

Letheringham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 29th July 2019 at Cherry Tree in Letheringham

In Attendance

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

David Allan (DA) (Clerk)

Public Attendance:

David Holborrow (DH & RH), Jan McNeill (JM), Mike Lloyd (ML) and Malcolm Ross (MR) and Jacqui Fairey (JF)

The Meeting opened at 7.52pm

2019.44 Apologies

Apologies received from Robin Vickery and Maurice Cook.

RV suggested that invitations to attend meetings should be extended to members of other local Parish Councils.

2019.45 Declaration of Interests

None.

2019.46 Approval of Minutes & Matters Arising

Minutes of LPC meeting on 24th June 2019 were approved unanimously and signed by TC

MB referred to the Abbey Farm application relating to a four-unit conversion, and noted that this had been rejected by the Planning Department who raised other issues, and concluded that the proposed works did not constitute a conversion so much as a demolition and rebuilding, and that there had been no, or no sufficient, assessment of the impact of the development.

2019.47 Matters of Report

No up to date Police Reports had been made available.

An email had been received from DE Keeble regarding the replacement of the Sand-box and the proposed contribution of £100 towards the cost of replacement. It was agreed unanimously that an invoice in this sum should be issued for payment in full and final settlement of the replacement costs.

Correspondence had also been received from the Highways Department regarding the proposed stopping up of Botany Farm Road. This had previously been considered and

approved by the LPC in 2016, but the County Council were only now progressing the matter and listing it for hearing and approval before the Magistrates' Court.

It was agreed unanimously that the LPC position remained unchanged and that approval could be re-confirmed, albeit on the basis that the stopping-up had no adverse impact on any public footpath or bridleway.

The issue of the Sizewell C Stage 4 Consultation was also raised, and RG referred to his primary concern regarding parking arrangements in Wickham Market and the need to consider the impact of this and amended village-bypass proposals. TC confirmed that the consultation document would need to be considered, with questions remaining regarding the proposed Theberton Bypass. MB observed that the plan to use the Tank Road outside Wickham appeared to have been abandoned, and that reference had been made to the Public Realm Improvement Scheme. TC encouraged all present to consider the online material in advance of the deadline for responses on the 22nd September 2019.

The Declaration of office following the earlier co-option of MB to the LPC was made and signed by MB.

2019.48 Finances

2019.48.01 Invoices for Payment

None, but two Invoices which had been previously considered and approved, for the Darcy Booms and the SALC Subscription respectively, had now been added to the Financial Report, and a copy of the Invoice from the purchase of the Darcy Booms was provided to TC.

2019.48.02 Money Received

None, save for 13p interest on the Business Saver Account.

2019.48.03 Financial Report

TC presented the Financial Report and Parish Accounts, showing an amended balance of £5,730.34, which were agreed and approved unanimously.

Income was anticipated from the hire of the Darcy Booms to the Butley Priory at the rate of £80 per week, and the VAT from the purchase of these items was to be reclaimed, and their value added to the Asset Register.

2019.48.04 Insurance & Audit

Confirmation was provided that all relevant Audit documents had been submitted. An update regarding insurance renewal options was awaited.

2019.49 Planning Issues

No new applications had been received, and MB had previously identified the refusal in part of the application submitted for Abbey Farm.

There was a general discussion regarding the procedure following any objections to proposals, the impact of the unification of District Councils, and the need to ensure that

District Councillors were closely involved should any future objections to planning applications arise.

2019.50 Deben River Issues

DH confirmed that the Darcy Booms had been purchased and were being stored at his property. He commented that they worked very well, although they were hard to handle when used at full length due to the central section being difficult to control and causing some spillage. It was anticipated that they would work better when limited to four sections.

However, the duckweed was being anchored by the water lilies and this meant that three people were required to use the booms, with one person on each bank and the third in the river. The hardest part of the process was dumping the spoil, and it had been found that suing perforated buckets was the easiest method for getting this onto the banks. DH expressed thanks to Fiona Siddall for allowing the use of the riverside at Easton Farm Park (EFP) for this purpose but observed that it could result in an unsightly mess.

DH observed that the weeds in the river were much higher than in May and referred to Environment Agency comments that the ineffective weed removal in previous years had resulted in increased growth generally.

Fallen trees remained an issue, although all but about 8 feet of the tree from Paul Clarke's land was now about 3 feet below the surface. Further down, a tree from the EFP side was arched over the river but did not cause any obstruction, and it was therefore possible to get a boat down to the Mill Sluice, although there was a large build-up of water lilies to contend with.

MR referred to the tree from EFP land, which was at a 45-degree angle and would eventually fall. JM confirmed that she had raised this with Fiona.

MR referred to a trial with the Booms on the 14th July with a meeting two days later regarding the hire of a boat to cut the weeds and pads. The cost for one day was £912 including VAT, with additional days costing £660. This would require the agreement of landowners, with costs being shared but reduced if spread over two days.

MR commented that the weed below the surface was unbelievably thick, and JF confirmed that this mirrored her experience of regularly clearing the river by the holiday cottages.

MR stated that the EA had endorsed the use of a weed-cutting boat, although TC queried whether doing this in the summer may cause some de-oxygenation when the plants break down in the water.

There was a discussion regarding the potential hiring of a weed-cutter boat, the fact that this could now get past the tree from Paul Clarke's land, and the cost implication for various durations of hire. RG stated that a scheme would need to be implemented in relation to the operation of this and the financial consequences, and Tc stated that any such scheme would need to be agreed between the Riparian landowners. He referred to a review of the legal position conducted by and received from Hillary Slater, which should be circulated to Riparian owners alongside other associated material.

TC stated that specific advice had been received that the clearance of the river and the hiring of any weed-cutting boat was an issue for the relevant landowners and not a matter for the LPC. Consequently, he proposed creating a group of Riparian owners to deal with this issue.

MR confirmed that he would explore the creation of such an entity and approaching relevant residents, but queried the position of individuals refused to get involved given their legal responsibilities. RG queried whether property deeds would include ant provision for this, and TC observed that estimates of cost would need to be calculated before landowners were approached, although JM suggested that preliminary conversations could be conducted about the principle of forming a group and sharing the cost of £1572 for a two-day hire period, with the cost shared equally between individuals as opposed to by reference to length of river frontage.

It was agreed that a letter should be drafted and circulated to Riparian owners regarding this issue and their legal responsibilities in relation to the maintenance of the river.

MF referred to the successful use of his home-made boom, and JB observed that the clearance achieved by using the Darcy Boom was temporary, with any clear water quickly closing up. MR recorded his experience that the river remained 80% clear five days after the clearance on the 14th, but that any progress would remain largely cosmetic until the lily-pads were cleared, which would need to be done from River bend to the Mill. MR endorsed the need for a letter to relevant owners setting out their legal rights and responsibilities, with a provisional booking for the weed-cutter in September subject to responses received.

It was agreed that DA would draft a letter in relation to this, following receipt of a list of relevant owners, albeit that this would not be an official LPC communication.

2019.51 B1078 / SID Signs

MB has canvassed various suppliers and identified a very promising company and product, albeit with units that are not available until the Autumn. MB will progress this and provide an update at the next meeting.


2019.52 Maverick Feedback


RG provide very positive feedback and commented that the event was good for the area generally.

2019.53 Sand-Box replacement Issue

Addressed previously under Matters of Report

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Next Meeting: Scheduled for the 30th September 2019 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall

- Appendices follow:**
A Parish Accounts to 29th July 2019
B: Financial Report to 29th July 2019

Letheringham Parish Accounts

Statement of account as at 29/07/ 2019

COMMUNITY ACCOUNT #50571423

(2019-2020)

	date	Cheque no	debit	credit	total	vat	account statement date
C/F from 2018 2019	07/04/2019				£5,582.66		
SCDC precept	30/04/2019			£600.00	£6,182.66		£6,206.66 12/05/2019
SALC membership fees	13/05/2019	100277	£35.09		£6,147.57		
village hall may	13/05/2019	100276	£24.00		£6,123.57		
Darcy booms	24/06/2019	100278	£661.16		£5,462.41	£110.19	Terence:

BUSINESS SAVER ACCOUNT #50571431

	date	Payments	Receipts/ interest payments	Balance	Bank statement date	statement date
C/F	06/04/2019			£267.80	£267.80	
	12/05/2020			£267.80	£267.80	12/05/2019
	12/06/2019		£0.13	£267.93	£267.93	12/06/2019

Total account balances

date	Community Account	business premium account	Total funds available
29/03/2019	£5,582.66	£267.80	£5,850.46
13/05/2019	£6,182.66	£267.80	£6,450.46
29/07/2019	£5,462.41	£267.93	£5,730.34

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
Darcy Booms	£550.00	replacement value £550
village notice board	£500.00	replacement value £500
Total	£5,202.00	total replacement £8780

Approved Minute Reference: 2019.48.03

Letheringham Parish Council**Financial Report as 29/07/2019****Cheques presented for payment at this meeting**

	date	Cheque	
SALC membership fees	13/05/2019	100277	£35.09
Darcy booms	24/06/2019	100278	£661.16

Income received

	Date	Credit
Interest	12/06/2019	£0.13

Current position before cheques are paid

Community Account £ 6,182.66

Business Premium Account £267. 80

TOTAL £ 6,450.46**Current position after cheques are paid**

Community Account £5,462.41

Business Premium Account £267. 93

TOTAL £5,730.34

expenditure approved minute 2019.48.03 refers
Date 29/07/2019