

**LAVENDON PARISH COUNCIL**

 Clerk

The Pavilion

 63a High Street

 Lavendon

MK46 4HA

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Minutes of the Monthly meeting of **Lavendon Parish Council** held at The Pavilion on **12th June** **2023**

**Present**: -

* Alex Mountcastle (Chair)
* Steve Axtell (Cllr)
* Ann Kelcey (Cllr)
* Michelle Ramsden (Cllr)
* Mike Rutherford (Cllr)
* Martino Ginepro (Cllr)
* Louise McKenzie (Cllr)
* Arlene Ormston (PCSO)
* Keith McLean (Ward Councillor)
* Peter Geary (Ward Councillor)
* Pam Ayres (Clerk)

**Apologies: -**

* Debbie Whitworth (Ward Councillor)

Meeting commenced at 19:30

1. **Welcome & Introductions & Welcome**

The Chair welcomed those present.

1. **To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2023** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th May 2023 were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chair.
2. **Declaration of Interest**

 No declarations of interest were received.

1. **Public Questions**

 5 residents were present at the meeting.

**4.1** Jo Rouse explained that she wasn’t at the meeting to ask a question but rather to update the Parish Council on the latest position with regards to Ousedale School and the admission intake for 2023. She went on to state that the school has agreed to put on an an additional Year 7 class and that places were now to be offered to those children from Lavendon who had been affected. She said that whilst this is good news for this year there was, however, a need to ensure that a similar situation doesn’t arise again in subsequent years.

 Ward Cllr McLean stated that he was pleased that the situation had been resolved and there had been a positive outcome. He also acknowledged the concern raised around a similar situation occurring in subsequent years and pointed out that the planned expansion of Newport Pagnell could well have a bearing on school admissions going forward. He suggested that the resident email Ben Everitt to ask whether Ousedale does have the physical capacity for Growth.

**4.2** Tony Murray outlined his concerns regarding speeding in the village and in particular, along Harrold Road. He stated that having analysed the SID data for Harrold Road, it suggests that between 35%-40% of traffic is exceeding the 30mph speed limit which equates to 21,000 of the total 54,000 vehicles (In one direction) during a two-month period. He has discussed the findings with the local Police Authority, but they didn’t seem interested. He would like to build a case for traffic calming measurers as a deterrent. He went on to state that traffic travelling out of the village is causing major problems on Harrold Road. He suggested that as a way of tackling this, the SIDs should be rotated on a monthly or quarterly basis and said that he would be happy to help with this.

 A discussion took place, and it was agreed that gathering data from both directions would be useful. It was further agreed to spin the SID around on Harrold Road (Facing inwards) for a trial period of one

 month.

 Tony Murray asked if it would be possible to get Speed Cameras in the village. Ward Cllr Geary responded by saying, cash isn’t the issue, it is one of policy. Buckinghamshire County Council has a different policy to other local authorities, and it is unlikely that Lavendon will get speed cameras.

 **AP1**: Cllr Axtell to arrange for the SID to be spun round on Harrold Road.

**5. PCSO’s Report**

 The meeting considered and acknowledged the crime report as presented by PSCO Ormston for the period 17/04023 – 12/06/23. Details as follows: -

 ***Crime Report Incidents from 17/04/2023 – 12/06/2023***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *1 x Action Fraud – scam phone call – scammed jewellery worth £9000* | *May 2023* |
| *1 x Action Fraud - hacked email account and asked contacts for Apple Gift Card* | *June 2023* |
| *4 x burglary business – stolen tools – came across the field*  | *June 2023*  |

 ***Other Incidents not crime related in Lavendon***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Reckless vehicle driving all over the road* | *May 2023* |
| *Suspicious person trying door handles in New Row*  | *June 2023* |

 ***Other Incidents in surrounding villages***

|  |
| --- |
| ASB – Olney Rec, Tyringham Bridge, The Beach in Newport Pagnell  |
| Burglary – Clifton Reynes (messy search) |
| Fly-tipping everywhere |

 **6. Ward Councillors Report**

 Ward Cllr Keith McLean provide the following report: -

 **6.1 Proposed closure of A428 - Turvey.**

 The closure will start on 24th July and will continue until 19th August. This will be followed by further closure from 26th August, which will be completed in time for schools returning in September. During this time the diversion will be via the A422 to Chicheley and down the A509 through Olney back to the A428.

