



OLD BASING & LYCHPIT PARISH COUNCIL

FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

Meeting Date:	TUESDAY 6th JUNE 2023
Location:	PARISH OFFICE, OLD BASING
Time:	7.30 PM
Members Present:	Councillors P Bloyce (Chairman), A Renwick, R Doust, K Tuck, G Moore, S Grassi, S Brown, C Butfoy, F Maritan, M Hermitage
Members Absent:	Cllrs D Whiter & M Campbell
In Attendance:	Mrs S Tuck (Clerk); 8 members of OBTC

Item No	Item	Action
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies received from Cllr Whiter who is on holiday and Cllr Campbell who has a medical emergency at home.	
2.	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council and Ordinary Parish Council Meetings held on Tuesday 16 th May were received. Cllr Butfoy requested the Minutes were changed to confirm PC support for the Intec initiative but not changes to the speed limit unless a consultation ascertained this was what all residents wanted. The Minutes were changed to reflect the above and then confirmed as a true record of the business conducted.	
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.	
4.	REPORTS FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS Cllr Elaine Still sent apologies but confirmed in her email that the proposed Milkingpen Lane footpath has been put forward as a scheme for consideration in the work programme over the next financial year. She stressed this is not a firm commitment and is subject to a review and she will continue to monitor progress. White lines at Lychnpit Centre car park re-painted. Her detailed written report will be circulated to Councillors after the meeting.	Clerk
5.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION The Chairman invited those members of the public present to address the meeting. Mrs Heather Mountford, a long-standing resident and member of the Tennis Club addressed the meeting about her official complaint. She acknowledged the hard work of councillors and staff but said that members of the Tennis Club had also spent a lot of time on the floodlights project and asked why the Council was	

Item No	Item	Action
	<p>not listening to members of the public. Mrs Mountford suggested a Public Consultation is good practice with a 6 – 12 week timespan needed for this to be effective and asked the PC to agree to a consultation before the next meeting.</p> <p>Jane Reap, the Club Treasurer, supported the previous comments and asked the Clerk why emails submitted via the website had not been included in those presented to the meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk said she was unaware of any emails via this source and would investigate.</p>	Clerk
6.	<p>CHAIRMAN’S COMMUNICATIONS</p> <p>No items.</p>	
7.	<p>MATTERS RELATING TO FINANCE</p> <p>7.1. The Invoice Log detailing the previous month’s invoices, petty cash expenditure, salary costs & bank balances were received and agreed</p> <p>7.2. A revised quote from Peter Dorrell Flooring for repairs and refurbishment of the Lychpit Hall flooring following a survey of the damage caused by the leaking manifold was agreed.</p>	
8.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</p> <p>8.1 A letter from the Chair of the Village Show requesting confirmation that the Parish Council is aware of and will abide by an agreement that if the Village Show is wound up it will hold all cups and trophies in trust pending the setting up of a new Village Show was received. Councillors were not aware of the agreement but confirmed that the Parish Council will abide by this. Clerk to confirm to Village Show.</p> <p>8.2 Correspondence and other information relating to the Tennis Club floodlights application was received as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="376 1234 1235 2011">i. Letter of Complaint and follow-up emails from Mrs Heather Mountford who addressed the meeting (Item 5). Cllr Renwick supported the complaint which he said should be upheld. He cited 2 mis-steps by the Council, the first which was commented on by the Club President, Mike Sant, that the Clerk’s paper presented the March meeting was biased and that such reports are usually more even-handed. The second aspect is that the Club has acted in good faith having felt it had the go ahead in principle for the lighting proposal. This will cost the Club between £5-6k if the proposal does not proceed, part of which will be a consequence of cancelling the contract. The Club believed the PC gave the nod of approval and that the requirement for planning approval pointed out by the PC Chairman was just a tick box exercise. Cllr Butfoy said he believes all parties acted in good faith and expressed his upset at some of the emails received where the sender had not fully understood the situation. Cllr Renwick did not agree stating that the only other person aware of full history of negotiations with the Club is Cllr Brown. Cllr Brown said he understood the point was about number of emails and letters that had been circulating. A public consultation is another matter and cannot be proposed at this stage. 	Clerk

