



## OLD BASING & LYCHPIT PARISH COUNCIL

### FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>TUESDAY 7 MARCH 2023</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>PAVILION TEA ROOM, OLD BASING</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>7.30 PM</b>
<b>Members Present:</b>	Councillors P Bloyce (Chairman), A Renwick, D Whiter, R Doust, F Maritan, M Hermitage, K Tuck, G Moore, M Campbell, S Grassi, C Butfoy, S Brown
<b>Members Absent:</b>	M Hermitage
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Mrs S Tuck (Clerk); Cllr Onnalee Cubitt Tennis Club representatives

Item No	Item	Action
1.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> No apologies recorded. An email from Cllr Hermitage tendering his apologies due to work issues was not picked up until after the meeting.	
2.	<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES</b> The Minutes of the full Parish Council meeting of 7 February 2023 were received and <b>confirmed as a true record of the business conducted.</b>	
3.	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> There were no declarations of interest.	
4.	<b>REPORTS FROM DISTRICT &amp; COUNTY COUNCILLORS</b> Apologies were received from <b>County Councillor Elaine Still</b> who had submitted a written report covering Coronation Grants, Parish Lengthsman Scheme, Rural Crime Grants and Highways Information relating to potholes. <b>Cllr Tuck</b> reported that the NPPF Consultation had been completed and there is a Green Energy Survey Grant Scheme for community buildings available – MC confirmed this has been explored. <b>Cllr Cubitt</b> joined the meeting late due to other meeting commitments. She congratulated the Parish Council on setting up OBLEC and apologized in advance for being unable to attend the public meeting on 15 April. She reported on the Borough Council's plans for the Lime Pits stating that the the design is disappointing and does not resemble what was discussed with the landscape architect. The Commons Trustees are working with the environment team to increase biodiversity on the Common to include planting to link with Crabtree and the possible introduction of cattle.	

Item No	Item	Action
	<p>Other points mentioned were the announcement about the Thames Water sewage dump in the R. Loddon and a request to report potholes and put pressure on Highways to do something about the state of the roads. Having attended the LCRA meeting Cllr Cubitt said she was pleasantly surprised at the enthusiasm &amp; engagement of those involved and considered it a positive addition to the ward.</p>	
5.	<p><b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION</b></p> <p><b>The Chairman opened this item by stating that, of the 12 registered to attend from the Tennis Club, 3 had elected to address the meeting. He explained that each could speak for 3 minutes followed by Councillors' questions and asked those speaking not to repeat what had already been said by the previous speaker. The first speaker then addressed the meeting:</b></p> <p><b>Club Chairman, Nigel Hatt (NH)</b>, introduced himself stating that since becoming Chairman in Nov 2020 his objective was for the club to prosper long term with evening tennis being important and necessary for the club to evolve. He mentioned the (implied) permission from the Facilities Management Committee in 2021 for floodlights and said the Parish Council's Planning Committee concerns were not considered material by the Borough Council's Planning Department. The addition of floodlights would help the club field more teams and be an advantage to the club and parish, making the club competitive with others and retain members and would minimise the need to travel to other clubs during winter thereby saving carbon emissions and keeping people off the streets. He said deteriorating light during play is dangerous and suggested those walking on the recreation ground would feel safer after dark with floodlights in place. The local pub would also benefit from members visiting after play.</p> <p><b>Councillor queries:</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Butfoy (CB)</b> acknowledged the benefits to the club and said the Council was looking for the benefit to local residents and the wider area, the biggest concern being the effect on the environment. He said most people in this area do not want lighting and asked if the club would compromise on the hours the lights were in use. He also suggested parish resident numbers might be increased by preferential rates, coaching for juniors and other benefits.</p> <p><b>In response NH</b> said after school coaching would benefit from floodlights and this would also encourage local residents. The Club's target for this year is to try to develop coaching with Basing schools - there is no intention to speak to schools outside the parish.</p> <p><b>Cllr Maritan (FM)</b> asked what has prevented developing the program over the last 40 years.</p> <p><b>In response NH</b> said this was the way the club is evolving - recruiting its first coach in 2021 it now has 2 in-house coaches - which was not sustainable prior to this as membership levels were low in 2018/19 but these have more than doubled since COVID. The club is always trying to promote membership with open days, advertising and fun days etc.</p> <p><b>Club President, Mike Sant (MS)</b> commented on the Clerk's report as one-sided with the recommendation giving little option and that it should have been written 2 years ago as the only thing that has changed since Sept 2021 is the Borough Council's Planning permission for the club to install lights. He queried why this should result in a paper that is so opposed. He disputed other clubs</p>	

