

LAXTON AND MOORHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 24 January 2017 in Laxton Visitor Centre commencing 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors:

M. Manning (Chair)
D. Brown
J. Hill
R. Hennell (from 7.45 pm)
M.Hennell
J.Godson

In attendance:

C. Millward (Clerk)
Councillor Michael

	DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS	ACTION
LMPC/1/17	Apologies for absence: Mr R Hennell had been delayed. Mr Laughton was unable to attend (family reasons).	
LMPC/2/17	Declarations of interest: Mr Brown declared a disclosable pecuniary interest as landowner and applicant with regard to items 11 a (Planning applications). The chair declared an interest as member of the sports field committee in item 15 (Defibrillator). There were no other declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda.	
LMPC/3/17	Dispensations: None required.	
LMPC/4/17	10 Minutes public speaking: No public present.	
LMPC/5/17	Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 10 November 2016: The minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair.	
LMPC/6/17	Matters arising: There were no matters arising.	
LMPC/7/17	Reports from district and county councillors: Mrs Michael regretted that she was unable to assist regarding an internal auditor appointment. Councillors noted her report that NSDC is looking at the condition of empty properties in the district. Councillors asked her to record the condition of Old Bar Farmhouse to see if she could secure some progress in relation to its poor condition. Mr R Hennell arrived during this item.	SM
LMPC/8/17	Reports from Councillors: No reports.	
LMPC/9/17	Financial Matters: a. Financial position as at 31 December 2016: Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 31 December 2016. Councillors noted the deficit for the year. b. 2017-18 insurance arrangements: Councillors reviewed the renewal documentation. Councillors decided to enter into the 2017-18 insurance contract with Zurich. c. Accounts for payment: The council unanimously approved three payments totalling £458.89. d. Approve appointment of internal auditor: The chair will	Chair

	<p>approach a resident suggested by Mr Godson</p> <p>e. To consider the financial information provided by the Clerk and NSDC's letter regarding 2017/18 precept estimates and to agree the precept for the year ending 31 March 2018: Councillors considered the financial information provided by the Clerk. They agreed that the reduction of the precept by £600 for 2016-17 must have been due to a breakdown in communication with NSDC as they had not approved any such reduction. Even taking this into account, they recognised that the intended precept was inadequate on this year's figures and there was and would be no spare funds with which to fund any improvements for the parish. They were also concerned at the erosion of the value of the precept attributable to increasing prices historically and going forward. They were also aware of the possibility that, at some point, the government will introduce the previously threatened referendum requirement. After lengthy discussion and careful consideration, they agreed unanimously to increase the precept for the year ending 31 March 2018 to £4,600 to ensure a realistic level and allow for the impact of inflation and rising costs.</p>	
LMPC/10/17	Property matters including sports field and ownership of mowing equipment: No property matters to discuss.	
LMPC/11/17	<p>Planning matters:</p> <p>a. Applications: 16/02198/FUL Renovation of existing barn conversion to create a further letting bedroom and bathroom. The Dovecote Inn Cross Hill Laxton NG22: having declared an interest, Mr Brown withdrew from the meeting. Councillors considered the application and unanimously decided that they had no objections to the proposal. Mr Brown returned to the meeting.</p> <p>b. To note planning decisions by NSDC:</p> <p>i. 16/01582/FUL Erection of dwelling Land Adjacent Bar Farm The Bar Laxton Nottinghamshire: Refusal noted.</p> <p>ii. 16/01919/FUL and 16/01920/LBC - The Old Vicarage High Street Laxton NG22 ONX - Demolition of conservatory, reinstatement of veranda roof and the construction of an Orangery, removal of internal doors, boiler room and wall – Approval noted.</p> <p>c. Compliance: Nothing raised.</p>	
LMPC/12/17	Village development including approach to the Crown regarding future plans: ong term strategy: The clerk apologized that, due to a family bereavement, she had not had the opportunity to draft the letter to the Crown with the level of attention which it required. She will prepare a draft for approval at the next meeting.	Clerk

<p>LMPC/13/17</p>	<p>Village environment and appearance, including:</p> <p>a. Village Hall refurbishment project: No update available..</p> <p>b. Moorhouse "bumps": NCC Highways has referred the request for warning signs to its design and inspection team. Councillors will await their response.</p> <p>c. New village signs, Laxton and Moorhouse: The chair reported that the four signs should be delivered in March/April. Councillors noted the chair's confirmation that the Crown's grant in the sum of £6000 has now been transferred to the council. The clerk is waiting to hear from NCC and NSDC regarding any necessary consents.</p> <p>Mr Hill reported that the outcome of his initial canvassing of views indicated that Moorhouse residents would prefer a fingerpost sign with "Moorhouse" across the top. He will undertake further research in April once his work commitments ease following the end of the financial year.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>SH</p>
<p>LMPC/14/17</p>	<p>Dog bins: Councillors agreed that, subject to clarification of the ongoing emptying cost, a dog bin should be acquired in the new financial year.</p>	
<p>LMPC/15/17</p>	<p>Defibrillator update: The chair reported that the defibrillator had been delivered. Councillors welcomed this addition to the village's facilities and thanked all involved in securing this valuable asset. Having declared an interest, the chair did not participate in discussions further.</p> <p>After discussion, councillors decided that, in the interests of continuity of ownership and responsibility, the defibrillator should be a parish council asset and insured on the parish council's insurance policy. On this basis, they agreed that, the precept having been increased to enable the council to invest in the enhancement and improvement of the parish, the council should fund the purchase of a cabinet for the defibrillator.</p> <p>Councillors also noted the clerk's advice that the British Heart Foundation insists on defibrillator cabinets being unlocked as part of its grant terms. Councillors authorised Mr Brown to obtain an external sign alerting the public to the location of the defibrillator up to a cost of £100. The clerk will ask EMAS to add the defibrillator to its records once the chair has confirmed to her that it is active.</p> <p>The chair rejoined the discussions. Councillors asked him to place an order for the cabinet.</p>	<p>DB Clerk</p> <p>Chair</p>
<p>LMPC/16/17</p>	<p>Service faults: The clerk will report the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Streetlight by the bus shelter opposite the church b. Streetlight entering Laxton on Egmanton Road outside Bar Farm c. Kerbstone damage at Corner Farm 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>LMPC/17/16</p>	<p>Correspondence: Item c – Safer Nottinghamshire Board – Rural Crime strategy consultation - The clerk will email the consultation document to all councillors.</p> <p>All other items of correspondence noted.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>LMPC/18/17</p>	<p>10 Minutes public speaking time: No public present</p>	

LMPC/19/ 17	Agenda items for next meeting: As above	
LMPC/20/ 17	Date of next meeting: 28 March 2017	

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.