

Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council

(Ordinary Meeting 11th February 2015)



Present: Councillors Mr P Lilleker (Vice-Chairperson), Mr. P Shackley, Mrs J Leaning, Mr K Evason, Mrs J Robinson, Mr S Johnson and Martin Gourley (Parish Clerk). In attendance: Ann Mitchell, LVHMC Chairperson; Mr. R Thrower & Mr. Greg Price, Laughton residents and R. Sheen, M. Thompson, J. Green & G Gibson. St. John's Road Allotments Committee. Apologies: Mr T Stanway (Chairperson),

122. Open Forum for Parishioners in Attendance

i) At the meeting held in December 2014 Mrs French, a resident of Laughton, requested the PC's support in attempting to get an improved bus service between Rotherham District General Hospital/Thomas Rotherham College and Laughton en le Morthen. It was agreed that the Clerk should send a letter of support to SYPTE. The Clerk has now received a response from SYPTE stating that the number 19 services are run on a commercial basis and that the number 20 service is subsidised but no additional funding is available to increase the service. SYPTE suggested a route using connecting bus services and said that through ticketing is now available.

The Clerk has given a copy of SYPTE's response to Mrs French and has received a letter of thanks from her.

Resolved: No further action is required.

ii) Representatives of the Allotment Society Committee said that tenants were becoming hostile towards the Committee due to the PC's decision to enforce the ruling about unauthorised buildings and the proposed changes to the tenancy rules. The committee asked the PC to attend the Allotment Society's AGM, on a date to be decided, to confirm that the PC are enforcing the changes and that any issues arising should be addressed to the PC.

Additionally, some specific questions were asked:

Can metal roofs be replaced with another metal roof?

Can caravans remain until all other metal structures have been removed?

Would the PC check every plot for metal structures?

Ms Thompson advised the PC that she confirms each year to the Society's insurance company that the tracks are in reasonable repair.

Resolved: After discussion the PC decided that a date after the next PC meeting would be agreed with the Allotment Society to attend their AGM.

123. Minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2015

Resolved: The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

124. Declaration of Prejudicial & Pecuniary Interests

None.

125. Matters Arising from the Minutes

i) Councillors have previously agreed that Neil Wylde, arborist, should be asked to provide a quote for felling the ash tree on the boundary of the recreational ground and properties on

Longthwaite Close. Mr. Wylde has not quoted for the work but a quote has been obtained from Anderson Tree Care and the minimum cost would be £750 + vat.

Resolved: The work would cost £750 + vat.

126. Parishioner's Written Requests

None received

127. Items under Review

A) Use of Recreation Ground

The play equipment was last inspected by RMBC on 27th January.

Findings:

- a) Low risk. Some areas of bark a little low.
- b) Low risk. Zip wire – new bush required.
- c) Low risk. Basket swing - some chain wear (Monitor for any further deterioration and replace when 40% worn)
- d) Moderate risk. Multi-play (junior) – rope end ball detached from socket.

The Clerk has requested Mr. Kenny, RMBC, to source the spare parts needed to repair item b. The PC has reconnected the rope end ball & socket but wear is evident. The Clerk has asked Mr Kenny to supply and fit a new ball &/or socket.

Any Kompan specific parts required in the future will be purchased by the PC directly from Kompan and RMBC will be asked to fit them. Mr Kenny has supplied a Kompan catalogue and offered to provide any advice required.

Resolved: The Clerk will liaise with Stewart Kenny, RMBC regarding existing and future repairs.

B) St John's Road Allotments

(i) Lease arrangements with St Leger Estates (via Savills)

The PC has still not received the new lease. The Clerk has sent a polite letter to Saville's requesting the new lease. **Resolved: Awaiting new lease.**

ii) The asbestos store is becoming full. The Clerk has obtained a quote from C. H. Middleton of Doncaster who will charge £250 per load + £280 per tonne (minimum £112/400Kg) for disposal and £56 for the consignment note/administration. The Clerk will agree a collection date and ask the Allotment Society to ensure that all known asbestos is brought to the store ready for collection.

Resolved: The Clerk will agree a collection date with contractors and request the Allotment Society to clear any outstanding asbestos for plots prior to the agreed collection date.

iii) Mr. M West, plots 80-87, demolished several unauthorised buildings but some remain.

There is no sign of work being carried out towards cultivating 50% of each plot. He has until 31st March 2015 to complete the remedial work.

Resolved: The Clerk monitors Mr. West's progress.

C) RVS Area Assembly & Parishes Meeting

Nothing discussed.

D) Weed spraying (including Japanese knotweed on recreation ground)

Monitoring continues. No action required at the moment. Councillor B said that RMBC are now cutting the area of grass between the bus stop on School Road and the public footpath (to St Johns' Church). This area should be included in any future spraying.

E) Village Associations

Brookhouse: Councillor A will remind the village association to confirm if they require (and can store safely) sandbags to prevent flooding. The deadline set by RMBC for ordering is February 28th.

Slade Hooton: Nothing discussed

Carr: Nothing discussed.

F) Streetpride

Dog fouling and Fly Tipping in the Parish.

In January Mr. Coates, RMBC, was due to apply No Dog Fouling signage/stencilling to footpaths in Laughton but the work was postponed due to heavy snowfall.

Resolved: Mr Coates, RMBC, installs the signage and stencils pavements.

G) Website design and quotation

i) The Clerk awaits a formal quotation (£300 – 350) from Northern Peak to provide the PC with “write access” to the entire website before requesting the work to be done.

Resolved: The Clerk awaits receipt of the formal quotation and contract.

ii) The PC's address on the website has been changed to the Village Hall. Concern has been raised about the possible danger posed from having an open letterbox at the Village Hall, due to its secluded location. At the meeting in November the Clerk was asked to arrange for correspondence to be re-directed to his home.

Royal Mail requires ID in the form of bank statement/utility bills delivered to the Village Hall before they will re-direct mail.

Resolved: To be discussed at the next meeting.

iii) The idea of placing Councillors' CV's on the PC website received a negative response. It was therefore proposed by Councillor X and seconded by Councillor B that CV's should not be put on the website. All agreed.

Resolved: No further action required.

H) Parking Issues at All Saints' School

At the PC Meeting held in June 2013 a parishioner raised concerns about the ongoing problems caused by parents parking outside the Church School, High Street, Laughton. Since then attempts to meet with school staff failed until April 2014 when the Clerk met with the Head Teacher who agreed to carry out certain actions. The actions were never carried out.

On 5th January 2015 a meeting took place and the following actions were agreed:

1. RMBC (Marc Hill) will provide the school with a free bicycle shed. ONGOING
2. RMBC (Martin Beard) will provide manpower for a week long high visibility campaign to publicise/enforce the zig zag area and dropped pavement parking regulations. He said that a similar campaign at another school had had good and lasting results (and penalty tickets have been issued). COMPLETED
3. Laughton PC offered to fund a set of “no waiting” cones to secure parking space for returning minibuses/coaches hired by the school. COMPLETED (3 cones have been supplied f.o.c.)

4. RMBC will fabricate a “no parking” sign designed by All Saints’ school children. ONGOING
5. The school (Mrs Morely) will canvass parents about the feasibility of using the Village Hall car park, or other suitable place, and operating a walking bus to school. ONGOING
6. Laughton PC (Councillor Y) suggested including a piece about considerate/lawful parking in the school’s prospectus/ induction pack. ONGOING
7. RMBC (Marc Hill) will supply the wording regarding parking regulations for use in school/LPC newsletters etc. (and included in the latest school newsletter). COMPLETED
8. Laughton PC (Clerk) will contact local undertakers and ask them to avoid organising funerals at All Saints’ Church when children are leaving school. COMPLETED
9. The Police Community Support Officer was unable to attend the meeting but later said that he would patrol the area. ONGOING

No further meeting was arranged but the Clerk to the Parish Council agreed to co-ordinate the responses to the agreed actions and request another meeting if required.

