

Letheringham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
on Monday 23rd July 2018 at Easton & Letheringham Village Hall

In Attendance

Terry Carlin (TC) (Chairman & Financial Officer)
Jean Barker (JB)
Maurice Finch (MF)
Matthew Bickerton (MB)

David Allan (DA) (Clerk)

Public Attendance:

Mike Lloyd

Public Forum commenced at 7.48pm

ML raised an issue regarding issues with Sandy Lane Kennels and contact with Environmental Health regarding an Abatement Notice served in September 2017 which had been due to be addressed at Ipswich Magistrates' Court in November 2017. The proceedings had been stalled and delayed until a hearing on the 14th June 2018 when the Court had ruled against the Council. ML was concerned that he had not been notified about the hearing, had not therefore been present and had not been asked to provide evidence or attend to set out his account of relevant matters. It was understood that the respondent had instructed an expert to give evidence, but that the significant records, including documentary records and video evidence, collated by ML over a lengthy period and provided to the Council had not been used, and in fact ML believed that they may have lost it as he was asked to restart the process of collating evidence afresh. ML had sent emails to Phillip Ridley and Peter Thompson, but had not received any response, save for the request for fresh evidence. ML was understandably exasperated by this situation and the conduct of the Council and its Officers in dealing with ML's evidence and communications.

TC queried whether, as the Environmental Health proceedings had not succeeded, whether separate action for breach of Planning could be pursued, with reference to the 44 breaches evidenced in the video material that ML had collated and submitted. ML confirmed that this had been sent to Peter Thompson and demonstrated repeated breaches of conditions. However, despite submitting this material in July 2017, ML had been asked to do it again.

ML was advised that this situation was beyond the remit of the LPC save that the situation could be brought to the attention of Carol Poulter and ML was advised to collate fresh evidence regarding potential breaches of Planning

The Public Forum closed at 8.12pm

The Meeting opened at 9.10pm

2018.36 Apologies

Apologies received from Richard Gooding. Emails regarding the Meeting had been sent to Robin Vickery and Carol Poulter, but no response had been received.

2018.37 Declaration of Interests

MB declared an interest in relation to the Planning application for The Granary at Letheringham Lodge, and it was confirmed that he could address questions regarding the substance of that application but would take no part in the Council's consideration its response to the Planning Department.

2018.38 Approval of Minutes & Matters Arising

Minutes of LPC meeting on 23rd July 2018 were approved unanimously and signed by TC DA had confirmed that the original Audit documents had been sent to the relevant Auditors as required.

2018.39 Matters of Report

No useful or update information from the Police beyond the usual out of date statistics, which had no relevance to Letheringham.

An email and hard copies regarding the first draft of the Local Plan had been received from SCDC. DA to circulate the email and link to residents.

A Boundary Consultation had also been received and would be circulated.

Emails had been sent by David Holborrow to Emmet Klipalo at the Environment Agency regarding continuing issues with the state of the Deben River, as follows:

We met at one of the riverside meetings hosted by Jan McNeil (Old Forge and Boatmans Cottage) when I expressed my concern about the state of the river, and this has been followed up by LPC at the recent PC meeting, which I was unfortunately unable to attend.

Has there been any developments, in particular with respect to the removal of two trees which are blocking the river completely between 1 Cooks Hill and Letheringham Mill.

Detritus, general sludge and weed build up is backing up the river about 40 metres from the blockage and this is expanding daily.

Are you able to request the landowners attend to the removal of the trees, or is this being left for others to deal with? Your advice on the current status of this matter would be much appreciated, any response will be passed to Ms McNeil and LPC for their information/action.

Emmett had responded in the following terms:

Thank you for your email, I am fully aware of the tree is question. Myself and an ecology colleague have reviewed this recently and confirmed that some limbs are indeed trailing in the river and could potentially cause an obstruction to flow. As this is the riparian landowner's responsibility we have sent the relevant landowner a letter requesting that these offending limbs are removed. Whether this has been done or not remains to be seen, however in this correspondence we have offered our services with regards to removing these offending limbs if our expenses are paid.

As stated previously the tree is still alive as it is firmly keyed into the bank and providing 'woody debris' habitat for biodiversity so we would not like to see it removed from the channel, the tree at present is not causing flood risk therefore the Environment Agency cannot justify its removal and would not advise anyone to remove it completely from the side of the watercourse as this could potentially weaken the bank if the root ball is removed.

Hopefully this makes sense, if you require further clarification then please contact me.

It was agreed that enquiries should be made with providers of equipment regarding options to clear the river as discussed on previous occasions.

2018.40 Financial Report

2018.40.01 Invoices for Payment

An Invoice for the annual subscription to SALC was presented and payment unanimously approved. Cheque number 267 was completed and signed for £35.23. A further cheque, number 268, totalling £24 was approved, completed and signed in relation to Village Hall fees. This had not been included in the Monthly Financial Report.

The above payments were unanimously approved and the cheques signed by MF and MB.

TC notes that an earlier cheque for £54 made out to Community Heartbeat Trust had not been cashed to date, although it had been included in the accounts. This had been provided to PL. DA to chase up and obtain an Invoice and/or Remittance Advice.

2018.40.02 Monies Received

13p interest had been received into the Saver Account.

TC raised the suggestion made previously that the Business Saver Account and the Community Account could and should be amalgamated so that the LPC operated only one account, which would make the formulation of accounts easier and avoid the need to regularly check for minor interest payments such as the one recorded this month.

