

LAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Members of the Parish Council and the Parish Clerk had been available before the start of the formal meeting from 7.00pm to meet with the public. All plans and correspondence were available for viewing and comments. 2 members of the public attended the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th January 2015 At 7.30pm in Launton Chapel

Present: Councillors: Mrs Lesley Thompson, Miss Wendy Foster, Mr Chris Fox, Mr Ed Sanders, Mr Howard Hill, Mrs Penny Stephens and Mr Simon Turner, Chairman.

In attendance: The Clerk, Niall Campbell

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Not applicable

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

There were none.

3. To facilitate public participation with regard to items on the agenda

No comments from the members of the public.

4. To confirm the minutes of previous meeting – Thursday 4th December 2014.

The above dated minutes were **unanimously agreed as a true record** and were signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Councillor Turner
All in favour

Seconded: Councillor Thompson
Motion carried.

5. Report from Cherwell District Councillor for Launton

Councillor Hughes explained about the exploration as a business study of possible joint working by Cherwell District Council and Stratford District. He also advised the Council on the information which would be needed in a systematic contribution to consideration of the issue of loss of off-road parking.

6. Report from Oxfordshire County Councillor for Launton

There was none.

7. Finance and Governance

- a. To acknowledge scrutiny and acceptance of previously circulated bank statements.

Proposed: Councillor Turner
All in favour

Seconded: Councillor Fox
Motion carried.

- b. To confirm and approve expenditure for January and review income during December.

Proposed: Councillor Turner
All in favour

Seconded: Councillor Stephens
Motion carried.

- c. Preliminary discussion of Precept for 2015/6 noting letter from Paul Sutton of Cherwell District Council, circulated by email.

The Clerk reported that the accelerated timetable sought by Cherwell District Council will not be enforced and so we can fix the Precept at the February meeting. The Council noted the need to rebuild reserves after the cost of Glades remedial work, and noted the effect of likely cut in the grass-cutting grant.

8. Planning

Signed:

ST

Date:

5th March 2015

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a. Planning applications to consider

i. Application number: 14/01900/F
Applicant: Mr Bruce Valentine
Proposal: Garage conversion
Location: 42 Sherwood Close Launton
Comment closing date: 22 December 2014

Decision: Object on the grounds of loss of off-road parking space. The Council is extremely concerned given that the house is large enough for 2 cars to be likely to be owned by the household.

Proposed: Councillor Turner
All in favour

Seconded: Councillor Stephens
Motion carried.

ii. Application number: 14/02065/LB
Applicant: Bicester Heritage
Proposal: Change of use from MOD to B1/A1 and some structural alterations
Location: Building 96 Lubricant Store RAF Bicester
Comment closing date: 08 January 2015

Decision: No objection, no comment

Proposed: Councillor Turner
All in favour

Seconded: Councillor Hill
Motion carried.

b. Planning decisions noted

i. Application number: 14/01543/TPO
Applicant: Mr Philip Maidment
Proposal: Remove two trees and raise crown of five others
Location: Ash Grove House, West End, Launton
Decision: Permitted

ii. Application number: 14/01759/F
Applicant: Bicester Heritage
Proposal: Change of use from MOD to B1/A1
Location: Building 96 Lubricant Store RAF Bicester
Decision: Permitted, noting that materials and finish detailing shall be as set out in the Heritage Partnership Agreement

9. East-West Rail

The Clerk reported that to date there had been no response to the Council's response to the consultation. He will follow up.

10. Village Matters

a. The Glades footpath repairs.

The Clerk reported that the contractor had been in touch and might be starting work soon.

b. Yew Tree Farm

Condition 23 of the planning permission for the development now includes some adjustments to the crossroads to improve the line of sight. The Chairman also reported on the minimum distance for a new building to be deemed not to "overshadow" and confirmed that the house in question does comply.

c. Local listing of historical assets

It was agreed that the Chairman would draft a piece for "*Launton Lines*" explaining the concept, making plain that this is different from national Listed status and also that things in addition to buildings could be considered, such as open spaces or a village pump, or even perhaps a view.

d. **Grass-cutting arrangements with Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council**

The Clerk described the confusion in his mind about precisely what changes are proposed, having had information from both the county and district councils. It was noted that a 50% reduction in the number of cuts required by the Highways department would probably not result in a 50% reduction in the bill from our contractor. Councillor Hughes volunteered to help elucidate. It was noted that this is likely to increase the Launton Precept for 2015/6. Mr Peter Cox (member of the public) also volunteered to assist as he was going to be having a relevant meeting later in the month with Cherwell District Council.

11. Council domain registration

Clerk and his technical adviser reported that investigations are almost complete.

12. Correspondence

a. **Correspondence received for action (sent by email)**

- i. Letter from WREN requesting further information re footpath grant application
It was noted that the issue of lack of evidence of *anyone* owning the land in question appears to be a significant problem. Councillor Foster undertook to ask the Land Registry about Launton Parish Council applying to take ownership, and to WREN seeking extra time, and for Councillor Thompson to ask Mr Deeley if the land might be his. Councillor Hughes volunteered to support an appeal to WREN for more time.

b. **Correspondence received for information (sent by email)**

- i. OALC members' update.
Councillor Stephens asked that the OALC document about safeguarding children and other vulnerable people be put on the February agenda.
- ii. Viridor Ardley Liaison Group update
- iii. Results of Rural Parish Sounding Board Survey

13.

a. **Chairman's Report**

There was none.

b. **Clerk's Report**

There was none

14. Date of next meeting – Thursday 5th February 2015, in the Launton Parish Hall

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Notes on declarations of interest.

Any Member arriving after the start of the meeting is asked to declare pecuniary interests, as necessary, as soon as practicable after their arrival, even if the item in question has been considered.

National rules about pecuniary interests are set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 and in secondary legislation made under the Act, in particular, The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012