

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. Three parishoners availed themselves of this opportunity.

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd November 2011 at 7.30pm in Launton Parish Hall

Present: Councillors: Miss Wendy Foster, Mr Chris Fox, Mr Howard Hill, Mr Ian Stubbings
Ms Penny Stephens and Mr Simon Turner.

In attendance: Mr Keith Dixon – Clerk

Guests: Cynth Napper – Oxfordshire Nature Conservancy Forum
District Councillor David Hughes

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Burn.

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

Cllr Turner declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 10ai.

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

There was none.

4. The Relevance of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 to Parish Councils – Presentation by Cynth Napper of Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum (ONCF)

Cynth Napper's presentation illustrated that, under the above act, the Parish Council had a responsibility to consider biodiversity in all its actions. She also pointed out that Launton falls within an area designated by ONCF as a conservation target area based on the River Ray.

The Chairman thanked Cynth for her presentation.

The Chairman then suspended the meeting to allow questions from members of the public and was reconvened at 7.59p.m.

5. To receive an update from Mr Bob Roberts on Friends of Island Pond Wood's plans to lease the site from The Woodland Trust.

Bob Roberts reported that FOIPW now have a lease which will require the creation of a 'not for profit, limited by guarantee' company, before completion. He anticipated that FOIPW would be able to take advantage of the donation agreed by the Parish Council, in time for next year's grass cutting season. He also described work being done, with the help of Bicester Green Gym, to create a wild orchard and to involve the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) to assist with other maintenance projects.

6. To confirm the minutes of previous meeting – Thursday 6th October 2011

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

Proposed: Councillor Turner
All in favour

Seconded: Councillor Fox
Motion carried.

7. Report from Cherwell District Councillor for Launton

Cllr Hughes reported on his work to progress the Bicester Community Hospital development, and shared his views which were opposed to the parliamentary boundary changes under consideration. He also talked about the Graven Hill site development application and the potential risk this could have, if its timing impacted the development of the Eco-town at NW Bicester, since the 1900 homes proposed were not part of Cherwell's housing strategy.

Signed



Date 1/12/2011

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8. Report from Oxfordshire County Councillor for Launton

None was available.

9. Finance and Governance

- a. To consider the Clerk's attendance at OALC Training event on 6th December
It was proposed that the Clerk should attend.

Proposed: Councillor Turner

Seconded:

Councillor Hill

All in favour

Motion carried.

Action Clerk

- b. To consider Councillors attendance at OALC's Finance training on 31st January 2012.

It was proposed that the Clerk and Cllr Foster should attend.

Proposed: Councillor Stephens

Seconded:

Councillor Stubbings

All in favour

Motion carried.

Action Clerk

- c. To confirm and approve expenditure for November and review income during October.

Payments for approval

Cheque No	Payee	Amount
200199	Mr Jefferies – Bus Shelter	£80.30
200200	K Dixon	£328.09
200201	HMRC – K Dixon	£76.40
200202	Arrow Accounting	£198.00
200203	OALC	£72.00
200204	Cherwell DC	£118.00
200205	Cancelled	
200206	Calber Facilities Mngmt - Grass Cutting	£266.40
S/O	Launton Lines	£110.00
Total Payments in November 2011		£1,249.19

All above cheques drawn on The Co-operative Bank

Income Received

Source	Reason	Amount
Co-operative Bank Current	Interest	£0.75
Bank of Ireland	Interest	£0.99
Total Receipts for October 2011		£1.74

Proposed: Councillor Hill

Seconded:

Councillor Stubbings

All in favour

Motion carried.

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

The Council's bank statements were reviewed and unanimously accepted.

- e. To review contracts held and contractor performance.

The Clerk presented the table of contracts which were reviewed by the council.

Performance of all current contracts was regarded as satisfactory.