J) Newsletter Distribution

The next newsletter is due to be distributed in April 2015.

K) Risk Assessment Review

Ann Mitchell has arranged for the VH risk assessor to attend during the first week of March.

Resolved: The Risk Assessor will attend in March.

128. Police in the Community

No report received.

a. Car park & recreation ground improvements

i. Dog fouling continues on the car park, recreation area and football fields. Please see item 127F above.

ii. Car Park Barrier: Councillor Y has not yet received a quote from Mr. D. Redford for the erection of a barrier (rather than a gate for safety reasons) at the entrance to the car park to prevent antisocial behaviour during the night. Councillor B has now obtained three quotations:

- 1) Electrogate Limited (Jack Webster): £3335 + VAT, to supply and fit an Automatic Barrier plus a further £1800 + VAT for optional work of supplying and installing Fencing.
- 2) Expert Security UK (Danny Scholfield): £5,843 + VAT, to supply and fit Security Barrier & Access System plus optional Warning Signs (£65) and Instruction Signs (£95).
- 3) Newgate Secured Access Solutions (Mark Watson): Supply only £3,448, Installation £1030, Associated Civil Works £3020 = £7,498 + VAT. A price list of 10 optional accessories was also included.

Each quotation offers a different solution.

Resolved: Councillors Y and Johnson will use the three quotations to produce a statement of requirements so that each company can bid for the same design.

b. LVHMC Treasurer

i) It was agreed last month that Mrs. Mitchell should obtain a combined PRS & PPL license at a cost of £72.60 inc vat. The license has been obtained and the PC has refunded the LVHMC

Resolved: The license has been purchased and the invoice paid.

ii) The Clerk agreed to ask the editor of the All Saints' Church Parish Magazine to inform readers that details of events in the VH can be viewed on the News & Events page of the PC's website.

Resolved: The Clerk has requested that the PC website advertised in the church parish magazine.

iii) Ann Mitchell has received an invitation from British Gas to pay £649 for servicing the central heating boiler and cooker in 2015. The contract has been paid by the VHMC in previous years. As the boiler and cooker were newly installed last year BG had no work to do in 2014 and the boiler is covered by a 10 year parts warranty. During discussion it was said that Bancroft Heating charge £65 for an annual boiler service and Brookhouse Gas Services charge £12 month for an insurance backed maintenance contract including an annual service certificate. Councillor X proposed that the Clerk contacts the two suppliers and obtains the best deal to cover both the boiler and cooker. Seconded by Councillor D. All agreed.

Resolved: The Clerk terminates the agreement with BG and obtains a service contract from Bancroft Heating or Brookhouse Gas Services.

iv) Simon McDonald has resigned from the post of Treasurer and Peter Kenny has agreed to fill the post until a permanent treasurer can be found. Simon has agreed to complete the y/e accounts to 31st December and provide a set of accounts until the handover date. The Clerk was asked to speak to Simon to ensure a smooth handover.

Resolved: The Clerk speaks to Mr McDonald.

v) Ann Mitchell said that it had been suggested that a dishwasher be installed in the VH kitchen and that Sam Brooks, LVHMC Secretary, was looking for the most suitable machine that had a quick wash cycle. Councillor Z proposed that the PC purchase a machine. Seconded by Councillor A and all agreed.

Resolved: Awaiting feedback from Sam Brooks.

c. Village Hall Security

i) The installation of additional CCTV cameras and lighting has been completed. Central Electrical are waiting for the field to dry before taking the cherry picker onto the grass to service the car park lighting.

Resolved: The contractor will return to service the car park lighting.

ii) A specification for the upgrade and refurbishment of the CCTV has been drawn up by Councillor Y and quotations have been received from Central Electrical. It is suggested that the PC have Central Electrical and Riber's solutions demonstrated before awarding the contract.

Resolved: The Clerk asks Central Electrical and Riber to demonstrate their systems at the next two PC meetings.

d. Review of Village Hall Constitution

i) The VH constitution makes provision for subsidised hire rates for low income or minority groups but it is incumbent of the group to provide audited annual accounts to verify their financial position. The PC is no longer receiving the accounts. The Clerk has written to the Karate and Bowling Clubs and requested copies of their accounts.

a) David Bilson, the secretary of the Karate Club, has now supplied independently audited accounts showing that the club is running at a loss and is dependent upon the good will of instructors who subsidise the club's activities.

b) The Bowling Club has requested Councillor Y to audit their accounts and he has agreed to do so.

Resolved: a) The PC accepted the accounts presented by the Karate Club b) Councillor Y is currently auditing the Bowling Club accounts.

e. Defibrillator

Yorkshire Ambulance Service has offered to provide a defibrillator familiarisation course. The proposed course in December was cancelled due to the production and distribution of the newsletter being delayed.

The Clerk has asked for the defibrillator to be included on the PC's insurance policy but is still waiting for a reply.

Resolved: a) The Clerk sets up and advertises the familiarisation course in the spring newsletter. b) The Clerk has the defibrillator and cabinet included on the insurance policy.

f. Internal Lighting

Ann Mitchell reported that a lighting unit is completely dead and that several lamps are out in other units. She asked if she could ask a contractor to repair them. It was agreed that Councillor Y's advice should be sought when he returns from holiday as the dead unit may simply need a supply reconnecting.

Resolved: Councillor Y gives advice.

129. Environmental Issues

a) Brookhouse Dyke

Nothing exceptional to report.

b) Thurcroft Landfill

Nothing discussed.

130. Finance Report

a. Income Received and Accounts for Payment:

Debtor	Description	Amount
Santander	Bank interest	£7.01
Creditor	Description	Amount
HMCR	PAYE Tax	£244.60
All Saints' Church	Grant - All Saints' Church	£500.00
JP Solutions	Exit light servicing	£174.00
PRS	Music license	£72.60
RMBC	Grounds Mtce	£185.08
Community First	LPC Insurance	£1017.80
Clerk	Salary	£197.14
Savills	Allotment ground rent	£225.00

b. The Clerk has received information about possible grants from “YORbuild 4 Good Fund” (up to £5,000 for community projects across Yorkshire and the Humber)

Resolved: The PC should consider the fund when financing projects.

c. The Clerk has applied for a grant of £2536 and a precept of £21,189 for 2015/16 (total £23725). This was achieved because the number of band D equivalent properties in the parish has increased by 6.81 and the 2% increase has been applied to the band D rate, rather than the precept received in 2014/15. RMBC has acknowledged receipt of the application.

e. The Clerk has submitted a claim for a VAT refund of £1489.51 for the year ending 30th November 2014.

f. All Saints’ Church School – Children’s request for funding for library books & parking cones.

It was agreed last month that the PC makes a grant of £1200 (including vat) to the school for the purchase of picnic benches and a plastic roof for the quiet corner, new outdoor play equipment and some new library books and that the Clerk should price up no parking cones. The Clerk has advised Mrs. Morley, Head Teacher, and awaits a response.

No Parking Cones cost about £30 each but the Clerk has arranged for three used cones to be donated to the school.

Resolved: The Clerk will liaise with Mrs. Morley about the purchase of the equipment and books.

131. Planning Applications

a) RB2014/1691 Mr M Jenkinson East Farm Carr Lane Carr

Application to vary condition 02 (approved plans) imposed by RB2013/1471

b) RB2015/0126 Single storey front extension at 15 School Road Laughton-en-le-Morthen

The applications were considered by Councillors and no objections were raised.

