

# Ardington and Lockinge Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting for  
**Ardington and Lockinge Parish Council**  
Held Tuesday 8 November 2022, 8:00pm at the Loyd-Lindsay Rooms

Derek Morrow (DM) Councillor	Laura Deacon Ardington resident
Nicky Hancock (NH) Councillor	James Vane-Tempest Ardington resident
Paul Gibbs (PG) Councillor	Charles Merry Ardington resident
John Hedgecock (JH) Councillor	Ian Longworth Ardington resident
Ron East Councillor	Karen Smith Ardington resident

1.	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Actions</b>
	None. Council welcomed the return of Councillor Ron East following his convalescence.	
2.	<b>Declarations of Interests</b>	
	There were no declarations of interests.	
3.	<b>Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13 September 2022</b>	
	These were approved by Councillors and signed by the Chairman.	
4.	<b>Matters arising from the Minutes of 12 July Meeting</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HR reported that the two candidates for the Parish Clerk position had withdrawn before interview. A new search will now begin and NH will draw up a new advertisement for circulation.</li> <li>DM reported that he is pursuing with RoSPA a new inspection of the playground.</li> <li>Overseen by DM, the defibrillators have now been updated and registered appropriately.</li> <li>Also overseen by DM, the various issues relating to the repair and maintenance of malfunctioning street lights in both villages are being addressed. There is a need for quite extensive repair to many of the lanterns. This is an expensive project and Councillors agreed that an approach for financial assistance from CBPT will be needed. HR will make an initial approach to CBPT. DM has also investigated those householders who are due payment for electricity provided to street lights from their houses and payment has been agreed by Councillors.</li> <li>JH has continued to monitor the website. No significant traffic recorded.</li> </ul>	<p>NH to draw up new advertisement</p> <p>DM to pursue new inspection</p> <p>HR to approach CBPT re street light project</p>
5.	<b>Reports</b>	
	Reports had been received and circulated from County Councillor and PCSO. HR reported that Nicola Merry is no longer a governor of Hendred School and that she has forwarded the Council's request for a report to the new Chair of Governors Susie Morrissey, from whom Councillors will hope to receive a response in due course. No report was received from the District Councillor.	

	NH pointed out that no response had been received from County Councillor to the recent letter raising the issue of the bus stop on the A417 and the dangers of crossing this busy road and there was no mention of this matter in her report.	
6.	<b>Finance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payments already made and signed off by two authorised signatories were noted and approved by Councillors</li> <li>• Three further invoices were approved by Councillors and cheques will be made out.</li> <li>• 30 payments to householders reimbursing them for electricity used for street lights approved.</li> <li>• The most recent bank statement from NatWest Bank (to 5 October) was examined and reconciled with payments made. The account is well in funds.</li> <li>• The second tranche of the precept was received on 7 September.</li> <li>• Councillors considered the budget for 2023 and bearing in mind the recommendations of the external Auditor, considered that a 10% increase in the precept would be appropriate. The application will be circulated to Councillors.</li> </ul>	HR to process
7.	<b>Matters arising from comments by Councillors at this Meeting</b> In view of the presence of the five residents of Ardington, attending for discussion of the proposed music event at the Sports Club ground over the August Bank Holiday weekend in 2023, HR proposed (with the agreement of Councillors) that this matter should begin the meeting. HR introduced the subject by stating that no one on the Council was aware of this proposed event until he had received and circulated to Councillors an email from Karen Smith on 2 November containing details of the scope and duration of this proposed event. He noted that Councillors much regretted that this matter had not been raised with the Council at an earlier stage, certainly before tickets for the event had been made available on the Camp Soul website on 1 November, given its unprecedented nature so far as the village of Ardington was concerned, and the likely impact such an event would be perceived to have on the village and community. Ian Longworth, Treasurer of the Sports Club, responded, explaining that the financial situation of the Club was precarious and that urgent steps needed to be taken to balance the books. The beneficial financial impact of this proposed event would be substantial. He acknowledged that there were various permissions and licences still to be obtained if this event was to proceed and he accepted that the promoters appear to have jumped the gun in their website advertisement for the event. He also now accepted that a consultation with residents of the villages should take place. Mrs Deacon and Messrs Vane-Tempest and Merry made strong representation about the negative impact that they felt this three-day event over the principal summer holiday weekend would have on the villages and emphasised that in their experience there were better methods of fund-raising, all involving more community participation and support than this event would engender. They also pointed out the unhelpful precedent such an event would set. At the conclusion of these discussions, and following the withdrawal of the residents, Councillors had a further brief debate, recognising that the final decision, should all the permissions and licences be approved, does rest with the Sports Club, as an independent body. <b>Post meeting note:</b> HR has subsequently received an email from Ian Longworth, circulated to Councillors, confirming that permissions and licences have still to be obtained and that the Sports Club is willing to take part in a consultation with residents.	

	On a separate matter, PG noted that there were two forthcoming meetings relating to the proposed new reservoir which he was proposing to attend and will report on these at our next meeting.	PG to report
<b>8.</b>	<b>Items for Trumpeter and Facebook</b> Advertisement for the Parish Clerk position.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Dates of Meetings in 2023</b> 10 Jan 7 Mar 9 May 11 Jul 5 Sep 7 Nov	