Item No	Item	Action
	<p>Cllr Bloyce also agreed that the number of emails and letters, particularly from outside the Parish, were not helping the Club. Cllr Doust strongly objected to his name being dragged through the mud (articles referred to in 8.2(iv) due to his voluntary work with another club in the borough. He said that a decision was made in good faith and the Parish Council is a democratic organisation consisting of Councillors appointed by ballot. The matter has been discussed fully by the Council and a decision made which cannot now be revisited for 6 months.</p> <p>Cllr Maritan commented that she would like her family and home left out of this discussion. She said that out of 83 letters in response to the planning application 53 were from outside Parish – some as far afield as Northampton and requested this is recorded. She said that the Council’s current objective to ensure it has a Neighbourhood Plan in place to protect the environment. Over 200 people attended the recent OBLEC meeting which focused on preserving the rural nature of the village, thereby demonstrating their commitment to this.</p> <p>She felt the way the Club has handled the situation with personal slurs in the Gazette and naming individual Councillors on Facebook was inappropriate. She went on to query what options there are to ensure the Club remains an accessible asset to the community if a satisfactory solution is not reached.</p> <p>Cllr Tuck supported the above comments suggesting it is very unfortunate that the Club has not understood the way planning operates and that the NPPF meant that planning decisions within the borough are not always in line with those of the Parish Council.</p> <p>Cllr Bloyce and said that there is no appetite amongst Councillors to revisit decision of the March meeting before the Autumn. He said that an informal meeting will place next week between 2 Councillors, the Clerk and the Chairman & Treasurer of the Club to clarify the position but that no decisions will be made at that meeting. He then thanked all for attending and those present with the exception of one person left the meeting.</p> <p>ii. Emails and information in support of and against the floodlights. All were noted.</p> <p>iii. Social media posts. All were noted.</p> <p>iv. Articles and letters published in the Basingstoke Gazette. All were noted.</p>	
9.	<p>MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural England Prosperity Fund – No progress but Clerks continue to monitor possible grant funding opportunities. FM suggested contact with BVA. • Bake Shop Parking – County Councillor contacted re yellow lines. Refuse at the site now causing a problem. No progress. <p>Tennis Club Lease – final draft & side letter with Club’s solicitors.</p> <p>CLPM Survey – Action Plan agreed and being progressed. No further action pending Cllr Whiter’s return from holiday.</p> <p>AGR – completed.</p>	<p>Remove</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Close</p>

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10. MISCELLANEOUS

10.1 Councillors were asked to agree taking a stand at the Carnival on 17 June to provide a Parish Council presence. In addition to the Clerk, volunteers were asked to email her if they are able to assist.

10.2 The following Policies & Procedures had been reviewed and were agreed:

- Local Government Pensions Scheme Discretions Statement
- Publication Scheme
- Document Retention Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Equality & Diversity Policy
- Biodiversity Policy (new)
- Dark Skies Policy (new)
- Community Engagement Policy
- Press & Public Reporting at meetings Protocol
- Speedwatch Policy

Cllr Maritan queried records retention period for receipts & payments – **Clerk to check.**

Clerk

Cllr Bloyce referred to the summary sheet outlining any changes to existing policies and asked Councillors to agree these prior to discussing the new policies. **All agreed.**

Dark Skies Policy – this had been prepared by the Deputy Clerk in line with government policy and the CPRE initiative to encourage dark skies. The document was considered too lengthy and after discussion it was agreed that the first 3 paragraphs plus the 3 legislation notes should form the Policy and the additional information should form a separate “Guidance Notes” paper. Cllr Renwick objected to the Policy stating that he had lived in the Conservation Area for 40 years without the need for this and queried why it was necessary now.

Cllr Maritan said it had resulted from a list of policies she had compiled for the Neighbourhood Plan to strengthen its position with regard to overdevelopment.

Biodiversity Policy – this is now a statutory requirement to support biodiversity.

Both new policies were agreed subject to the suggested amendment to the Dark Skies Policy.

Other policies still to be reviewed will be presented to the next meeting.

11. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

11.1 OB Village Hall (GM) – no report.

11.2 Beddington Centre (AR) – no report.

11.3 Basinga (GM) – no report.

11.4 BDAPTC (PB/MC) – no report.

11.5 Transport (RD) – no report. Cllr Maritan queried what buses operate in the parish. These are the Community Bus – 55 (Tesco/Town/M&S) – hourly service. 14 – Tadley, Sherborne St John, Chineham, Lychpit, Basingstoke, 10 starts in town – Old Basing – town (2 hourly). Cllr Tuck is expecting a briefing on transport and asked for any queries to raise. RD said the missing link is route 7 to be routed along Binfields road instead of Wade

Item No	Item	Action
	Road during the daytime. He has had no reply from Stage Coach in response to his formal request.	
	11.6 Carnival (GM) – preparations for 17 June all under way.	
	11.7 Footpaths & Rights of Way (RD) – Footpath 19 (Bexmoor) now nettle free – GM/SG will continue to cut these back.	
	11.8 Speedwatch (PB) – police slow to carry out checks on new volunteers – no outings scheduled for June due to lack of volunteers. Chineham has similar problems. CB volunteered to help – PB to arrange police checks.	PB
	11.9 Lychpit Community Residents Association (LCRA) – meeting postponed – another meeting in August. The “friends of” quiz night was very successful. Other events in the planning stage.	
12.	MATTERS RELATING TO COMMITTEES	
	12.1 The Minutes of following meetings were received : Planning & Development Committee Meeting – 23 May (draft Minutes)	
	12.2 Cllr Whiter’s request to join the Finance & Resources Committee was agreed . It was noted that he intends to continue his work with the climate challenge and Neighbourhood Plan review.	
13.	CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS	
	No items.	
There were no other matters for discussion and the meeting closed at 20.38.		

SIGNED:..... (Chairman)

DATED: