

LACEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

INFORMAL MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 3RD APRIL 2017

Present: Councillors, Mrs Cathryn Davies, Mrs Elizabeth Patient, Mr Roger Craft, Mr Philip Suter and Mr Tony Molesworth.

Clerk Jayne Mylchreest

No members of the public

1.INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Cllr Mrs Cathryn Davies welcomed everyone and introduced the Parish Councillors and the Clerk. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Miv Hughes.

The Chairman introduced the councillors and staff.

Councillor Roger Craft – Vice Chairman and member for Speen

Councillor Tony Molesworth – member for Loosely Row

Councillor Miv Hughes – member for Lacey Green

Councillor Philip Suter – member for Speen

Councillor Elizabeth Patient – member for Loosley Row

Parish Clerk - Jayne Mylchreest

2. REPORT FROM THE POLICE

The Police sent their apologies as they were unable to attend.

3. REPORT FROM WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR GRAHAM PEART

Cllr Graham Peart sent his apologies as he was unable to attend but sent the following report:-

The Studridge Lane application has had significant changes made to the design to remove all objections so the matter comes down to the boundary line and whether the line is within the village or outside. The thickness of the line when blown up to a larger scale is 2.

The owner of the King William IV has decided not to put in an application to add a cottage on the site.

A decision is still awaited regarding The Lacey Green Tennis Club application.

4.CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman gave the following report:-

“The Parish Council and Councillors have worked extremely well over the past year.

The Parish Council has replaced the two damaged bus shelters in Lacey Green and they are a credit to the Parish Council, both have blended in beautifully.

The parish continues to monitor the speed watch campaigns in both Lacey Green and Speen, and funds have been received from District and County Councillors, Local Charities and recently the North West Chilterns Local Area Forum.

The members will now be actively sourcing devices, prices and delivery times for an YSI (Your Speed Indicator) device, whilst liaising with PC Lee Turnham the Neighbourhood Road Safety officer (Rural Communities) Princes Risborough Neighbourhood for his recommendations.

The Devolved Services from Bucks County Council with the help and co-operation from the Princes Risborough Maintenance Team has worked very well for us, and our thanks should be passed to the team for their effort in keeping our villages neat and tidy.

Wycombe District Council have received many and varied planning applications for our Parish, which in turn they have bounced back to us for comment.

Sometimes, our comments are noted and taken into consideration and others not, and we are normally at a loss to understand the reasoning behind some of their decisions, but, they have the final decision and the applicant can always take the application to the Inspector, if they feel aggrieved.

The Parish Council this year decided to implement the use of a logo for our letterheads and correspondence. The Parish Council chose the design of a windmill and found the sketch, signed and penned by our late councillor and dear friend Dennis Claydon. The Parish Council has had letterheads and compliments slips printed.

This sketch is also engraved on the Chairman's Badge

The Parish Council decided at a recent meeting not to proceed with the lease for the Speen Playing Fields Playground, but, to award them a grant of £20,000 to cover the cost of new play surfaces and equipment of their choosing.

Having summarised briefly the year, I would like to thank my fellow parish councillors and officers, and the district and county councillors for all their time and effort.

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5.REPORT ON THE LACEY GREEN PLAYGROUND

Cllr Miv Hughes was unable to attend.

Cllr Cathryn Davies reported that there had not been any major expenditure on the playground this year. The only outstanding issue is the fence which has been damaged by cattle in the neighbouring field and a work order has been issued for the repair.

6.PARISH ACCOUNTS AND PRECEPT

Copies of the Estimates Summary which showed the actual spend £23,858 against the budget £25,635 in the financial year 2016/2017 and the proposed budget for the year 2017/2018 of £30,686 were distributed. Vice Chairman Cllr Roger Craft explained the makeup of the precept. The Parish Council has requested an amount of £25,766. After many years of seeking no increase in the Precept the Parish Council has requested an increase of 1.98% to help offset the additional monies involved with "Devolved Services" from Wycombe District Council (WDC) and Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC).

The District Council will give a reduced grant of £226.00 in response to the reduction in tax base for the Localised Council Tax Scheme for the year 2017/2018. This is likely to be reduced again next year.

The overall expenditure for the year was £23,858 against a budget of £25,635, giving an under spend of £1,577.

Administration was lower than the budget by £1,004.

The Garden of Rest was under budget by £1,1004 as works envisaged to maintain the site access road & repair of the entrance gate were deferred until year 2017 -18.

General Maintenance exceeded the budget of £5000 due to a cost of the excess of £4,602 between the insurance cover and the replacement cost of providing a new bus shelter, opposite Strike Command, after the original bus shelter was destroyed in a storm and a cost of £1,708 for works to the surrounding trees and the pond clearance in Studridge Lane, Speen. However, this extra money was offset by lower costs in maintaining the playground in Lacey Green and other budgeted maintenance works.

Maintaining the parks was under-budget.

Public Relation costs (maintaining website) and subscriptions came in slightly under budget.

Grants were under budget by £350, as the £500 Grant towards repairs to the Loosley Row War Memorial have not be given out pending notification of ownership of the memorial. Additional grants (not budgeted) were £50 to the Loosley Row Jubilee Fund and £100 to the Chiltern Society in recognition of their voluntary work clearing the pond in Studridge Road, Speen.

All other costs were approximately in line with the budget.

Cllr Roger Craft finished his report by saying that he hoped the residents of the Parish approved of the expenditure of the Parish Council and that the Councillors welcome any feedback.

There being no further questions, the meeting closed at 7.30 pm