

LAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Members of the Parish Council and the Parish Clerk had been available in Launton Village Hall before the start of the formal meeting (from 7.00pm until 7.30pm) to meet with the public. All plans and correspondence were available for viewing and comments and 4 parishioners availed themselves of this opportunity. The formal meeting commenced at 7.50pm.

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd December 2009 at 7.50pm in Launton Village Hall

Present: Councillors: Mr Simon Turner- Chairman, Miss Wendy Foster – Vice Chairman, Mr Ian Stubbings & Mr Roger Tompkins

In attendance: Mr Keith Dixon- Clerk,

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Councillors Mrs Molly O'Connor, Mrs Audrey Tutt and Mr Howard Hill

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

There were none.

3. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting - Thursday 5th November 2009

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

Proposed: Councillor Turner
All in favour.

Seconded: Councillor Stubbings
Motion carried.

4. Report from Oxfordshire County Councillor for Launton

None was available

5. Report from Cherwell District Councillor for Launton

None was available

6. Financial:

- a. To consider a request to commit funds for the Clerk's training.
The request was agreed.

Proposed: Councillor Turner
All in favour.

Seconded: Councillor Stubbings
Motion carried.

- b. To consider the Council's contribution towards the costs incurred by the Clerk, arising out of using his home location as an office.

The Council agreed the level of contribution.

Proposed: Councillor Turner
All in favour.

Seconded: Councillor Tomkins
Motion carried.

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

Expenditure for approval and payment in December 2009

Cheque No	Payee	Amount
200066	Mr Jefferies – Bus Shelter	£ 80.30
200067	K Dixon	£ 450.61
200068	HMRC – K Dixon	£ 71.40
200069	SLCC	£ 210.00
200070	T.L. Jenkins	£ 680.00
200071	Phil Bradford	£ 150.00
S/O	Launton Lines	£ 110.00

Total Payments for December 2009 £ 1752.31

All above cheques drawn on The Co-operative Bank

Transfer of Funds

Source	Reason	Amount
Bank of Ireland (Chq No. 00009)	Transfer out to Co-operative	£7500.00
Co-operative Bank	Transfer in from BOI	£7500.00

Income Received

Source	Reason	Amount
Co-operative Bank	Interest November	£0.02
Bank of Ireland	Interest November	£0.01

Total Receipts for November 2009

£ 0.03

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

Statements were accepted.

- e. To review requests received for donations under S137 arrangements.

During the year appeals had been received from;

Sue Ryder Care – The Nettlebed Hospice

Assisted Reading for Children in Oxford (ARCh)

Oxfordshire Association for the Blind

Oxfordshire Woodland Project

It was resolved that the Council would make donations of £25.00 to each of these charities, in keeping with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972

Proposed: Councillor Foster

Seconded: Councillor Stubbings

All in favour.

Motion carried.

- f. To review and consider the budget proposal for 2010/11 and to set the precept.

The Clerk presented the year-to-date outlook, together with proposals/expectations for budgeted amounts of income and expenditure which had previously been discussed with the Chairman. The Council considered whether any amendments were required to the budget and after discussion accepted the budget as presented. The precept to be sought for 2010/11 will be £13,000.

Proposed: Councillor Turner
All in favour.

Seconded: Councillor Tompkins
Motion carried.

7. Planning

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

There were none.

- b. Planning Decisions

i. Application No.	09/01313/F
Applicant:	Mr Peter Deeley
Proposal	Installation of a spiral wine cellar within existing dwelling (re-submission of 09/00772/F)
Location	Manor Farm, Bicester Rd, Launton
Decision	Granted

ii. Application No.	09/01314/LB
Applicant:	Mr Peter Deeley
Proposal	Installation of a spiral wine cellar within existing dwelling (re-submission of 09/00771/LB)
Location	Manor Farm, Bicester Rd, Launton
Decision	Granted

- c. NW Bicester Eco town

To consider and discuss current understanding of the Eco town development and to decide on the Council's position regarding support or objection to the proposals.

In light of the Bicester Summit meeting being held on the 9th December it was proposed that the Council defers its consideration of this matter until the next meeting.

The Clerk was instructed to publish articles in Launton Lines and www.launton.org to advise residents of the opportunity to discuss their views before the meeting.

