

## LACEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

### INFORMAL MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 9th APRIL 2018

Present: Councillors, Cathryn Davies, Elizabeth Patient, Roger Craft, Miv Hughes  
Ex Clerk Jayne Mylchreest. One member of the public.

Apologies; Cllr Philip Suter, Cllr Carl Etholen (County), Cllr Graham Peart (District), PC Ralph, Frank Post (Clerk).

#### **1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

Cllr Mrs Cathryn Davies welcomed everyone.

The Chairman introduced the councillors and staff:

Councillor Roger Craft – Vice Chairman and member for Speen

Councillor Miv Hughes – member for Lacey Green

Councillor Elizabeth Patient – member for Loosley Row

Ex Parish Clerk - Jayne Mylchreest

#### **2. REPORT FROM THE POLICE**

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

The following highlights of PC Ralph's report were detailed:

- The team at Princes Risborough consists of a Sgt, 3x FT PCs, 2x part time PCs and 1 PCSO. It was noted that one PC could be replaced by a PCSO.
- The Parish is deemed a low crime area with 2 crimes recorded since 2018, but Thames Valley Police warn against complacency.

#### **3. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARL ETHOLEN:**

Cllr Graham Peart sent his apologies as he was unable to attend, but the highlights of his report were detailed:

- The decision of the Secretary of State to “be of a mind” for the establishment of a single Unitary Council. Public consultation will be valid till 25<sup>th</sup> May. Implementation by no later than May 2020.
- BCC has increased Council tax by 2.99% for general services but the overall increase equates to 5.99% due to pressures on adult social care.
- Inclement weather has resulted in a significant increase in potholes. Additional funding from the Department of Transport and the County Council has resulted in the allocation of £2.78m extra funding to implement a “plane and patch scheme” to resurface roads with multiple defects.
- It was noted the various roads in Lacey Green will be resurfaced this year, including Eastlands, Roundlands, Westlands and Kiln Lane.
- The transformation of 35 Children Centres has been put on hold, with strong opposition from residents.

#### **4. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR GRAHAM PEART**

No report had been tabled. An update on the broadband situation was requested via the Clerk.

#### **5. CHAIRMANS REPORT**

The Chairman gave the following report:

- The Parish Council and Councillors have worked extremely well over the past year and her thanks were extended to the team.
- The Council also extended their thanks to Jayne Mylchreest who resigned as Parish Clerk due to other commitments and welcomed Frank Post as the new Clerk from April 2018.
- The Chair highlighted, with regret, the loss of the Council's longest serving Councillor, Tony Molesworth, and extended the Council's condolences to his family.
- It was noted that the Council's focus last year has been very much on playgrounds, with £20k being provided to Speen Playing Fields Playground Contractors and the start of a significant revamp of Lacey Green Playground.
- The Council also purchased a MVAS, with the support of the local LAF, BCC and WDC to

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assist in traffic calming measures. This has been located in both Lacey Green and Speen and the Council await the initial data output to determine if there has been any impact on slowing traffic.

- The Chair noted the excellent work undertaken by the Risborough Maintenance Team for maintenance of the Garden of Rest, the Playground and tidying the villages across the Parish.
- In conclusion, the Chair noted the continued efforts of the Council to view and consider all planning applications and make considered comments.

#### **5.REPORT ON THE LACEY GREEN PLAYGROUND**

Cllr Miv Hughes presented her report with the following highlights:

- Over the last 8 years the playground has undergone extensive replacement and refurbishment.
- Most recently, the safety tiles were replaced with artificial grass and the swings extensively refurbished.
- The slide, always popular, has been replaced on the advice of safety concerns.
- A number of new installations have been installed including a cone climber, a toddler basket swing and a dual swingo.
- Picnic tables will be refurbished and resited with an additional bench seat added.
- In light of the exposed location, a shelter will be provided.
- Recent adverse conditions have delayed completion, but the conclusion of this significant outlay is eagerly anticipated.

#### **6.PARISH ACCOUNTS AND PRECEPT**

Copies of the Estimates Summary which showed the actual spend £27,840 against the budget £30,686 in the financial year 2017/2018 and the proposed budget for the year 2018/2019 of £36,383 were distributed.

Vice Chairman Cllr Roger Craft commented on the financial performance by noting the following:

- Overall saving on budget of £2,846 primarily from reduced maintenance activity.
- Major expenditure from reserves included Speen Playing Fields (£20,650), Playground equipment for Lacey Green playground £29,000, and traffic calming £5,000

Cllr Craft then explained that the budget for 2018/9 was set at £27,821 with a precept levy of £25,744, up 3% on previous year. It was noted that a further £5,000 would be spent on additional playground equipment and that the devolved services of £3,562 were covered by additional income of £3,732.

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