

LOVERSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting

Wednesday 16th March 2022, 7.30pm

In Attendance:

Councillors: Nicola Harris, Spencer Morris (chaired the meeting), Colin Wright, Keith Wilson (Interim Clerk) DMBC Councillors: Martin Greenhalgh

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Nigel Tomlinson. DMBC: Cllr Cannings

2. **Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda**

None declared

3. **Minutes of Meeting held on 12th January 2022** (previously circulated on 13.01.22). These were accepted as a true record of that meeting. (Proposed: Cllr Morris. Seconded Cllr Harris)

4. **Matters arising:**

a) Van sales/traffic Loversall Farm.

The Council learned that further enquiries had been made to Loversall Farm by Cllr Tomlinson. Cllr Greenhalgh undertook to make enquiries with the officials in Planning and in Licencing as to whether they were aware of the gin distillery /van sales/ indoor motor cycling business developments at the farm, that had been reported by residents. **(Action MG/KW)**

b) Speed of traffic on Bubup Hill

It was considered that an alteration to the junction between the A60 and Bubup Hill would be a major undertaking. It was agreed that, as a first step, DMBC should be asked to relocate the existing 30mph sign closer to the entrance to Bubup Hill rather than have it in its current position on the village side of the humpback bridge. (Proposed Cllr Wright. Seconded Cllr Wilson) **(Action KW)**

5. **Financial Report**

a) Summary

The balance at the bank as of 16/03/22 reported as being £984.79. Since the previous meeting, expenditure of £269.08 had occurred: YLCA £15 (Clerk post advertisement), DMBC £144.44 (Election expenses), Motor Neurone Disease Association donation £80 (at request of internal auditor in lieu of a fee x2), K.V.Wilson £11.64 (reimbursement of personal expenditure on stamps). It was noted that had a paid Clerk been in post the balance would have been £349.43. The report was accepted. (Proposed Cllr Wright, seconded Cllr Harris)

b) HMRC Statement of Liabilities

As agreed previously, responsibility for resolving this matter with HMRC had been passed to an accountant acquaintance of Cllr Wilson (a Director of Warrens GBC) who had offered to make initial enquiries on a probono basis. Enquiries had been made and it was discovered that the Parish Council had correctly not made any NI payments in respect of the former Clerk because none were due. The matter is now resolved. In order to achieve this outcome the accountant required to be nominated as the agent of the Parish Council and Cllr Wilson,

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in his capacity as the interim Clerk, had made the nomination. The accountant is prepared to take on the role of running the PAYE payroll if necessary but Cllr Wilson awaits information about the charges (if any) for taking on this role. The above actions of Cllr Wilson acting in his role as interim Clerk were approved. (Proposed Cllr. Wright. Seconded Cllr Spencer)

c) Pension Liability Declaration

Cllr Wilson reported that notification from the Pension Regulator had been received requiring the Parish Council to make a Declaration that its legal duties as an employer in relation to staff (Clerk) pensions had been carried out according to law. The Declaration has been made and was accepted by the Regulator on 16th March in a confirmatory email.

d) Budget and Parish Precept 2022/23

Immediately following the meeting held on 12th January, Cllr Wilson sought clarification on the draft minute relating to the inflation assumption to be used in calculating the budget and precept. Cllr Morris had pointed out that he had not proposed to include an assumption of 5% for the staff pay increase but that he had proposed a flat increase of 1.75% across the entire budget and had believed that this had been supported. After an email exchange Cllr Wilson submitted a precept based on Cllr Morris' understanding of the proposal and the minute had been approved accordingly (see item 3 above). The precept applied for was thus £1426 representing a 2.1% increase on the previous year.

6. Clerk/RFO Vacancy

Cllr Wilson reported that there continued to be no interest shown in the post. He had recently sought the help of a Clerk in a neighbouring parish to publicise the post on the local Clerk's informal network and was awaiting the outcome. Cllr Wilson asked that a way forward be the main consideration at the next meeting of the Council in May, by which time he would have undertaken the role in an honorary capacity for almost 12 months, having undertaken it for two years on a previous occasion.

7. Members Ward Budget

Cllr Greenhalgh advised that the amount of £315 granted for Xmas decorations, which had become available too late, could be repurposed providing this was done before March 31st. It was agreed that this should be attempted. (Proposed Cllr Morris. Seconded Cllr Wright) **(Action KW / MG)**

8. Planning Applications and Appeals

Cllr Wilson reported that the only notifications received related to signage and other infrastructure within the iport complex and these could be viewed by Councillors on the DMBC Planning website.

9. Reports on Noise Nuisance (standing item)

No reports had been received by Councillors.

10. Items raised by residents

Dog waste bins for Rakes Lane

Cllr Harris had received a request from a resident on Rakes Lane to have a waste bin placed towards the Bubup Hill end of the Lane, in view of the fact that an increasing number of

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people passing through with their dogs were throwing poo bags into the hedgerow. Councillors present confirmed that they also felt this was the case. It was agreed that DMBC should be asked to provide and install a waste bin on Rakes Lane. (Proposed Cllr Harris. Seconded Cllr Wright) **Action KW**

11. Clerks Report

a) Pot Holes on Bubup Hill

It was noted that deep pot holes had once again developed on Bubup Hill. Cllr Wilson agreed to contact the DMBC Highways Department (**Action KW**)

b) Charges for use of WI HUT

A verbal request had been received from the WI regarding payment for use of the Hut for parish Council meetings, suggesting a £5 nominal fee per meeting. Having regard to the charges made by schools and similar organisations for rental of rooms it was agreed that a payment should be made. It was further agreed that a retrospective payment be made for the current year amounting to £20, and in future the payment should be included in the annual budget. (Proposed Cllr Wilson. Seconded Cllr Harris) **Action KW**

c) Rights of way signposting

No discernible action had been taken on the earlier request to DMBC and the matter was being chased up by Cllr Wilson.

12. Date of Next Meeting

May 18th 2022. (preceded by Annual Meeting of the Council)

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.30 hrs

Signed Date

Chair