Action Clerk

8. Village Matters

- a. Calor 'Village of the Year' competition- to review progress.
Councillor Foster reported that it was hoped that a public meeting would be held by Launton People in January with an intention, among other things, of gaining the services of Cherwell District Council's Youth Activators team.
- b. Speed recording devices – To review developments and consider a decision on funding.
Correspondence is ongoing between the Neighbourhood Action Group and Oxfordshire County Council concerning factors arising from shared ownership of a device.
- c. Better warning of the hazard when approaching the School from Bicester Rd railway bridge.

The Clerk reported that Oxfordshire Highways had advised him that possible improvements could be achieved by having the word 'Slow' painted on the carriageway adjacent to the 'School' warning sign, and considering whether the sign was at its optimal distance from the school.

The Clerk was directed to enquire of Oxfordshire Highways whether a illuminated 'School' sign, integrated with the speed activated 30mph sign was available, and what would be the cost of upgrading. Further, to seek advice on the optimal position of the present sign.

Action Clerk

d. Weed clearance – To review status

i. Station Rd pedestrian refuge.

The Clerk reported that the contractor engaged had completed the clearance of soil and debris from the pedestrian refuge. One effect of this work was to expose the poor condition of the road surface along its edge where pedestrians have no alternative paved footpath available. Given these findings supported by correspondence from a resident, the Council agreed the contents of a letter to be sent to Oxfordshire Highways formally requesting the side of the highway be resurfaced.

Action Clerk

It was also resolved that the Clerk should make requests through Oxfordshire County Council's current consultation on Local Transport Plan 2011-30 for resurfacing of the highway and for the instatement of a proper kerbed footpath along Station Rd to the end of the village.

Action Clerk

ii. Bicester Rd

The Clerk reported that Oxfordshire County Council will undertake clearance of weeds from either side of the railway bridge in Bicester Rd during December.

9. Correspondence

a. To discuss and, where necessary, decide upon a response to correspondence for consideration:

i. Email concerning bus parking in Blenheim Drive

Following a full explanation of the issue, by residents, during the public session prior to the meeting, the Council resolved to write again to Stagecoach providing recorded occurrences of violations of their own working instructions. The Clerk was also advised to contact Heyfordian to ensure they are aware of the issues.

Action Clerk

ii. CDC - Operation of the Ethical Framework – Customer Survey

The Council completed the Survey

iii. St Mary's Parochial CC – Letter regarding 2010 Grant

The Council discussed the request received from St Mary's PCC, to recognise the increased cost of grass cutting in the church yard, and to make an increase in the grant the Council makes next year. The Council resolved that the grant should be increased to meet the present level of cost, an increase of £200. Further, it was resolved that an equivalent percentage increase should be made in the grant to the Launton Congregational Church.

Action Clerk

iv. St Mary's Parochial CC – Letter regarding the Village Hall

The Council resolved that the Clerk should reply, on its behalf, expressing its disappointment that the PCC proposes to retain the status quo, and hopes it will reconsider the Albermarle scheme proposal at its next review sometime before 2015.

Action Clerk

- v. Empowering Parish and Town Councils by getting the Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill adopted in Parliament
The Council agreed that the Clerk should send email letters to the seven MPs who have the opportunity to adopt the Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill.

Action Clerk

- b. Correspondence received for information
 - i. Aylesbury Vale DC Core Strategy

10. Reports

- a. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he and Councillor Foster had participated in a valuable meeting with Launton Playing Fields Association to explore opportunities to support each other's objectives.

In light of discussions with residents before the formal meeting, the Chairman asked the Clerk to enquire of Oxfordshire Highways who they believed would be the appropriate authority to receive information concerning issues with lorries reversing onto Station Rd from Blenheim Drive

The Chairman also, accepted with regret, Councillor Tompkins resignation from the Council. He thanked Councillor Tompkins for all his practical help over his years of service to the parish and his valuable contributions to the debates in chamber.

- b. Clerk's Report

- i. Repairs to Sycamore Rd kerbstones are scheduled for 11 December 2009
- ii. The dead tree in The Glades is scheduled for replacement by 10th December 2009
- iii. Cherwell District Council is awaiting the services of Oxfordshire County Council to attempt clearances of remaining blockages in the system. This work is scheduled for 14th December 2009. Thereafter, they will conclude their work.
- iv. A letter had been received from Oxford Rural Community Council asking for help making contact with owners of a site proposed for affordable housing. The Chairman said he would make enquiries.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.47 p.m.

11. Date of next meeting - Thursday 7th January 2010
Launton Parish Hall