

**LITTLE WENLOCK PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY  
9<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 AT 7.30 p.m. IN THE VILLAGE HALL, LITTLE WENLOCK.**

- 12/13/01 Members Present:**  
Councillors Mrs. S. Hutchison (Chair), Miss J. Esp (Vice Chairman), Mr. S. Holding and Mr. A. Lees.  
**In attendance:**  
Mr. J.F. Marcham – Clerk & RFO to Little Wenlock Parish Council.  
T&W Borough Councillor Jacqui Seymour.
- Members of the Public:**  
One
- 12/13/02 Apologies:**  
Apologies were received from Mrs. J. Davidson which were accepted; also T&W Councillor Terry Kiernan.
- 12/13/03 Declarations of Interest:**  
None were declared.
- 12/13/04 Public Session:**  
No matters were raised.
- 12/13/05 Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013:**  
The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November were **approved and signed**.
- 12/13/06 Swan Farm**
- a. The Clerk reported that he had written to the landowner regarding the repairing of the fence.
  - b. Cllr. A. Lees stated that there were 3 funding options; the original route, a shortened route or a longer one incorporating the bridle path. He stated that he had received no quotations from the contractor. He further stated that there may be the possibility of alternative sources of funding besides the Lottery and these need to be explored. It was **resolved** to seek further quotations to cover the range of possible route options. It was **resolved** that Cllr. A. Lees would ascertain from the local landowners who exactly owned which sections of the paths and ask their permission for the project to go ahead. It was **resolved** to establish the ownership of the sections of the route from points B to H and G to I.
  - c. Andrew Careless was looking for possible funding to repair/replace the boardwalk in the next financial year. In the meantime the boardwalk was to be removed to prevent people accessing it.
- 12/13/07 Footpath from St. John's Church at Lawley to New Works Lane:**  
It was reported that work had commenced on the footpath.
- 12/13/08 Highways:**
- a. There was nothing further to report on the rumble strips.
  - b. The Clerk had contacted T&W Highways Department for an update on work at the Forest Glen but had received no reply.
  - c. Cllr. A. Lees reported that he had brought to the attention of T&W the fact that a large branch had fallen off a tree on Malthouse Bank. T&W had attended and examined the tree which was subsequently cut down by the landowner.

- d. The Clerk reported that he had raised with T&W Highways department the issue of reducing the speed limit on the rural roads following recent legislation.
- e. The Clerk reported that he had made enquiries about a "road narrows" sign at the top of Malthouse Bank which had previously been mentioned to Lee Barnard.
- f. It was **resolved** to invite Lee Barnard to the March meeting for a full update on highway developments.

#### **12/13/09 New Works Street Lights:**

The delivery date for the new lights was scheduled for the end of February to mid March. The light bulb type had been changed from a 24w warm white to a 23w neutral white which was slightly brighter and this would be trialled on post 24. It had been agreed with Dan Hitchen (E.On) that we could keep the old lights for future use in Little Wenlock. Cllr. S. Holding offered to store them.

#### **12/13/10 New Works Planters:**

Elaine Gandy had reported that John Anderson of Meadowdale Nurseries had kindly donated five small Christmas Trees for the planters free of charge. The trees would be suitably decorated and after Christmas replanted in soil so that they could be used again next Christmas. It was **resolved** to write to John Anderson and thank him for his generosity and also to mention it in the next Community Newsletter. The Clerk reported that a notice had been placed on the notice boards at New Works recognising the donation of the trees.

#### **12/13/11 Little Wenlock War Memorial:**

The Clerk reported that Midland Masonry had been formally instructed to carry out the work. The recent request for subscriptions to do the work had resulted in £1045 being raised; earlier subscriptions had raised £270 and the Hog Roast £407. The total now amounted to £1722.

#### **12/13/12 Dog Fouling:**

It was **resolved** to put up ten posters within the community in an effort to persuade dog owners to act in a sensible way regarding dog fouling.

#### **12/13/13 Letter from T&W Borough Councillor Tracey Hope:**

LWPC had written to T&W Borough Councillor Tracey Hope asking her whether or not she had been involved with the five anonymous emails which resulted in the suspension of the payment of the UK Coal fund grants to LWPC and other recipients. In an email from her dated 12<sup>th</sup> November she declined to give an answer to the question.

#### **12/13/14 FOI Information request 26386:**

Following legal advice from a specialist firm of solicitors it was **resolved** to write to the T&W Information Governance Department to request a copy of the 15 page complaint made by Mrs. M. Pietroni about members of LWPC, the complaint having been rejected by T&W's Legal Manager.

#### **12/13/15 2014/15 Budget and Precept:**

The Clerk had prepared a proposed budget for 2014/15 and explained the finer points of it to the councillors. It was **resolved** to accept the budget. It was **resolved** that the Precept be set at £11352 which is 3.2% increase over the 2013/14 Precept and matches the increase in the retail price index.

#### **12/13/16 Clerk's Report:**

- a. It was **resolved** to support the fire service against the proposed cuts.
- b. The Clerk reported that he had been accused by Mrs. Pietroni of recently conveying verbally to others the idea that the Trundle landowner permissions were not, nor ever have been, actually in place. The Clerk pointed out that this was totally incorrect and

that the matter about permissions being in place had been raised at the Local Access Forum meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October by the T&W Rights of Way officer.

- c. UK Coal update: The rest of the site plant is being removed except for one excavator in case it is needed for emergency repair work. The site office will stay but most of the other buildings and equipment will be dismantled and removed. A skeleton staff will remain on site to provide security and emergency cover. The restoration work will re-commence in spring 2014, the soil being too wet for further work now..
- d. Work on the Coalmoor Road footpath, funded by UK Coal Community Fund and being constructed under the guidance of T&W Borough Council, has started and should be completed before Christmas. The footpath is for pedestrians and should not be used by horse riders as it is not a bridleway.

#### 12/13/17 **Planning Applications:**

No planning applications had been received.

Grave concern was expressed by LWPC about the contents of the open letter written by T&W Borough Councillor Kuldip Sahota which stated that T&W were tied by national policies which made it difficult to defend open (green) spaces from being built on.. This left the door wide open for developers to build on green field sites knowing that T&W Council would not oppose their applications. Nor will T&W Council take any notice of the views of local Parish/Town Councils, or local residents, as their dealings with recent planning applications in the Newport area have clearly shown. The question now is what will be the value of the views expressed by Parish & Town Councils in relation to the present "Shaping Places" consultation.

#### 12/13/18 **Borough Liaison:**

- a. The Clerk reported that he had been informed that in spite of the present campaign by T&W to install double yellow lines to improve road safety T&W will not now employ enforcement officers and that any enforcement will be done by West Mercia police. Basically no enforcement will take place!
- b. Councillors have been invited to a meeting by T&W Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 7.00pm at Wellington Civic & Leisure Centre when it will present its 2014/15 budget.
- c. It was **resolved** that a member of LWPC would attend a planning seminar.
- d. It was **resolved** to invite Catherine Slaytor, Veolia Communications Manager, to talk to LWPC at its February meeting about the new waste contract with Veolia.

#### 12/13/19 **Individual Report and Updates:**

- a. Parish Environmental Teams (PETS): Cllr J. Davidson had attended the meeting and the information was in the circulation pack and would be discussed at the January meeting.
- b. **Candles Liaison meeting**: Cllr J. Davidson had attend the meeting. She reported that the meeting was very interesting as Veolia wish to apply for planning permission for a temporary short-term recycling facility on the land between the landfill site and Steve Holding's property. This is whilst the planning and building of their main site is done at Hortonwood. She expressed concern that since the gas and Leachate towers are already in situ, and will remain there for 50 years, a temporary site could easily become more permanent.

#### 12/13/20 **Finance:**

##### a. **Banks balances:**

Business Account = £47,961.46

The following sums are "ring-fenced" in the Business Account (I have used round figures)

War memorial £677

New Works Lights	£33,870
Swan Farm Boardwalk etc	£1000
BT	£6531

- i. TOTAL £42,078. That leaves a **working balance of £5883 to cover 4 months expenditure.**

Base rate Account = £17,114.74

The following amount is "ring-fenced" for BT: £15,266 which **leaves a working balance of £1848.**

**b. Quarterly Audit:**

Cllr. Alan Lees had gone through the account books, invoices and cheque books and had found everything in good order.

**c. Two signature cheque rule:**

The Clerk reported that the government is removing the unnecessary and burdensome financial restrictions on parish councils to improve their productivity and stop them being fined. The need for 2 signature on cheques will be removed and parish councils will be able to use electronic banking services in the future if they so wish. It was **resolved**, with the support of the Clerk, that LWPC would still pay all accounts by cheque countersigned by 2 councillors.

**d. It was resolved to pay the following accounts:**

Madeley Print Shop	Newsletter blanks / Web site	£467.79
SALC	AGM & Conference	£20.00
SLCC	Local council Administration (9 <sup>th</sup> ED)	£63.00
J Marcham	Salary	£254.47
HMRC	PAYE	£63.62
J. Marcham	Clerk's Expenses	£135.63
Raby Sawmill	16 foot Christmas Tree	£95.00
K. Smith Contracting	Grass cutting etc	£249.60

**12/13/21**

**Clerk's Appraisal:** Press and public are excluded from this part of the meeting under Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 and LGA 1972, ss100 & 102.

- a. The Clerk's annual appraisal took place on 4<sup>th</sup> December with the employment sub committee and it had been a good and productive meeting. The appraisal document was **approved** and signed by the Clerk and the 3 Parish Councillors.
- b. It was **resolved** to raise the Clerk's salary by one point to SCP 24 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.
- c. It was **resolved** to increase the working from home allowance by £1 a week and the telephone and internet allowance by £8 a month from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014.

**12/13/22**

**Date of the next meeting:**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall