

LOVERSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting

Wednesday 14th July 2021, 7.30pm

In Attendance: Councillors: Nicola Harris, Spencer Morris, Nigel Tomlinson, Keith Wilson

DMBC Councillors: Nigel Cannings

Apologies received: DMBC Cllr Greenhalgh

1. Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda – None

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 19th May 2021 (previously circulated on 31.05.21). These were accepted as a true record of that meeting. (Proposed: Cllr Morris. Seconded Cllr Harris)

3. Matters arising:

a. Amazon Lakes

I. Cllr Wilson reported on responses to his letter to Mayor of Doncaster, Ross Jones, and Don Valley MP, Nick Fletcher; the full responses having previously been circulated to Councillors. The letter was sent at the request of the Parish Council in view of the fact that it was a condition of planning permission given to Verdion, some eight years ago, that the management of the area would be handed over to YWT. The delay had brought with it the risk of inappropriate commercialism and abuse of the ecology of the area. In summary, the Mayor had responded saying that DMBC will continue to keep in touch with Verdion and YWT over the coming months to ensure progress is still being made. Nick Fletcher MP had made enquiries of Verdion and had received an assurance from them that the draft lease was being agreed and should be in place in the next three months, ie early September 2021. The YWT regional team leader for South Yorkshire had since confirmed that Verdion were aware of the letter and now seemed keen to make progress. Most recently YWT had advised that a draft lease contract had been exchanged and was in the hands of solicitors and YWT Board.

Cllr Wilson was thanked for his commitment to achieving the outcome on behalf of the Parish Council and it was agreed that the Council should continue to monitor progress with the lease. **(KW to action)**
(Proposed: Cllr Tomlinson. Seconded Cllr Harris)

II. Cllr Harris and Cllr Tomlinson reported concerns that one or two residents had expressed about the extent to which YWT might fence off the area and restrict access to local residents wishing to walk through the area. After discussion it was agreed that if individual Councillors were approached on this matter it should be explained that (a) the Wildlife Trust (or other environmental agency) would take over the area eventually and the action of the Parish Council was to make this happen sooner than later (b) the sooner the area was taken over by YWT the less chance there was of further commercialism because an existing agency would be in a position to undertake an environmental assessment (c) the less chance there was of further commercialism, the less need there was to

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fence off any of the area and the less risk of adverse effects on the village (d) the good relationships built up with YWT gave the Parish Council the opportunity to have an input into how the area would be secured in the future. **(All to action)**

(Proposed: Cllr Wilson. Seconded Cllr Tomlinson)

- III. It was agreed that Jim Horsfall, the senior team leader at Potteric Carr, should be invited to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council to discuss the future of the area and specifically the issue of how the area would be secured.

(KW to action)

(Proposed: Cllr Wilson. Seconded : Cllr Morris)

b. Update of discussions between LPC Chair and Loversall Farm re use of green space near Loversall Church:

- I. Cllr Tomlinson reported that he had met with a representative of Loversall Farm, who own the green space, and they were not minded to allow the use of the space by local residents (as a 'village green'). Cllr Tomlinson had consulted the DMBC Conservation Officer regarding the ancient right of way across the green space, fenced off in recent years. It was noted that the original stone pathway, which delineated the right of way had been removed. Cllr Tomlinson reported that the Conservation Officer had been enthusiastic about creating a focal point for the village and had suggested that a public footpath sign be mounted at either end of the right of way. It was agreed that (i)the Conservation Officer's suggestion re signage should be pursued (ii) a footpath audit within the Parish should be conducted **(NT to action)**
- (Proposed: Cllr Tomlinson. Seconded Cllr Wilson)
- II. Cllr Tomlinson reported that, as a by product of the conversation re the green space, he had been made aware of some interest amongst residents to hold a village fete or similar. The Parish Council were invited to be involved. It was agreed that as a statutory body with legal and insurance considerations, the Parish Council might initiate and manage such an event but could not formally be part of an activity over which they had no formal democratic control. Individual Councillors in a private capacity were entitled to take part in the initiative as private citizens but not representing the Parish Council. It was agreed that Cllr Tomlinson would report the decision of the Council, thank residents concerned for their invitation to contribute and invite them to keep the Council informed of proposals and developments. **(NT to action)**
- (Proposed: Cllr Harris. Seconded Cllr Morris)

4. Financial Report

- a. **Summary:** The balance at the bank as at 14th July 2021 was reported to be £589.97. Anticipated income before the next Council meeting is £690 (2nd instalment of parish precept). There exists a debt of £80 being the fee payable to the internal auditor for 2019/20 and 2020/21. As previously agreed this amount will be donated to the local branch of the MND charity, as requested by the auditor (Mike Gornall). There had been

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difficulty making the payment in the pandemic lockdown but this would now be expedited (**Action KW**)

b. LPC Income /Expenditure: 19/05/21 – 14/07/21

		EXPENDITURE	INCOME	BALANCE
19.05.21	Balance at Unity Bank BF			1080.71
01.06.21	Zurich Insurance	210.00		870.71
09.06.21	Reimbursement Clerk (printer ink/stationery)	54.85		815.86
30.06.21	Unity Bank	18.00		797.86
12.07.21	Clerk payment (April-June 21)	166.39		631.47
12.07.21	HMRC PAYE	41.60		589.87
14.07.21	Total	490.84	0	589.87

5. Planning Applications

There were no outstanding planning applications or appeals to report. Recent applications were noted relating to trees covered by tree preservation orders.

6. Retirement of Clerk & arrangements for replacement

Cllr Wilson, having agreed to act as the Clerk in an unpaid interim capacity, as on a previous occasion, presented the Council with a proposed Job Description for the replacement Clerk. He explained that the job description contained standard roles and duties required of a Proper Officer / Responsible Financial Officer but had been adapted to meet the requirements of a very small parish council. (the Job Description is appended to these minutes). Nonetheless it was agreed that the role was a very wide ranging and onerous/impossible one to be undertaken within the 80 hours/year affordable within the Council's budget. The Council's past experience had been that, given the small number of hours available, there was some benefit to be had in recruiting a Clerk who understood the geography and dynamics of the village. However, none of the Councillors present were aware of an individual who had expressed an interest in the post within the village. Cllr Wilson reminded the Council that the Clerk must be an employee of the Council and services could not be provided under a service agreement.

It was agreed that the job description should be approved, the post should be advertised through the Yorkshire Local Councils Association and enquiries should be made of neighbouring Parish/Town Councils as to whether there was interest in an incumbent wishing to take on the role of Clerk with Loversall Parish Council in addition to their existing role. (**Action KW**)

7. **Facebook Account:** Cllr Wilson advised the Council that he had set up the Loversall Council Facebook account ten years ago as a page within his own personal Facebook account. He no longer wished this arrangement to continue and had deleted the Loversall Facebook page. Councillors were asked to consider whether a dedicated Loversall Council Facebook account was worth setting up, given that: the existing one had only ever been accessed by the same few residents; the Council (by law) has its own website; in relation to the recent Café planning application, it had been that the Council should not to respond to the vitriol and abuse on Facebook; statements made on Social Media are governed by Standing Orders on

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communication and individual Councillors cannot respond on Facebook without approval from Council. Cllr Tomlinson queried whether the website was maintained and up to date. Cllr Wilson advised that he had set up and managed the website and it was updated and managed regularly in line with legal requirements. Content when relevant and available was posted and Councillors could if they wish suggest content to be posted. It was agreed that a Loversall Council Facebook site should be set up as a contingency for communication should it ever be required. **(Action KW)**

(Proposed : Cllr Morris. Seconded: Cllr Tomlinson)

8. Clerk's Report

a. **Code of Conduct:** The Local Government had recently issued a new model code of conduct. This had been previously adopted by the Council but DMBC wished to know if it had been formally adopted. It was agreed to formally adopt the LGA Code of Conduct **(Action KW)**

(Proposed: Cllr Morris. Seconded Cllr Tomlinson)

b. **Accessing Financial Grants** ('Safer streets for women and girls'): Cllr Wilson advised Councillors that some years ago, concerned for the vulnerability of girls and women waiting at the bus stop in the evening, he had campaigned unsuccessfully to persuade DMBC and the local bus company to provide a lit bus shelter at the bus stop opposite the village. He reported that he had very recently become aware of a Home Office Grant to help local communities address safer streets for women and young children. Unfortunately the deadline for the bid was very imminent and it was not feasible to submit a bid. However, DMBC had carried out a grantfinder search for other potential grants. It was agreed that Cllr Wilson could investigate potential grants on behalf of the Council. **(Action KW)**

(Proposed: Cllr Harris. Seconded: Cllr Tomlinson)

c. **WI request for assistance:** Cllr Wilson, at the request from Mrs Fran Wright of Loversall WI, asked if Councillors were aware of an individual who might agree to periodically clear the grass and weeds from around the perimeter of the WI Hut. It was agreed that Cllr Harris would liaise with Mrs Wright on the issue. **(Action NH)**

(Proposed: Cllr Wilson: Seconded: Cllr Tomlinson)

9. Date for the next Parish Council Meeting is Wednesday 27th October 2021, at 7.30pm in the WI Hut.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.00hrs

Signed Date

Chair