 **AP2.** Cllr Axtell to publish the details of the road closure on the LPC website and Facebook.

**6.2 Proposed closure of A509**

Impending road closure on the A509 from Chicheley Hill Roundabout to the Junction of Emberton Village.  The A509 will be closed every night between 16.00 - 06.00am effective from the 20th- 26th August 2023 be. The road will be open during the day.

**6.3 Wheelie bins**

 All residents will have received a letter confirming the waste containers they will receive for the new waste collection service and confirmation of the waste collection day. A small number of homes that aren’t suitable for wheelie bins will also have been advised of what they are getting.

Residents who have a disability or medical condition can apply for an assisted collection if there’s nobody else in the household to put waste out. This is where the waste crew will collect waste from just outside a person’s front door instead of at the kerbside.

**7. Finance Report**

**7.1 Receipts & Payments**

The Parish Council received the schedule of receipts and payments for May 2023.

**Resolved:** That the schedule of receipts and payments made during May 2023 as circulated, be approved.

**7.2** **Purchases for approval**

 **Pavilion** – **Insurance Policy Excess £1000.00**

 The clerk reported that following a site visit by an insurance assessor, the inclusion reached was that the damage to the Pavilion has been caused by subsidence and is therefore covered under the policy. The policy excess applicable to the claim is £1000.00. It was unanimously agreed that payment of the policy excess be approved.

**7.3** **Scrutinising volunteer**

Cllrs Rutherford & Cllr Axtell.

**7.4** **Annual Return – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23**

The Annual Governance Statement represents at Section 1 of the Annual Return and requests Parish Councillors to confirm their responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the accounting statements. Parish Councillors confirmed their responsibility for ensuring a sound system of internal control including the preparation of the accounting statements by answering “Yes” to the relevant sections of the Annual Return

 **Resolved**: That the Annual Governance Statement (at Section 1 of the Annual Return) for the year ended 31 March 2023 be approved.

**7.5 Annual Return: Accounting Statements 2022/23.**

 The meeting considered the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 which identified a total balance at year end of 106,905 compared to the balance brought forward as at 31 March 2022 of £69,830: Section 2 of the Annual Return of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. The meeting also considered an explanation of the key year on year variances that accompanied the Accounting Statements.

**7.6** **Notice of Public Rights**

 Smaller authorities are required, in accordance with Regulation 15(2) of the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015, to make available the financial statements and other documents for public inspection for a period of 30 working days which must include the first 10 working days of July and, as such, it has been determined that the notice of the period for the exercise of public rights must be displayed from 19th June 2023 to 28 July 2023. Arrangements for the public inspection would, therefore, been made in line with these timescales.

 **Resolved**: That the Accounting Statements (at Section 2 of the Annual Return) for the year ended 31 March 2023 be approved and the financial statements and associated documents will be made available for public inspection from 19th June 2023 to 28 July 2023.

**7.7** **Annual Return – Internal Audit Report 2022/23**

 The Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer reported that the financial accounts for the financial year 2022/2023 had been subject to Internal Audit. A copy of the Internal Audit Report had been previously circulated.

 **Resolved**: That the Annual Internal Audit Report for the year ended 31 March 2023 be approved.

**8. Clerk’s Report**

**8.1 Devolved Landscape Services grant**

The grant payment for the period 4.9.23 – 31.3.24 will be £1,844.40. This figure includes inflation calculated at the rate of 9.24%. making the total for the year £3,221.09.

A newagreement and specifications (effective from 4.9.23) will be issued in the next couple of weeks.

