments were approved.

5. Reports from outside bodies.

Cllr Fowler advised of some information starting to be discussed at Southern Links Meeting of devolved responsibilities to Parish Councils and that Precept Planning may be affected in future years. The minutes of the meeting recently held will be circulated once received.

6. Borough Councillors Report.

No Report.

8. Planning Applications.

None.

9. Correspondence.

It was agreed that the correspondence, previously circulated, had been dealt with under other items.

10. Agenda Items and Date of next meeting.

The date of the next meeting will on 13th January 2015 with agenda items for Grant Applications and Speed Limit.

11. Urgent additional business by leave of the Chair.

Cllrs requested that the cutting of grass around the Home Guard seats in the Parish be added to the cutting of the triangle. The Clerk was asked to contact the grass contractor with regard to this.

The Meeting was closed at 8.50pm.

Signed

Date