132. Consultation Documents

Circulated via email:

a. 16/01/15 YLCA PLAIN ENGLISH GUIDE TO THE PLANNING SYSTEM

b. 16/01/15 YLCA White Rose Update

c. 19/01/15 RSN Weekly Email News Digest

d. 19/01/15 PSE eNewsletter

e. 20/01/15 RMBC Snow Report

f. 20/01/15 RMBC Dream Project

g. 20/01/15 RSN Fuel Poverty

h. 21/01/15 RMBC Snow Report

i. 21/01/15 RMBC Snow Report(2)

j. 23/01/15 Voluntary Aid Rotherham eBulletin

k. 23/01/15 PSE MPs call for a moratorium on fracking in the UK

l. 29/01/15 RSN Spotlight on Rural Health

m. 30/01/15 YLCA South Yorkshire branch meeting

n. 3/02/15 RSN Weekly Email News Digest

o. 04/02/15 Fire and Rescue Briefing: February 2015

p. 03/02/15 RSN Sources of finance

q. 04/02/15 RSN ebulletin

r. 05/02/15 YLCA Inspiring Yorkshire

s. 06/02/15 Voluntary Action Rotherham newsletter
t. 09/02/15 RSN Weekly Email News Digest

133. Correspondence

a) Lord Mayor's Charity – Easter Egg Extravaganza. It was proposed by Councillor A that the PC sends a cheque for £25. Seconded by Councillor B. All Agreed.

Resolved: The Clerk sends a cheque for £25.

b) Reply from SYPTE re services between Moorgate Road and Laughton - Councillors informed and a copy has been sent to Mrs French.

c) Thank you letter from Roche Abbey Walk Committee – Councillors informed.

d) Fire & Rescue VH inspection report. Ann Mitchell advised the PC that the inspection report indicated that the hose reel near the main entrance was redundant and requested that it be removed because children attending the Mother & Toddler group regularly play with it. The Clerk said that contractors had previously had difficulty getting the stopcock to turn on fully when the new boiler was fitted. After discussion Councillor H proposed that the PC get a quote for the cost of having a new stopcock fitted, removing the fire reel and capping off the water supply.

Resolved: The Clerk obtains a quote for the above mentioned work.

e) LPC Insurance renewal quotation – This is the final year of a 3 year agreement.

f) Letter of thanks from Sally French. Councillors informed.

g) Community First Insurance – electronic invoice. Councillors were informed of Community First's intentions to send future renewal documentation by email.

Resolved: The Clerk will provide Community First with the clerk@laughtonparishcouncil.org.uk address which can be forwarded to future Clerks.

h) Adult community learning grant. Details have been circulated by email.

134. Any Other Business

i) A parishioner has requested that a noticeboard be erected at the High Street/Hooton Lane crossroads to advertise PC business and VH events. It was suggested that a good location would be at the side of the Royal Mail post box. The owner of 13 High Street has refused to give permission. The Clerk has now requested permission from the owner of Autotronix opposite 13 High Street and awaits a reply.

Resolved: The Clerk awaits a reply from the owner of Autotronix.

ii) Parish Councillor Application Forms. It was agreed that the Clerk would request sufficient application forms from **RMBC** for those people wishing to apply.

Resolved: The Clerk awaits the forms.

iii) The Clerk has previously given notice of his impending resignation because he is moving to Cumbria during the summer 2015. It was proposed by Councillor Z and seconded by

Councillor B that the vacancy is advertised on the PC's website, parish noticeboards and ,if possible, in the Church Parish Magazine, Your Mag and Dinnington Guardian.

Resolved: The Clerk advertises the vacancy.

135. Date and Time of Next Meeting

That the next Ordinary Meeting will take place on Wednesday 11th March 2015 at 7pm in the Village Hall, Firbeck Avenue, Laughton-en-le-Morthen.

The meeting closed at 10:20 pm

Chairman.....

Date.....