

LANGFORD BUDVILLE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
MONDAY 8th April 2019

Present

Cllr J. Middleton, Chairperson (JM)
Cllr V. Pitman, Vice-Chairperson (VP)
Cllr D. Faulkner (DF)
Cllr M. Perry (MP)
Cllr R. Poole (RP)

Also in attendance:

Carly Payne (CP)
Zenah Rowe, Footpaths Officer (ZR)

Open discussion on matters affecting the Parish and Agenda

1. **Apologies** – None
2. **Declaration of Interest** – None
3. **Minutes of the last meeting**

JM thanked Vice-Chairperson VP for doing an excellent job in chairing the previous meeting in her absence. The minutes from the last meeting were signed and dated by JM after Councillors agreed that they were correct.

4. **Police Report**

No Police Report. Councillors expect that the recent change of Police Community Support Officer for the Parish has meant that paperwork has not been completed in time for this month's meeting.

5. **Finance & Legal**

- a. Quotes for emptying dog waste bins 2019/2020: Councillors discussed the annual price increase (from £3.42 +VAT for 2018 – 2019 to £5.03 +VAT for 2019 – 2020) for the service once every 2 weeks at 2 locations in Langford Budville. Despite the increase, Councillors agreed that there was little alternative for service providers. Consequently, the quote was accepted.

ACTION: CP to send acceptance slip.

- b. Invoice for grounds maintenance, grass cutting & emptying litter bins 2018/2019: Councillors believe that this is a bill for 2 years of service. The invoice was accepted.

ACTION: CP to send cheque to pay invoice.

- c. Invoice for side panel for the slide and condemned seating removal on Triangle: Councillors accepted to pay Chris Meale for the invoice. However, after the removal of the seating, it became apparent that 6 metal legs had been sunk into concrete. Even though Chris Meale

had used a metal grinder at ground level, 6 pieces of metal still protrude, which are deemed a safety hazard. Consequently, an additional quote to break up the concrete and remove the remaining metal was obtained. The quote is £120 + VAT. Councillors proceeded to discuss the quote and the safety of the site in its current state. The site has been fenced off. MP said that due to it being the children's Easter holiday, there cannot be dangerous metal where children are playing. RP questioned if it is a trip hazard and JM responded that it is. JM and RP agreed that LBPC could be sued should someone trip and fall over the metal. DF has looked at it and thought that, as a short term solution, covering the area with soil would suffice whilst it continues to be fenced off. VP questioned whether it would be cheaper to put another seat on the site. Finally, due to safety concerns in an area where children play, it was decided that, for £120 +VAT, having the concrete and metal removed is worthwhile.

ACTION: CP to accept the quote. Councillors to fill the hole once the concrete has been removed and the area will continue to be fenced off for the time-being.

- d. Invoice for annual hosting and domain renewal: The £80 invoice payable to Marmalade Designs was accepted with DF noting that this price is good value in comparison to fees charged by other service providers.

ACTION: CP to send cheque to pay invoice.

- e. Expense reimbursement for JM - PO delivery charge and TDBC car parking: It was agreed to pay JM £7.70 and cheque was given.
- f. Expense reimbursement for CP – stationery: It was agreed to pay CP £51.94 and cheque was given.
- g. CP as RFO and spinal column point 21 confirmed: Councillors confirmed that CP's monthly salary equates to spinal column point 21 for duties as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, and CP accepted.
- h. Review PC insurance and obtain quotes in preparation for June: Councillors agreed that it would be wise to obtain 3 quotes from Zurich, Came and Co. and the current provider BHIB.

ACTION: CP to obtain quotes to be discussed at May's meeting.

- i. Banking – change of signatures: JM informed the Councillors that it is necessary for the Council to make some changes at the bank. Until now, it has not been possible to remove the late Chairman's name from the account as a signatory. However, JM went on to confirm that the Council now have the necessary documentation from his solicitor to do this. Councillors all agreed to go ahead with the changes. JM then explained that 2 more signatories will need to be added, to which the Councillors agreed and it was decided that DF and JM will be the signatories.

ACTION: VP to send off the necessary forms to the bank. JM to write to the bank regarding these moves (to include signatures from VP and RP to authorise the changes since they are the only 2 existing signatories). VP, RP and JM to sign the minutes for the bank to view.

- j. Banking – authorisation to pay by BACS as well as cheques: Councillors were informed that it will not be possible to pay cheques to 'Somerset West and Taunton Council' (currently TDBC)

from May. Postal orders would incur large charges. Consequently, VP and CP will contact the bank to discuss setting up methods for BACS transfers in the future.

ACTION: CP and VP to organise discussions with the bank.

- k. Election – Thursday 2nd May 2019 – JM informed the Councillors that the Parish Council is uncontested so there is no need for a Parish Council election, which will save a substantial amount of money. Everyone was informed that MP will not stand for the forthcoming election and JM thanked him for all he has done for the Parish in the last 4 years. JM went on to say that parishioners are asked to vote for a Councillor for our Ward on 2nd May when we will become part of the new Milverton District Ward and when the local Council becomes Somerset West and Taunton Council. Cllr Roger Habgood will no longer be our Councillor due to standing for the Monument Ward. Councillors were grateful for the true focus and knowledge that Cllr Habgood has shown and wish him well with the forthcoming election.

ACTION: Advertise for a casual vacancy after May to replace Cllr. MP.

Planning Applications

21/19/0005/LB - Conversion of garden outbuilding into ancillary accommodation at Runnington House, Runnington Lane, Runnington, Wellington.

All applications can be viewed in full at:

<http://www1.tauntondeane.gov.uk/tdbc sites/plan/plapplookup.asp>

Councillors JM, RP and MP visited the site. All Councillors support the application providing that it does not adversely affect the grade II listed building that is in close proximity. RP mentioned that it is a good looking building, which is not overlooking anyone and, similarly, MP sees no problem with supporting the application.

ACTION: CP to send the response in support of the application.

Approvals: None

Refusals: None

6. Footpaths report:

ZR fed back information regarding the paths around Langford Budville but she has not been around Runnington lately. She informed the Council that, in general, the footpaths are muddy and trees have fallen over, which can be expected at this time of year. She mentioned that the paths are particularly difficult at present. MP then discussed a complaint that he had received from a parishioner about the path going down to Bindon Farm, across the meadow and alongside the track, which goes towards the farm. Apparently, dogs cannot get through the side of it. It is possible that the landowner has altered the fence so that dogs cannot get over it. Councillors and ZR discussed the fact that dogs are considered, by some, to be an accessory and therefore they do not need to be given any right of way. It is not necessary by law to make footpaths accessible for dogs, which is upsetting. Councillors then discussed the footpath towards Runnington, which has also been fenced off but technically the Farmer is allowed to do so. Glenn Martin was questioned about this before and confirmed that this was the case. Dog walkers are severely restricted, the Council agreed. VP mentioned that many people are abusing the fields, allowing dogs to roam all over rather than using the paths alone, which gives dog walkers a bad reputation and leads to landowners taking severe measures to fence areas off. This has apparently happened in Wellisford. ZR said that they have dog pedals at Stawley, which work well. Also, the footpath

on Church lane is bad at present since the tarmac is uneven and weeds are growing on the path itself. In addition, dog owners are allowing dogs to foul on the lane without clearing it.

7. Football posts:

DF reported that, at last, the posts are on order with Samba Sports for a total of £547.60. VP and JM have signed the necessary forms to be able to obtain the grant money back from the football foundation – 95% of the £228 (50% of £456.33 ex VAT costs) in the first tranche and the final 5% once the posts have been delivered and installed. JM thought that it would be appropriate to write an official letter of thanks to the F.A. Councillors were pleased to hear that, once delivered, the School will have sole use of the nets for matches and practice and all parishioners will be able to use the posts.

ACTION: CP to write letter of thanks. Councillors are to measure the pitch, once the kit has arrived, and organise the kit for white lines.

8. Litter picks:

The Councillors were grateful that Paul Allway has taken over the coordination of the litter pick between Tone Bridge and the Malt Houses, demonstrating that Runnington are back on board. Praises were given to Langford Budville parishioners as well since approximately 8 people cleared the area on 17th March (3 of whom are Councillors). Councillors also mentioned how thankful they are to those parishioners that consistently clear litter even though they were unable to make the official litter pick.

9. Banks near Primary School:

RP informed Councillors that the owner of the property has asked a contractor, Tom Sellick, to cut the hedges so the issue is in hand. Councillors questioned whether a nearby tree needs to come down at the same time and VP suggested that someone ought to get hold of Tom Sellick as a matter of urgency.

ACTION: RP to speak to Tom Sellick and CP to call him.

10. Hedges by Church:

VP approached the owner of the property and she kindly obliged to cut the hedge to aid visibility for pedestrians and traffic at this location.

11. Repair job of old fencing at Reynolds car park:

Thanks were given to MP and DF for carrying out the necessary work as well as for supplying the wood, which has saved the Parish Council money. MP warned that the work needed in the car park should not be underestimated since it is concreted all over. Therefore the original quotes given for car park repairs, which were seemingly high at the time, may be reasonable after all. Apparently, trees are pushing the fence over and cars have backed into the fence posts. JM said that not enough attention has been paid over the years so proposes that it is necessary to look at the car park as part of the 4 year plan in order to make it smarter.

ACTION: JM to include the maintenance of Reynolds car park in the Parish Council's 4 year plan.

12. Land East of Stancombe Farm appeal:

The Parish Council agreed and sent a response to the inspector in the form of a letter, which was shown to ZR. As a matter of public record, a copy of this letter forms part of the minutes in the appendices.

13. Request to reinstate a Parish Council email information service:

JM explained that the late Parish Council's Chairman had set up an email service to inform parishioners about village hall events since he was also on the Village Hall committee. This then developed into a Parish Council email list to share Village Hall events as well as Parish Council news. However, in the late Chairman's later days, emails were closed down and the mailing list was used as his communication for his health updates. Parishioner Saranne Cessford has asked if the email information service can be reinstated so Councillors discussed the possibility of this happening. Firstly, Councillors questioned who would be willing and able to take the job on considering the time and effort necessary to continually update it. VP felt that the additional workload would be unnecessary since people are already able to come to the monthly Parish Council meeting or they can look on the Parish Council website to obtain the latest news. It was suggested that the Village Hall committee could run a mailing list as a separate thing. It was also mentioned that the Parish's Roundabout magazine already covers the Parish Council news. DF's view was that it would be a nice additional source of information to have but unnecessary considering that there is a lot of information out there already. He felt that there would be too much replication even though he does not believe that data protection would be an issue, when questioned about this subject by JM, since it would be possible to do a 'blind copy'. RP and MP agreed that the village magazine covers the information and has all important points from the Council meeting. JM suggested that most events are advertised around the village anyway and concluded by confirming that the Council are formally saying 'no' to the request to reinstate the email information service.

14. Remaining bags of salt:

JM informed Councillors that she currently has 3 bags of salt in her drive and asked Councillors what they thought that she should do with them. If they are put in the bins open then the Parish Council will be paying for the salt twice when the Council fill the bins in the winter. Therefore, Councillors decided to put the 3 unopened bags in the bins for the time-being and they will then take them out before the Council refill them in the winter.

15. Pot Holes:

VP mentioned the danger of some of the pot holes around the Parish, particularly one in Wellisford, which is on a popular cycle route. Martin Stone has been informed. DF suggested that the location of 2 particular potholes needs to be added to the website for reporting potholes at the web link: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/problems-on-the-road/report-a-pothole-or-road-defect/> and JM suggested that it would be worth putting this information in the Parish magazine so that parishioners are able to report potholes.

ACTION: CP to include the web link in the Parish Council news update for the Roundabout magazine.

Correspondence: None

The next meeting is the Annual Parish meeting, the Annual Parish Council meeting and the May Parish Council meeting. It will be held on 13th May 2019 at the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

All welcome.