

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 9th MAY 2022 FROM 6.30PM IN THE LANE END YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

ATTENDANCE: Cllrs - Mr M Detsiny, Mr G, Coulter, Mr C Harries, Mr W Hunt, Mr J Nicolson, Mrs J Osborn, Mr C Stewart.

Mrs H Glasgow, Clerk

ABSENT: Cllrs Mr S Achurch, Mrs M Dunning, Mrs D Graham and Mr K Wright.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 13

Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman thanked Katy Donaghue and Emma Savory for their hard work and contributions to raising money for LEYCC. The recent Gala Ball was a great success.

Councillors Report

Cllr Harries gave a report on Lane End Playing Fields

Cllr Harries detailed the background information about Lane End Playing Fields.

In 1964 the PC purchased Lane End Playing Fields from two families in the village, the only caveat was that the fields had to be used for sports and recreation.

In 1985 the Lane End Playing Fields Association took over the responsibility for the Lane End Pavilion.

In 1991/1992 the Sports Association and Lane End Parish Council formed a partnership with WDC. A multi-use games area and children's play area were installed.

An extension of the clubhouse was agreed, however there wasn't enough money at the time and therefore this was never pursued.

In 2015, what was the multi games area and children's play area had fallen into a state of dilapidation. The clubhouse needed renovating and the Pavilion was used by a very small number of people.

Cllrs Coulter and Harries joined the Lane End Sports Association Committee as members. The Committee now has 6 members and one member of staff employed for 20 hours per week. They also have additional staff as and when required.

The 3G pitch is in use 20 hrs a week and there are 2 darts teams and also football teams. There have been events on the playing fields and in the pavilion.

There is an event planned for the Queens Platinum Jubilee on June 3rd from 12 noon until 12pm.

Looking to the future, there is a hope that money from the sale of Chalky Field will help to assist with funding of a children's play area. There is also a requirement to install disabled facilities. Other options that are in discussion are, catering facilities, possible extension to use the Pavilion for slightly larger events, better parking and an outdoor theatre.

There are currently 227 paid members. The cost of the membership is £2 per year. Anyone is welcome to join.

Questions/Comments

A Parishioner commented that the PC has done a wonderful job at Lane End Playing Fields but questioned why the PC has two representatives on the LE Playing Fields Committee. Other Committees have only one representative.

A Parishioner asked when the PC are looking at a playground for young children if something could be considered for older children.

The Chairman has a meeting scheduled with Great Marlow School next week (tbc). He will be meeting with students at secondary school age who live in the Parish to ask what facilities they would be interested in.

A Parishioner commented that a skate park would be well used as children cannot easily use the one in Marlow as there is no bus service from Lane End to Marlow.

The Parish Council will look at bus services.

Cllr Hunt gave a report on Planning

Cllrs Hunt, Achurch and Stewart are the Planning Working Group for LEPC. Cllr Hunt reported on the process of planning applications. The Clerk sends through all of the planning applications to the Planning Working Group. The group look at each application individually. They often meet up at evenings and weekends and carry out site visits. The comments are reported to full council at a meeting and comments are agreed. The Clerk sends the agreed submission to Buckinghamshire Council.

Cllr Nicolson gave a report on Ultra-Fast broadband

Cllr Nicolson reported on the background of how Hey Broadband, Fibre and Wireless were involved. Lane End Parish Council has been working with Hey Broadband since September 2021.

The Parish Council formed a Broadband Working Group. The group looked at and met with several broadband suppliers. Fibre and Wireless presented the best scheme and have moved at the pace as promised.

Fibre and Wireless have been approved for the scheme. They have now started to build the infrastructure. The PC has monthly meetings with them, and they are ready to start installation.

As part of the agreement the working group managed to secure free internet from Fibre and Wireless in public buildings in the Parish.

Cllr Stewart gave a report on Chalky Field Receipts/Expenditure

Cllr Stewart reported that he and Cllrs Coulter, Detsiny, Harries and Nicolson were all part of the Spending Priorities Working Group. The Parish Council is due to receive in the region of £2.3 million from the sale of the Chalky Field site. However, this figure is subject to change and dependent on conditions required by the planning authority.

Cllr Stewart reported that the chairman formed a Spending Priorities Working Group from a cross section of Councillors to advise Council, in the first instance, on the impact arising from the sale of Chalky Fields & how best placed we should be to manage such expenditure together with agreeing approval & distribution of grant aided monies. The Group is certainly not elitist, and the following are our collected views to date, which are not intended to be mandatory, arising from our meetings and informal discussions. Presentation of any schemes and expenditure will remain as always, with the Full Parish Council.

Currently on the horizon are the following projects, which we have not yet been debated, accepted or committed to by Council

Children's Play area- Playing fields

Car park extension & new access road- Playing Fields

Club-house Extension - Playing Fields

Theatre on The Row – Playing Fields

Village hall upgrade

Village ponds- Refurbishment

Provision of a school bus

Contribution towards purchase of Finings Wood

Traffic Management study

Completion of street lighting upgrade to LED luminaires

Extension of footpath & lighting adjacent to the Care Home – The Row

Creation of orchard at Sandy Fields

It is the intention that Council will, when finances are reasonably assured, invite Parishioners to submit any bone-fide proposals they may consider appropriate. Draft communication has been prepared and will come forward for approval in due course.

Several drafts of the likely programme have been prepared but the approval date on Planning remains elusive. The best guess is that funding will not be available until the first quarter of 2023, with implementation July/August. When there is more certainty on the timing of proposed projects we plan to engage with consultants to ensure maximum efficiency and minimum disruption.

Discussions will be held on best procurement practice and delivery of projects. Council will need to determine a 'wish list' of projects.

As ever all is dependent on a satisfactory conclusion of the land sale.

Questions/Comments

A Parishioner reported that LEYCC does need a new kitchen.

It was reported that the PC has exchanged contracts with NK Homes. It's a conditional contract, the amount of money is therefore not guaranteed.

Questions were asked about monies being promised to organisations within the Parish.

*Cllr Nicolson would like it noted that he attended a meeting with the Friends of Finings Wood in his capacity as a member of the Spending Priorities Working Group.

The Clerk reported that the Spending Priorities Group is a Working Group, and they are tasked with making recommendations to Council. The Working Group does not have any powers without agreement of Council.

A Parishioner drew Councils attention to the Code of Conduct that they must abide by.

A Parishioner made comments that the Parish Council was disingenuous, and the Chairman should resign. The Parishioner then left the meeting.

Cllr Detsiny reported that Parish Councillors are all volunteers, the work they do tirelessly is in their own time, often evenings and weekends.

Cllr Coulter gave the financial report

The PC ended the 21/22 financial year with a surplus of £7k against a target of a balanced budget. This has been rolled over into the 22/23 financial year and has been earmarked for tree works and street lighting repairs.

Cllr Coulter detailed the main items of expenditure. The 22/23 Precept was set at £169,500.00. 3 years ago, the precept was £165,000.00. Council are pleased to have been able to keep the increases low. They average under 1% each year for the last 3 years.

The Parish Council is currently undertaking a project to replace all street lighting lanterns with LEDs. The existing old-style bulbs are no longer in stock, LEDs are also much more cost effective. There are approx. 250 street lighting columns in the parish.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

A Parishioner stated that they believe the Parish Council do a fantastic job.

The meeting was closed at 8.15pm.

*Amendment to the minutes as agreed at the Full Parish Council Meeting on Monday 6th June 2022.

It was noted that there are 5 members of the Spending Priorities Working Group including Cllrs Coulter, Detsiny, Harries, Nicolson and Stewart.