**8.2 Community Ownership Fund Available to Local Councils**
 The government has extended its £150m Community Ownership Fund to local councils and is now inviting expressions of interest. The fund is aimed at assisting the purchase or renovation of local assets, thereby safeguarding their future. Expressions of interest must be submitted at least three weeks before the **12 July 2023 deadline.**

**8.3** **Castle Road – Blocked Drains – Update** MKCC have confirmed that the blocked drain along Castle Road (Just passed Joiners Way) has now been cleared as have most of the drains around the village.

**8.4 Riseley Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Riseley Parish Council has submitted their Neighbourhood Development Plan to Bedford Borough Council. Bedford Borough Council is inviting representations on the Riseley Neighbourhood Development Plan for a period of 6 weeks. The submission plan and supporting documents are available to view on the Council’s website. Paper copies of the documents are also available for inspection at The Fox and Hounds Pub, High Street, Riseley. Opening hours: Monday to Saturday 11am to 11pm, Sunday 12pm to 9pm. The last day for representations to be made is by 5pm on 16 July 2023.

**8.5 Pavilion Insurance claim - Update**

 Covered at Para 7.2 above.

**8.6 Old School Insurance claim – Update**

The damp in the toilets has beeninvestigated and it is possible that the damage is due to an escape of water. The insurance company is arranging for a trace test to be carried out.

**8.7 Grass verges at the top end of Olney Road are too high**

The matter has been reported to MKCC and the Clerk is currently awaiting a response.

**8.8** **Grass verge leading up to Cemetery**

 Contractors have been asked to clear the path leading to the Cemetery. This should be done shortly.

**9. Specific Agenda items**

**9.1 Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday 13th June.**

Arrangements for the meeting were discussed and agreed.

**10. Planning Applications**

 a. **Application no: 23/00911/HOU** - Proposal: Erection of a detached ancillary building.

 At: 37 Northampton Road.

 **Agreed** with a comment to MKCC that as a Parish Council that fully supports Biodiversity, we would encourage the applicant to also consider Biodiversity when carrying out a project of this type.

 b. **Application no: 23/00997/HOU -** Proposal: Erection of a single attached garage (Retrospective).

 At: Rosebay House 39A Northampton Road. **Agreed**

 c. **Application no:** **23/01112/LBC -** Listed Building consent for the replacement of the floor tiles in the existing kitchen with the existing quarry tiles to be replaced with tumbled limestone. At: Manor Farm High Street, Lavendon**. Agreed**

**11. Parish related matters**

**11.1 Land off Harrold Road – Update**

 Cllr Axtell advised the meeting that following discussions with the developers’ solicitors, it has been agreed that as a way forward, a S.106 Agreement is to be drawn up which will give the Parish Council a period of two years from the grant of planning permission to decide whether it wished to have the land transferred or let it remain in agricultural use. Cllr Axtell stated that this would allow the Parish Council sufficient time to explore various options for use and to make an informed decision whilst retaining the right to adopt the land.

**11.2 Paths at the Allotments**

 Cllr Kelcey reported that the contractors had omitted to tidy and clear the second path and the car park.

 **AP3:** Cllr Ginepro to contact the contractor and ask them to clear the path and car park area.

**11.3 Cemetery -ground maintenance**

Cllr Rutherford reported that the grassland designated for the extension of the Cemetery was overgrown and in need of cutting. Cllr Ginepro stated that he had spoken to the contractor, and it has been arranged for the work to be carried out in June.

**11.4 Community Payback Scheme**

Cllr Kelcey asked whether it was possible for the Community Payback Team to tidy up around the Church wall on their next visit. The Clerk advised that she had contacted the Community Payback Coordinator with a view to a team returning to help with the Copse and would add this to the list of tasks to be carried out.

**11.5 Planting on the corner of the High Street/Harrold Road - Update**

Cllr Ginepro advised that he was currently working on putting together a plan for planting which he hoped to complete shortly. The Clerk advised that the resident who had first raised the matter had been updated on the Parish Councils plans for the area.

The next Meeting is to be held on Monday 10th July 2023

The Chair, Alex Mountcastle closed the meeting at 21:09

Minutes Agreed …………………………………………………………

Date ……………………………………………………………