

LOWER WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Parish Hall on Monday 23rd February 2015.

Present:

Councillors: Richard Massey (Vice-Chair), Peter Stephenson, Alan Brocklehurst, Richard Massey,
Councillor Lesley Smetham (CEC).

Members of the public: John Venables, Lisa Kennerley, Peta Williams, Mr Steve Jones, Mrs Pigott, Mr Hepworth, Mr G Budenberg

Before the meeting was officially opened, The Vice-Chairman invited the member of the public to raise any issues of concern

1) Drains near the Village Green - Mr Venables explained that although this has been reported several times by the Parish Council, pictures have been sent to Highways and there have been at least 4 visits, nothing's actually been done. The road drain apparently collapsed when the water main was put through. Mr Venables asked the Parish Council to report this again as a matter of urgency.

2) Lightening struck tree on the Village Green - again this has been reported and nothing done and so Mr Venables would appreciate it if the Parish Council can remind them that it still needs removing.

4) Planning Application for caravan storage on Pitt Lane - several residents expressed their concerns regarding this application. The access and increase in traffic on this single track lane are of major concern to the residents, almost all of were were present. There were some questions regarding current planning policies, including the General Permitted Development Order in 2014 relating to agricultural buildings. One resident has experience of running caravan storage sites and therefore understands the level of traffic that should be expected for such a site.

The meeting was then formally opened by the Vice-Chairman, Richard Massey

1 **Apologies** - Bernard Kellett, Alwin Thompson, Paul Duffey

2 **Declarations of personal or prejudicial interest.** - None

3 **The minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2015** were approved and signed as a correct record.

4 **Issues arising from the January meeting** - now were reported

5 **Finance**

- Council approved payment of £170.00 to the Parish Hall Committee for the hire of the Parish Hall for the Parish Council meetings. The chequebook was not available so it was not signed.

6 **Planning**

- The Pitt Lane application (15/0598M) had been discussed earlier and the Council were not aware of any other applications to discuss.

7 **Community**

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- Tennis Courts - Lisa Kennerley provided a handout with some information regarding membership numbers, promotion, coaching and ways in which the Parish Council can help (newsletters and website). There was a good discussion and hopefully a social event can be created so that current and prospective members can meet and discuss options.
- Parish Newsletter - it was agreed that a Spring newsletter was required including information about the tennis courts, website and litter picking dates.
- The proposed diversion of public footpath no. 21 Lower Withington (Part) - it was thought that the proposed route was actually better than the original route because the connection between other footpaths was improved.
- Dooleys Grig - a part share of no.9 is now up for sale and Mr and Mrs Hitchens have written to the Parish Council to express their interest.

8 Reports

- **Highways**
- A535 - there have now been 6 accidents on the bend with Bomish Lane since the 28th December and still the chevron signs have not been re-instated. Kevin Skillings reported that he has been to site (before the latest accident) and has emailed some suggestions regarding altering the road, however there is no current budget for this. It was suggested that we invite him to a Parish Council meeting to discuss these ideas.
- Leach Lane - it was suggested that the flooding was reported to Paul Reeves at Cheshire East
- Highways LAP - Cllr Smetham reported that the review of the main road through the village between the A535 and the A34 at Siddington has got agreed funding and will go ahead.
- Potholes - blocked drain and associated pothole between Little Orchard and Daisybank Farm on the A535

9 Any Other Business

- Jodrell Cottages - the reply from Professor Simon Garrington regarding the cottages was not received well. It was suggested that the Parish Council contact Karen Carburg at Cheshire East who deals with unoccupied houses.
- Defibrillator - the issue with insurance has been dealt with at a cost of £9 per annum from the Parish Council insurance. The location needs to be discussed with the Parish Hall Committee and Peter Stephenson agreed to attend. However Jackie Blackburn suggest an alternative location in the telephone kiosk. BT work with a charity to install these and it would mean the Parish Council taking ownership of the phone box for £1. A light inside would be maintained by BT and it would be in a more central location to the village. This option will be investigated alongside potential locations at the village hall before a final decision is made.
- Holmes Chapel School - Rachel Robinson reported back on the neighbouring Parish Council visit to the school. A number of Parish Councils were represented and show the very impressive Fifa Grade 1 artificial football pitch that has just been opened and the equally impressive theatre in the Sixth Form block, both of which can be hired.
- Cheshire Railings - Mr Venables mentioned the railings opposite Highway Garage and it was explained that the Parish Council are seeking quotes to determine how much it would cost to fix them. Other sources of funding may need to be considered.

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NEXT MEETING: at the Parish Hall, 7.30pm Monday 30th March 2015.

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