Item No	Item	Action
	<p>would “jump on the bandwagon” and gave examples of clubs where lighting is not a problem, saying the recreation ground should be a hive of activity.</p> <p><b>Cllr Brown (SB)</b> queried the direction of light from the floodlights.</p> <p><b>Club Treasurer, Jane Reap (JR)</b>, explained these are more modern LED lights with a very specific target area which are louvred to prevent light spillage.</p> <p><b>FM</b> raised the issue of ongoing maintenance, insurance etc. and removal if the club moved on. This was confirmed as the club’s responsibility.</p> <p><b>NH</b> said the Lease currently being drafted specifies the land should be restored.</p> <p><b>Del Salter (DS)</b> then introduced himself outlining his history in the village and benefit from the recreation facilities. He stressed the need to upgrade the facilities as the club faced new challenges such as an ageing membership and lack of young members and emphasised the health benefits of sport. He did not consider the intermittent use of lights would have a negative effect and asked the Council to reconsider its objection, asking whether it would prefer to have 4 derelict courts and clubhouse or a thriving club.</p> <p><b>The public session was then closed and the Chairman said a decision would be taken at item 10.1 on the Agenda.</b></p>	
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>CHAIRMAN’S COMMUNICATIONS</b></p> <p>The Chairman reported on a third instance of joy-riders at the front of the recreation ground when, on this latest occasion, they had continued on to the cricket pitch at the rear. A quote from Larkstel for the purchase and installation of fixed bollards (2 retractable for tractor access) along the driveway was noted and the Clerk requested that, due to the lead time in these being made to order a decision is needed now to prevent further damage prior to the cricket season and recommended similar bollards are installed at the rear of the recreation ground at an approximate additional cost of £500.00. The Clerk confirmed there is budget to enable the work to go ahead at a total cost inclusive of the additional bollards of £3295 + VAT and said that, if agreed, the decision will be ratified at the April meeting – <b>all voted in favour.</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Cubitt joined the meeting at this point.</b></p>	
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>MATTERS RELATING TO FINANCE</b></p> <p><b>7.1.</b> The Invoice Log detailing the previous month’s invoices, petty cash expenditure, salary costs &amp; bank balances were <b>received and agreed</b></p> <p><b>7.2.</b> The Financial Risk Assessment for 2022/23 agreed and signed by the Internal Auditor was <b>received and ratified.</b></p> <p><b>7.3.</b> The CIL return agreed by the Finance &amp; Resources Committee for the year ending 31 March 2023 was <b>agreed for submission to the Borough Council.</b></p>	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</b></p> <p>No items.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Challenge to 2020/21 Accounts</b> – copy of letter to resident received stating the EA does NOT uphold the objection. Email from the EA received today confirming the decision.</li> <li>• <b>D of E Oak</b> – new Tree Officer appointed – need to re-start process.</li> <li>• New Unity Trust Bank Account – application submitted.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Close</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Ongoing</b></p>

Item No	Item	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rural England Prosperity Fund</b> – Clerk still to investigate. No progress.</li> </ul>	<b>Clerk</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cottage Drainage Leak</b> – work started today.</li> </ul>	<b>Close</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Use of Community Payback Scheme to decorate changing rooms</b> – work in progress.</li> </ul>	<b>Ongoing</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bake Shop Parking</b> – County Councillor contacted re yellow lines. Update received from owner on long-term plans.</li> </ul>	<b>Ongoing</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bank Account Signatories</b> – Barclays signatories submitted.</li> </ul>	<b>Close</b>

## 10. MISCELLANEOUS

### 10.1 The Tennis Club's application for floodlighting rejected by the Parish Council's Planning Committee had been approved by the Borough Council. The Planning Committee has therefore referred this to full Council (as the landowner) for a decision. Item 5 of these Minutes details the discussion between Club representatives and Councillors.

A vote was taken as to whether the Council, as the landowner, should uphold or overturn the decision of the Planning Committee on the installation of floodlights.

The Chairman acknowledged the Facilities Management Committee agreement in principle in November 2021 had unfortunately caused a misunderstanding. He said Councillors now needed to determine whether there is sufficient benefit to the parish and to the Council to overturn the Planning Committee objection. He appreciated the club has countered some objections but stressed the need to consider the parish as a whole. **Cllr Whiter (DW)** said all wanted to see the club prosper but mentioned recent parking problems in the parish caused by the success of the bakehouse and was concerned that an increase in tennis could cause similar problems in summer when parking is already stretched due to cricket and archery.

He also said the parish is starting a carbon reduction scheme on its properties and it would be inappropriate or wrong to increase electricity use for a marginal gain.

**Cllr Brown (SB)** commented as Chair of facilities that the vote had been 5:2 in favour and the lights may be a reasonable facility if properly managed. He did not think the club would die without them but said this needed to be a Council decision as the club is within the conservation area.

**Cllr Renwick (AR)** referred to the Clerk's note stating he completely agrees with MS that it is biased against the club. He did not agree with the Planning Committee, is in favour of the floodlights and is convinced they would enhance membership. He commented that there were those around the table who were unaware of the work with the club to help it become independent and to repair a poor relationship between club and Council over the last 10 years and said the current situation takes the Council back to this. He suggested further discussion with the Club given the Borough Council has given permission and recommended appointing members to do this. CB agreed this was an opportunity for the club to offer a compromise. AR concluded by saying he did not agree that this is about the Parish but that it is about the club.

**Cllr Moore (GM)** did not feel those in Lychpit have a legitimate reason to vote.

Item No	Item	Action
	<p><b>Cllr Tuck (KT)</b> thanked those attending and said whilst she is keen to encourage sports she feels 8 x 10m columns is urbanising and will impact the semi-rural character. The appeal of the village is a lack of yellow lines &amp; lighting and said dark sky areas are important. She also expressed disappointment that half of respondents supporting the application did not live within the parish and that the Council must represent its 7500 residents with the recreation ground being for the enjoyment of all. In her view the harm outweighs the benefit of gaining just 20 more members.</p> <p><b>Cllr Campbell (MC)</b> said this was a finely balanced argument and agreed with AR that tonight should not be the end of the conversation as there may be a way of supporting the project.</p> <p><b>FM</b> also agreed that AR's suggestion was a good one and that a discussion on risk mitigation on behalf of the village to consider all the consequences would be a good exercise.</p> <p><b>Cllr Bloyce (PB)</b> said the Council is currently going through the Local Plan &amp; Neighbourhood Plan review, concentrating on landscape and the Loddon Valley. He said the Landscape Officer was not in favour of the floodlights and that, as the Landowner, the Council should make the decision. He also referred to the OBLEC campaign and due to these factors it would be bad timing for the application to be given the go-ahead now as the Council would be seen to be undermining its own arguments. He suggested this could be considered at a future date and recommended a <b>NO</b> decision with a review once the outcome of the Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan is known.</p> <p><b>AR</b> said he was not convinced agreeing floodlights would spoil the OBLEC campaign but would like to see a reduced less intensive lighting arrangement. He did not agree with 10 metre posts and a 10 pm curfew and would not vote for anything after 8pm commenting that there was a need to draw the line somewhere.</p> <p><b>PB</b> disputed this commenting that developers would take advantage.</p> <p><b>DW</b> reminded everyone that the Council had already rejected lighting columns in the car park when these were requested by the Beddington Centre.</p> <p><b>PB</b> proposed upholding the decision of the Planning Committee – proposal seconded by Cllr Doust. <b>A vote was taken with 6 further votes in support of the proposal, 2 against and 1 abstention.</b></p> <p><b>10.2</b> Cllr Renwick updated Councillors on progress with the Old Basing &amp; Lychpit Environmental Campaign (OBLEC) and will email his report to the Clerk. Cllr Campbell said OBLEC would not be happening without the efforts of Cllr Renwick – all offered thanks and appreciation.</p> <p><b>10.3</b> The Clerk suggested the Parish Council should appoint a representative for the newly formed Lychpit Community Association (LCRA) if the association agrees. Cllr Grassi volunteered.</p>	
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES</b></p> <p><b>11.1</b> OB Village Hall (GM) – report circulated.</p> <p><b>11.2</b> Beddington Centre (AR) – no report.</p> <p><b>11.3</b> Basinga (GM) – no report.</p> <p><b>11.4</b> BDAPTC (PB) – no report.</p>	

Item No	Item	Action
	<p><b>11.6</b> Transport (RD) – there is a conflict of interest with Stagecoach in Lychpit when the No. 14 and 55 buses both arrive at the same time. The No. 10 runs through the parish too late for workers to get to work. RD to liaise with Cllr Tuck who will follow up on requirements for increased capacity.</p> <p><b>11.6</b> Carnival (GM) – report circulated.</p> <p><b>11.7</b> Footpaths &amp; Rights of Way (RD) – grass/hedgecutting equipment now supplied and in use by GM &amp; SG.</p> <p><b>11.8</b> Speedwatch (PB) – the gun has been returned - PB will put forward a case to support purchasing one for the parish. KT mentioned the county scheme for portable speed signs and SG said the LCRA may be interested in helping with Speedwatch.</p> <p><b>The Chairman invited Cllr Cubitt to speak – see Item 4 for details.</b></p>	<b>RD/KT</b>
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>MATTERS RELATING TO COMMITTEES</b></p> <p><b>12.1</b> The Minutes of following meetings were <b>received</b>:            Planning &amp; Development Committee Meeting – 14 February.            Planning &amp; Development Committee Meeting – 28 February (draft Minutes).            Finance &amp; Resources Committee Meeting – 21 February (draft Minutes).</p>	
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS</b></p> <p>No items.</p>	
<p><b>There were no other matters for discussion and the meeting closed at 20.50</b></p>		

SIGNED:..... (Chairman)

DATED: .....