

# Lydford Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015

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

**Also Present:** Mrs T Redding, Clerk to the Parish Council

Cllr Fowler welcomed the councillors and opened the meeting and invited the public to speak.

### Public time

Four members of the public attended the meeting.

**Mr A MacIntyre** - provided a report on the Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) meeting regarding broadband coverage over Dartmoor held on the 9th March 2015. The meeting included a technical discussion regarding coverage and timescales for the introduction of superfast broadband in the Dartmoor area. Information is available on the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) website;  
<http://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/>.

Methods of connection include underground fibre-optic cables, overground connections and satellite TV connection. The proposed date for connection for Lydford is not expected to be before 2017-2018 since the survey work has not yet been undertaken. The Parish Council (PC) expressed dismay at this date especially since this would put business interests in the area at a disadvantage. There was a suggestion that the local MP or CDS should be contacted with the PC's concerns. The Clerk was asked to write to CDS at DNPA to enquire about the status of superfast broadband for the Lydford area and to express concern about the lack of progress in completing the survey (A1). The Chair thanked Mr MacIntyre for his report.

**Mr A Shaw** - National Trust. Mr Shaw spoke about the possibility of installing defibrillators at each of the Lydford Gorge entrances. Mr Shaw provided information about the grants available from the British Heart Foundation and asked if the PC would provide some funding towards the cost of the defibrillators. Although to date there have been no cases where such equipment has been required it was felt that with increasing numbers of visitors to the Gorge and for residents of Lydford there may be a need in the future. The PC asked if the National Trust would be able to fund the equipment especially since it would not be in the centre of the village. After some discussion Mr Shaw was asked to leave the information with the PC and it was agreed to discuss this item at the next meeting.

**Mr A MacIntyre** - provided a report regarding the new Parish Council website. There have been some difficulties with the hosting company and the PC agreed that it would be acceptable to set the site up with another host company.

1. **Apologies**  
Cllr Tainsh
2. **Declarations of Interest.**  
None.
3. **To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th March 2015.**  
The minutes were agreed as accurate and signed by Cllr Fowler.

**4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015.**

None

**5. Reports from outside bodies**

*Playground Committee* - Mr Tony Williams provided an update on the fundraising efforts for Lydford playground. The committee have recently heard that they had been successful in being awarded nearly £10,000 from the National Lottery, Awards for All programme. They now have sufficient funds to start the groundwork within the next few weeks. The committee is also considering applying for further funds from other sources.

The committee plans to have a grand opening of the playground on the 1st August 2015 and ideas for the equipment which will be installed are currently being considered. The paperwork should be completed by 24th April 2015 after which the funds will be available. The PC congratulated the committee on their success.

*Southern Link* - Cllr Fowler attended the Southern Link committee meeting and reported that the discussions included village lengthsmen which some villages are employing jointly through TAP funding. There was also discussions on warden schemes proposed by Devon County Council (DCC). In the last round of TAP funding all but one application was approved.

*Sports Field Committee* - Mr Williams was asked about the new sports field committee and he informed the PC that the new chair is Mr Mick Jones. The grass on the sports field has now been cut and the mower has been sent for repairs. Mr Williams agreed to forward the names of the new committee to the Clerk. The Clerk was asked to send an email to Mr Williams once the new email for the clerk had been established (A2).

**6. Borough Councillors Report**

No report

**7. Finances**

A financial report was provided by the Clerk. The Clerk spoke briefly about the Parish Council Audit which is due for external examination on the 8th June 2015.

**a. Grants**

The PC requested further information from the NT with reference to a possible grant for the installation of defibrillators in the Gorge.

**8. Planning Applications.**

The PC discussed the planning application (DNPA ref 0096/15) 3 Rose Cottages. Although the application was thought to be in keeping with the local architectural style the PC agreed that it would have been preferable to have applied for complete removal of the ash tree rather than lopping some branches. There was concern expressed about the roof structure currently on the building which does not have planning permission but was still evident. The PC would also have liked further clarification on the meaning of the word 'residential' with reference to the potential future use of the building. The Chair proposed a vote and the PC voted 4:2 to support the application but asked the Clerk to write to the DNPA to express these concerns and to ask for clarification on the items discussed (A3).

**9. Correspondence.**

The correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting.

*Defibrillators* - This would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

*DNPA Nominations* - None of the Councillor expressed an interest.

*Milton Abbot Church* - the PC agreed to put up the poster regarding an event at End-seigh Hotel for the Church.

*Mr S Taylor* - responded to the request for information and the PC will now proceed with considering possible work. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Taylor to ask him to get in touch with Cllr Moriarty to discuss future work (A4).

*Lost Playing Fields project*. The PC decided that there was no reason for being involved with this project.

*TAP Funding* - The next meeting regarding TAP applications will be on 9th July. The PC is aware that the application from Lydford and Dartmoor Forest would take a large proportion of the funds available. The Chair will be attending the meeting in July and the Clerk was asked to invite Mr Ellington to accompany the Chair to the meeting (A5).

**10. Agenda items and date of next meeting.**

The date of the next meeting (AGM) will be on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 7pm. The will be preceded by the Annual Parish meeting at 6.30pm.

Agenda items will include the defibrillators for Lydford Gorge

**11. Urgent additional business by leave of the Chair.**

None

The Chair thanked the councillors standing down for their hard work whilst members of the PC.

The meeting closed at 8.07pm.

Signed

Date