A resolution to amalgamate the two accounts into one was passed unanimously, and TC agreed to address this matter with the Bank in due course.

2018.40.03 Monthly Financial Report

TC presented the Monthly Financial Report and Accounts as at 23rd July 2018.

2018.40.04 Insurance & Audit

TC confirmed that all relevant Audit documentation had been submitted, and contact was awaited from Came & Co regarding the annual Insurance renewal.

2018.41 Planning & Licensing Applications and Issues

DA outlined correspondence and representations with the Planning Department at SCDC arising from the application for retrospective permission in relation to the car-port on Cook's Hill associated with Pip's Cottage. The representations had related in part to the application but primarily to the procedure adopted by the Planning Department in considering this application, and responses from interested parties such as parish Councils to Planning Matters generally. This procedure did not appear to accord with that set out in earlier correspondence from SCDC nor with their own constitution, and potentially gave an impression of unfairness and partiality. A response to the representations submitted was awaited.

The Application relating to the proposed conversion of The Granary at Letheringham Lodge, from an agricultural building to a one bedroomed domestic / holiday let accommodation (DC/18/2439/FUL) was raised. The application and supporting documentation had previously

been circulated to all residents and Councillors, with no objections, concerns or other response having been received.

MB clarified details regarding the nature of the application, which related to work only on the first floor of the building to create a one-bed flat. MB stated that there had been an issue with the window at one end of the building, and it was proposed that this would have louvre slats to reduce its visual impact. The application was considered (MB taking no part at this stage). It was resolved unanimously that there were no objections, concerns or issues arising.

2018.42 Phone Box & Defibrillator

There was no further update, but DA was requested to speak to PL and chase up details of volunteers regarding the implementation of the VETs scheme which had been approved in principle previously.

2018.43 B1078 / SID Signs

TC had contacted a further alternative supplier whose details had been provided by SCDC. A response was awaited, but there was a general concerns about the installation of any device where the information regarding battery life was unclear and insufficient. The data provided gave rise to concerns that the devices would require very frequent charging or battery changes given the figures suggesting that over 500 cars passed the relevant site every day while travelling in excess of 40mph. If the device triggered for every such car, this would have a very adverse impact on battery life, so enquiries were made regarding activation for vehicles travelling in excess of 45mph only. A response was awaited. ML commented about battery theft from SID signs in three other locations recently.

2018.44 Maverick Festival

No issues had been received from residents save for one email commenting that there was no concerns regarding the existing Festival and arrangements but that any plans for additional similar events would give rise to concerns.

2018.45 Village BBQ

Plans for this to be held at Letheringham Lodge or alternatively at Letheringham Mill had been frustrated by intervening events. It was suggested that the BBQ may be cancelled this year if an alternative suitable date could not be arranged in September, with sufficient notice to residents etc in advance. TC would speak to Jacqui to clarify issues.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm

Signed.......... Date...24/9/2018.....

Next Meeting: Scheduled for the 23rd July 2018 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall

Appendices follow:

A Financial report as at 23rd July 2018

B: Letheringham Parish Accounts as at 23rd July 2018

Letheringham Parish Council**Financial Report as 23rd July 2018****Cheques presented for payment at this meeting**

community heart beat trust	21/05/2018	100266	£54.00
SALC fees	23/07/2018	100267	£35.23

Income received

interest saver account	04/06/2018		£0.13
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Current position before cheques are paid

Community Account	£5,619.89
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Business Premium Account	£267.28
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TOTAL	<u>£5,887.17</u>
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Current position after cheques are paid

Community Account	£5,530.66
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Business Premium Account	£267.41
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TOTAL	<u>£5,798.07</u>
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Expenditure approved minute 2018.40.01 refers
Date 23/07/2018

Letheringham Parish Accounts

Statement of account as at July 23rd 2018

COMMUNITY ACCOUNT #50571423				(2018-2019)					
	date	Cheque no	debit	credit	total	vat	account statement	statement date	
C/F from 2017-2018	05/04/2018				£5,067.89				
SCDC precept	27/04/2018			£600.00	£5,667.89		£5,667.89	21/05/2018	
village hall (march)	21/05/2018	100264	£24.00		£5,643.89				
village hall	21/05/2018	100265	£24.00		£5,619.89				
SALC membership fees									
Community action Suffolk (web site)									
Insurance (came & co)									
SCDC precept									
Community action Suffolk (web site)									

BUSINESS SAVER ACCOUNT #50571431									
transaction	date	Payments	Receipts/ interest payments	Balance		Bank statement	statement date		
c/f	01/04/2018			£267.28		£267.28	21/05/2018		

Total account balances			
date	Community Account	business premium account	Total funds available
C/F from 2017-2018 final accounts	£5,067.89	£267.28	£5,335.17
21/05/2018	£5,619.89	£267.28	£5,887.17

LPC		ASSET REGISTER	
Capital asset	Value (£)	Comment	
Village sign	£1,469.00	Sign insured for public liability and replacement cost £4000	
Phone box	£1.00	Replacement value £1000	
Salt Box	£67.00	Replacement value £100	
Millennium seat	£485.00	Replacement value £500	
defibrillator	£2,130.00	replacement value£2130	
village notice board	£500.00	replacement value £500	
Total	£4,652.00	total replacement £8230	