Lilleshall Parish Council

Lilleshall Memorial Hall

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Minutes of the **Ordinary Council Meeting** of **Lilleshall Parish Council**

held at 7.00pm, Monday 7th September 2015, at Lilleshall Memorial Hall.

PRESENT: Councillors: A Baker (Chairman), C Baker, K Cherrington, P Millard, B Taylor and J Taylor

STAFF: C Binnington, Clerk

There were 9 members of the public present

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Councillor Baker welcomed all present.

1. **Apologies**

Proposed by Councillor Carol Baker, Seconded by Councillor Millard.

**RESOLVED** that the Council accept the apology for absence from Councillor Shaw.

1. **Declaration of Interest**

*DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS*

Councillors Bob Taylor and Julie Taylor declared an Interest in Agenda Item 13 – Allotments

Both Councillors have an allotment plot at the Lilleshall Allotments and are members of the Allotment Association and Councillor Millard also declared an interest as her husband is an allotment holder.

1. **Public Session**

The following questions were asked by residents:

1. Did we go out to tender for the previous lighting contract and is there a break-clause in the contract?

The previous parish council was given £31,680 to upgrade the street lighting, was Lilleshall given a fair share of the upgrade as to we still need to find £6500 per year to carry out the upgrade. Heidie Coombes, Lighting Officer for Telford and Wrekin Council (TWC) replied that no lights have been upgraded on the present scheme in Lilleshall yet. There is a 5 year agreement with Telford and Wrekin Council and in order to get maximum return the upgrade will deal with the highest wattage first.

1. When is superfast Broadband being rolled out to Lilleshall?

Councillor Julie Taylor reported that she has registered for updates and that her request to go to Newport Exchange was refused so still with Donnington Exchange. Councillor Bob Taylor explained that they are following the situation and will give ongoing updates, it may take up to 18 months before it is available to Lilleshall.

1. **Street Lighting**

A update was given by Heidie Coombes from Telford and Wrekin Council, who explained that there are 3 types of lighting in Lilleshall and that they are looking at energy savings.

Following a meeting with the Chairman and the Clerk, Heidie has contacted Western Power who the wooden poles belong to and they have agreed to use wooden poles again if necessary. She updated that 6 concrete poles are coming to the end of their life.

 99 street lights in Lilleshall

Can decide which roads to do first as lights belong to Lilleshall Parish Council.

Use of LED lighting leads to energy saving (white light) with an expected saving of £1000 - £1500 per year once they have been fitted. LED lights are directional so no sky glow which avoids light pollution.

25 year life expected per unit although not allowing for vandalism.

Current cost is £2150 per year but reduced to £1577 under new contract.

Cllr Taylor asked if lights can be switched off to save energy. Heidie said not a good ideaas the energy company may put you on a different tarrif which could cost more. It is safer to dim the lights than turn them off.

The Eastern Primary is the only read with lights turned off. In some areas they are dimmed to give peace of mind through the night.

Question asked whether lights in Nursery Lane could be removed. Heidie said it would cost several hundred pounds to remove them and suggested doing a risk assessment as there would only be a £21 per year saving.

Who is responsible for cutting back the foliage around the lights? Cllr J Taylor to adk Mark Greaves of TWS to give a quote for cutting back foliage.

Contract set up 3 years ago to upgrade lights but could opt out if give 3 month notice and maintain lights ourselves.

Lantern and column is £1000 or just lantern is £300.

Clerk was asked to look at obtaining funding to carry out the upgrade. CB to find suitable grant.

Residents wanted to know what is the percentage saving if we dim the lights by 25%?

Noted that Hill Farm are already LED’s. Lilleshall PC is not liable for new estates and so don’t own Hill Farm.

Not possible to just change bulbs as lamps are so old and would cost £1000 to change whole unit, which could be done in batches i.e. a street at a time.

Graham Platt asked that if it costs £300 per unit to upgrade, how many years will it take to recoup the installation costs as maintenance costs will go down so how long before we start to make savings.

1. **Previous minutes**

Chair asked for amendment to Item 8 - Planning Applications to read that TWC/2015/0581 is amended to report that conditions have been placed on hours of building material delivery.

Proposed by Councillor Carol Baker, Seconded by Councillor Millard.

**RESOLVED** that the Council accept the minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting of the 27th July 2015 subject to amendments.

Proposed by Councillor Cherrington, Seconded by Councillor Julie Taylor. **RESOLVED** that the Council accept the minutes of the Council Planning Meeting of the 17th August 2015.

1. **Clerk’s Update**

The Clerk reported that the bank account is now up and running and that the first half of the precept has been transferd into the bank by Telford & Wrekin Council and the second half is due later this month. Payments made by the allotment holders have been paid into the account and there are only 4 rents outstanding.

Several complaints have been received about overgrown pathways, trees and hedges in Rock Acres, Church Road and by St Michaels Close. Adrian Corney from Telford and Wrekin Council has been contacted and he said that routine maintenance work should be carried out during September. Enforcement letters have been sent to properties to carry out routine maintenance.

1. **Budget update**

The Clerk distributed a copy of payments made following the transfer of the precept from Telford and Wrekin Council. Councillor Carol Baker requested that budget information is sent out with the agenda in future.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact HMRC to find out how the Parish Council can reclaim the VAT.

1. **Lilleshall Neighbourhood Plan**

The Chairman updated that Councillor Shaw has spoken to residents to set up a team to get the plan off the ground and requested that the Council ratify the decision to proceed with the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Lilleshall.

Proposed by Councillor Carol Baker, Seconded by Councillor Bob Taylor

The Council ratified the decision that Councillor Shaw should go ahead with developing a Lilleshall Neighbourhood plan and thanked him for all his hard work.

1. **Christmas lights**

Councillors discussed the Christmas lights which have been put on the island by the Redhouse Public House in previous years and the cost of erecting the lights again this year. Councillors discussed contacting Donnington and Muxton Parish Council to ask if they would be interested in purchasing the Christmas lights. Clerk to contact Ralph Morgan to see if they are interested in the lights.

Proposed by Councillor Millard, Seconded by Councillor Julie Taylor.

**RESOLVED** that the Council agreed to remove the Christmas lights from the Redhouse Island , but to keep the lights at the churchyard. Councillors requested that the Clerk contact Turnocks to advise them that we won’t use the lights this year.

1. **Grounds Maintenance Contract**

TWS is the current contractor for the grounds maintenance contract which is due for renewal from 1st April 2016. Councillors discussed the cutting of the grass, trees and hedges in the church yard, grave yard and the tennis courts and it was agreed that the current contractor does a very good job and removes all rubbish.

The Clerk was tasked with putting together a map of the area and a specification for the work required before putting the contract out to tender to local companies.

The bus shelter cleaning contract was discussed and Councillors were unaware when the 10 bus shelters had been jet washed. The annual contract is currently £562.50 for the shelters to be cleaned on 6 occasions. To go out to contract for April 2016.

1. **Auditor arrangements**

The Clerk updated that she has contacted 9 local Accountants to try to engage an Internal Auditor but has had problems that they don’t want to take on Parish Council work. She has an appointment on Friday 11th September with JDH Accounting Services on Stafford Park to discuss fees etc.

Clerk to contact Ralph Morgan to see if Mazaars (Externnal Auditor) have been notified of the split from Donnington and Muxton Parish Council.

1. **Allotments**

The Councillors on the Allotment Working Group have met to discuss making amendments to the tenancy agreements and tasked the Clerk to amend the agreements before sending out next month.

No skips have been provided to the allotments this financial year and it was agreed that a large skip would be provided at the end of September to allow plot holders to clear their plots.

Councillors to look at rent increase in April to incorporate cost of water rates and skip hire to ensure that allotments are cost neutral.

Councillor Bob Taylor asked that rent for the tennis courts should also be reviewed before April to ensure maintenance costs are covered.

Clerk to put item on Octobers agenda.

1. **Correspondence**

The Clerk updated that the following correspondence had been received:-

* Leaflets from TWC received advertising bulk collections of 6 items free to Lilleshall residents.
1. **Date of Next Meeting**

Full Council Meeting on Thursday 8th October at 7pm

At Lilleshall Memorial Hall

Signed: Date:

 Chairman to the Parish Council