

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. Eight members of the public attended the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th March 2013 At 7.30pm in Launton Parish Hall

Present: Councillors: Mr Simon Turner, Ms Penny Stephens, Miss Wendy Foster, Mr Howard Hill and Mrs Rachel Burn.

In attendance: The Clerk - Mr Keith Dixon

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Mr Ian Stubbings, Mr Chris Fox and County Cllr Mrs Fulljames

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

There were none.

At this point it was proposed by the Chairman and agreed, that, for the benefit of members of the public present, Item 9a should be presented next and that item 7 should be deferred until after item 8a.

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

The Council was addressed by Mr Clive Deeley, Mr Paul Thomas and Mr Mike Jobling, all of whom spoke in opposition to planning application 13/00186/F to be considered at item 8a.

4. To confirm the minutes of previous meeting – Thursday 7th February 2012.

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 Hill
Motion carried.

5. Report from Cherwell District Councillor for Launton

There was none.

6. Report from Oxfordshire County Councillor for Launton

With particular reference to Highways issues.
See item 9c.

7. Finance and Governance

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

Previously circulated bank statements were reviewed and accepted.

- b. To confirm and approve expenditure for March and review income during February.

Payments for approval

Cheque No	Payee	Amount
200304	Mr Jefferies – Bus Shelter	£82.71
200305	K Dixon	£360.13
200306	HMRC – K Dixon	£89.80
200307	OALC	£223.69

Signed

ST

Date

4/4/2013

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S/O Launton Lines £110.00
Total Payments in March 2013 £866.32

All above cheques drawn on The Co-operative Bank

Income Received

Source	Reason	Amount
Co-operative Bank Current	Interest	£0.55
Bank of Ireland	Interest	£0.96
Total Receipts for February 2013		£1.51

Proposed: Councillor Turner **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
All in favour Motion carried.

- c. To review actions required by auditors for year 2011/12 and complete the internal Control and Audit Compliance Checklist of the Audit Plan.

The Clerk reminded the Council that no matters requiring action had been brought to its attention by either the internal or external auditors.

It was proposed that the Council acknowledge the above and that the Chairman should sign off the checklist for the year.

Proposed: Councillor Turner **Seconded:** Councillor Stephens
All in favour. Motion carried.

- d. To consider a document retention policy for the Parish Council.

The Council considered the policy, and associated procedure, which had been previously circulated to members by the Clerk. It was resolved that both the policy and procedure should be adopted.

Proposed: Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Burn
All in favour. Motion carried.

The Chairman and Clerk signed the policy and procedure documents.

8. Planning

- a. To discuss and decide upon resolutions to the Planning Authority, on Planning Applications received.

- i. Application No.13/00186/F

Applicant Bayhill Ltd

Proposal Erection of 11 new dwellings.

Location Land South East of Chestnut Close, Launton.

Having heard public comments earlier and the Chairman's observations on the impact of the National Planning Policy Framework on local planning policy, members considered the application. It was proposed that the Council should oppose the application on the following grounds;

Road safety –

Whilst the planning authority has, on previous occasions, overlooked the Council's objections to a number of individual applications which have added to the risk created by increased traffic at the sub-standard crossroads, it felt the objection was wholly justified in this case. The risk posed by a further 25 to 35 vehicles feeding into the junction could not be overlooked, particularly in light of the increase in traffic using the junction from the forthcoming Yew Tree Farm development which will contribute a further 80 to a hundred vehicles. Further, Blackthorn Rd and Bicester Rd, which form the crossroads with West End and are used as a 'rat-run', will experience increasing volumes of through traffic resulting from large scale developments on the northern edge of Aylesbury and those in Bicester.

Flooding -

It was noted that the developer's Flood Report whilst considering all kinds of flood risk had not addressed the effects of rain falling on the land. There

was evidence from residents in Chestnut Close and West End that surface water flooding was prevalent in the gardens of adjacent houses.

Nuisance

From noise and light pollution for residents of Chestnut Close.

Loss of amenity

The adjacent Island Pond Wood which is a much valued woodland, open to the public, will be degraded as result of the Leylandii dividing the site from the wood being interrupted by houses . Additionally, light pollution will diminish the quality of this natural environment.

Inappropriate impact on the street scene.

The style of the proposed development is not in keeping with the existing properties in Chestnut Close where unlike other parts of the village there is a uniform architectural style.

Overshadowing and overbearing

11 Chestnut Close, will lose all light to the east-facing windows in the ground floor living room.

Proposed: Councillor Turner
All in favour.

Seconded: Councillor Burn
Motion carried.

b. Planning Decisions

- i. Application No.11/01907/F
Applicant Manor Oak Homes Ltd
Proposal Erection of 40 residential dwellings (including 3 barn conversions), public open space, improvements to an existing access and ancillary development.
Location Yew Tree Farm, Station Rd, Launton, OX26 5DX
Decision Granted subject to conditions

9. Village Matters

- a. To receive a report from Revd. Becky Mathew concerning the recent church survey.
Revd. Mathew reported that approximately one in five of the questionnaires circulated to every household had been returned. Lots of ideas had been put forward as to how to better utilise the Church but unfortunately no single idea dominated. The Chairman offered further assistance from the Council, if it would be valuable, in taking the findings forward. It was also suggested that a survey relating solely to the Parish Hall may be valuable.
- b. To consider a suggestion made in Launton Lines as to whether to include the Council's minutes in the magazine.
After consideration the Council concluded, that in its opinion, it would damage the balance of the magazine to have several pages given over to the minutes of Council meetings and increase production costs. Since draft minutes are published on both village notice boards, usually within a week of each meeting, and they were also published on the village website, it did not endorse the suggestion.
- c. To report on the meeting with Mr Maurice Sheehan of OCC Highways concerning the footway in Station Rd.
Following the Council's earlier request for support from Cllr Mrs Fulljames in having a proper footway installed beyond the existing one in Station Rd, a meeting was organised by the Clerk with Mr Sheehan and attended by The Chairman and Cllr Mrs Fulljames. Those present, walked the section of the road in question and discussed the proposal to install a raised footway from a point opposite the bus shelter, where the existing footway terminates, up to the entrance to Grange Farm Mews.

Following the meeting Mr Sheehan reported that there was funding available, which in conjunction with the Yew Tree Farm development could enable the footway to be installed. He undertook to have the job researched and priced.

10. Correspondence

- a. Correspondence received for action
 - i. ORCC – Launton Affordable Housing Progress Report
The Clerk reported that ORCC had approached the Council for assistance having failed to make contact with the owner of land adjoining the garages in Blackthorn Rd. which has been considered as a possible rural affordable housing site. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the land owner to establish whether there was interest in being involved in such an undertaking.
- b. Correspondence received for information (sent by email)
 - i. OALC - Members Updates January & February 2013
 - ii. SLCC Review – DPI Dispensations
 - iii. ORCC – News Bulletin February 2013
 - iv. Mrs. Pat Mitchel – Cancer Research Soup Lunch
 - v. Gavin Lane CDC – Members Interests Form
 - vi.

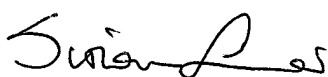
11. Reports

- a. Chairman's Report
The Chairman reported that he had been asked by the Launton Lines Committee to ascertain whether there would be support for increased financial support to fund on-going colour production costs. This will be considered at the Council's next meeting.
- b. Clerk's Report
The Clerk reminded members that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on the 18th April in the Parish Hall.
He also pointed out that the annual Spring Clean will be held during April and the date would be published in Launton Lines.

12. Date of next meeting – 4th April 2012, in the Launton Parish Hall

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

Signed



Date

4/4/2013

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