- f. To consider what actions are needed regarding maintenance of physical assets. The Clerk reported that he had been in touch with a representative of Thames Valley Probation Service who co-ordinates Community Payback activity. She would visit on 30th November to discuss requirements and view locations. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Hill reported on the condition of the litter bin at the end of West End and considered it to be repairable. He agreed to liaise with Cllr Fox about supply of materials and to affect a repair. **Action Cllr Hill**

The Clerk reported that he had now received title documents to land at Yew Tree Walk and The Poplars. He asked Cllr Turner if he would consider these documents and attempt to interpret ownership and responsibility. Cllr Turner agreed. **Action Cllr Turner**

The Clerk reported that Cllr Fox had established that a replacement lid would cost £88.35 plus VAT. It was proposed that the dog bin at the garages in Blackthorn Rd, which is little used, be inspected to see if it could be exchanged with the defective one at The Glades. **Action Cllr Fox**

10.Planning

At this point Cllr Turner left the meeting room and Cllr Hill took the Chair.

- a. To discuss and decide upon Planning Applications received.

- i. Application No.11/01469/F

Applicant Mr & Mrs Patel

Proposal Single storey rear extension to create two bedrooms flat

Location Londis 36 Bicester Road, Launton

It was proposed that the Council made no objection or comment regarding this application

Proposed: Councillor Hill

Seconded:

Councillor Stubbings

All in favour

Motion carried.

At this point Cllr Turner rejoined the meeting and resumed as Chairman.

- b. Planning Decisions

- i. Application No.11/01204/F

Applicant Mr Paul Davis

Proposal New detached double garage. Remove section of block wall and drop kerb to create new access.

Location Blenheim Barn, Blenheim Drive, Launton

Decision Granted subject to conditions

The Council noted the decision.

- ii. Application No.11/01242/F

Applicant Mr Peter Foster

Proposal One and a half storey extension with dormer windows to front and side and new garage extension – re-submission of 10/00847/F

Location 15 Blackthorn Rd, Launton, Oxfordshire OX26 5DA

Decision Granted subject to conditions

The Council noted the decision.

11.Village Matters

- a. To formally accept the questionnaire used for the Yew Tree Farm proposed development.

It was proposed that the flyer drafted by the Clerk, describing the proposed survey, and previously circulated to all councillors, be adopted.

Proposed: Councillor Turner

Seconded:

Councillor Stephens

All in favour

Motion carried.

The Chairman described the work done to date by the Clerk and himself in preparation for the survey questionnaire.

- b. To consider whether the Council agrees with the proposed boundary changes.
Since time still allowed, it was proposed that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

Action Clerk

The Chairman also agreed to talk to the Chairmen of Chesterton and Ambrosden PCs to gauge their opinion

Action Cllr Turner

- c. To receive an update from Cllr Fox on progress with speed recording devices.
Cllr Fox reported that the device had been received and work was ongoing to collect data
- d. To receive feedback from Cllr Stubbings regarding his attendance at the CDC Emergency Operations meeting.
Cllr Stubbings reported that emergency plans need be very simple with little more than the names of three key holders of the designated emergency venue. He offered to continue working on this and report progress at the next meeting.

- e. To consider the Council's severe weather plans and to decide whether the council will fund an additional grit bin for the bridge in Bicester Rd.

The Clerk reported that Cliff Monger from OCC Highways had visited the village and surveyed the proposed site and that it was acceptable.

The cost of a bin plus a fill of grit salt would be £250

It was proposed that the Council should order a bin at the cost above.

Action Clerk

Proposed: Councillor Turner

Seconded:

Councillor Stephens

All in favour

Motion carried.

12. Correspondence

- a. Correspondence received for action
OALC - Finance Training
Considered previously under item 9b
- b. Correspondence received for Information
OALC- Update for Members September / October 2011

13. Reports

- a. Chairman's Report
There was none.
- b. Clerk's Report
There was none.

14. Date of next meeting - Thursday 1st December 2011 In the Launton Parish Hall

The Meeting closed at 9.00p.m.