

NYTHE, ELDENE & LIDEN
PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 August 2017 at 6.30pm
in Nythe Community Centre

Present Cllr D Bell (Vice-Chair)
Cllr B Cockbill
Cllr A Hunt
Cllr O Ibitoye
Cllr B Solomon
Cllr G Stubbs

Officers Joyce Holman (Parish Clerk)

Cllr D Bell (Vice-Chair) in the Chair

Public Thirteen

Public Session Members of the public complained about the cleanliness of the road and condition of the tarmac in Chalford Road and Arlington Crescent. The Chair informed the public that highways remained the responsibility of Swindon Borough Council.

Mrs Curtis said that the Parish Council website was hard to find and Mrs Barker asked about more noticeboards. Cllr Hunt stated that there were ways to improve the website and he would spend some time with the Clerk to resolve this. The Vice-Chair confirmed that the Parish Council would be putting up noticeboards in Liden and Eldene and were only awaiting permission from Swindon Borough Council to attach the noticeboards to their buildings.

Several members of the public spoke about parking in Darwin Close and that drivers did not observe dropped kerbs. The Vice-Chair offered to visit the location and then bring the matter back to the next Parish Council meeting. He made clear that this was again a highways issue and all the Parish Council could do was support parishioner.

Mr Ward asked what had been the benefit of joining Eldene & Liden with Nythe as he could see no reason that connected the areas and there was not even a bus service. The public also expressed concern about the loss of the hospital bus. Cllr Cockbill said that he would take up these issues at the next Transport Meeting. The Vice-Chair asked the Clerk to arrange for a representative to attend a future meeting to talk about the bus transport available in the parish.

54 **Apologies**

None.
Cllr K Parry (Chair)
Cllr G Cruse
Cllr Z Hawson

55 **Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**

None

56 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 3 July 2017 be approved as a correct record.

57 Review of Grounds Maintenance Services (Min.43 – 03.07.17)

The Clerk reported that on the request of the Chair the Deed for the transfer of services to the Parish Council had not been returned to Swindon Borough Council. The reason for this was that there were a number of services that did not appear in the Deed as being the responsibility of the Parish Council, but StreetSmart were refusing to deal with.

The Chair had requested a meeting with the Head of StreetSmart in that this situation may be resolved. The Clerk asked for the Parish Council to support this approach.

RESOLVED that the Chair and Vice-Chair be delegated authority to negotiate the wording of the Deed and the Schedules to cover the exact services being provided by the Parish Council and the Deed be withheld from being returned to Swindon Borough Council until this wording has been agreed.

58 Transfer of Assets from Swindon Borough Council (Min.44 – 03.07.17)

The Clerk reported that had produced a revised lease with a number of changes as a basis to enter into discussions with Swindon Borough Council. However, the Chair still wanted to see the transfer of assets by freehold, rather than by lease. The Vice-Chair stated that at a meeting he attended with the Leader of Swindon Borough Council the option to transfer assets by freehold would still be open to Parish Council and he supported this course of action.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council continues to request the freehold transfer of assets to the Parish Council and delegates the Chair and Vice-Chair authority to carry out the negotiations with Swindon Borough Council.

59 Schedule of Payments

The Clerk submitted the Schedule of Payments for August 2017 a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that the Schedule of Payments which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book be approved.

60 Bank Reconciliation and Accounts

The Clerk submitted Bank Reconciliations and Accounts for June 2017 a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

The Bank Reconciliation and the Accounts for June 2017 were noted.

61 Quarterly Budget Review

The Clerk submitted the Quarterly Budget Report a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

The report contained full details of the expenditure to date and a forecast for the end of the financial year. The report provided information about savings and overspends and concluded that the Parish Council should remain within budget for this financial year. Cllr Cockbill asked to record his concerns that the budget had been set too low.

RESOLVED that the Quarterly Budget Report be noted.

62 CCTV Cameras (Min.47 – 03.07.17)

The Vice-Chair stated that 5 wildlife cameras had been purchased with 3 being used at the allotment site and 2 would be used within the parish. Cllr Ibitoye confirmed that the 2 sites would be in Liden and Allbuild were in the process of putting up the cameras. He had offered to change the memory cards and view the data as necessary.

Cllr Ibitoye suggested that the Parish Council consider purchasing 2 new cameras and this should be considered at the next meeting.

63 Cannon Bollards (Min.51 – 03.07.17)

The Clerk submitted an email dated 25 July 2017 from the Chair of Covingham Parish Council a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

The Vice-Chair stated that at the last meeting it was reported that Covingham Parish Council had not responded that they were interested in the cannon bollards, but the Chair of Covingham Parish Council had now replied that they would like 30 bollards. The Vice-Chair confirmed that there were more than 30 bollards and that Parish Council had incurred some costs in obtaining them.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council allows Covingham Parish Council to purchase 30 cannon bollards and the Chair and Vice-Chair would set the charge to be made.

64 Liden Lagoon

The Clerk reported that the Chair had expressed concerns about the maintenance of Liden Lagoon and that the Angling Club would like to continue to use the facility but the charges made by Swindon Borough Council were too expensive. In return for a lease, the Angling Club would maintain the lagoon banks. The Parish Council had been offered the maintenance of Liden Lagoon when the assets were being reviewed before the setting up of Nythe, Eldene & Liden Parish Council and had declined at that stage due to the costs.

As a result of that decision, Swindon Borough Council had given notice to end the lease with Thames Water who owned the site and this would take effect from April 2018. Until that time, SBC were not maintaining the lagoon in any form and were trying to pass this responsibility to the Parish Council.

RESOLVED that the Chair and Vice-Chair be delegated authority to negotiate an arrangement with Thames Water and the Angling Club which could take the form of a lease in order that Liden Lagoon could be maintained in the future.

65 Volunteer Litter Picks

The Clerk stated that a number of litter pick had been organised in the parish and volunteers were looking to the Parish Council to loan litter pickers and hi-viz vests, as these were no longer supplied by StreetSmart as the Parish Council were not using their services. The Parish Council's contractor had said that he could provide gloves.

The Clerk had looked on the internet and seen litter pickers for £14.95 each and hi-viz vests for £1.50 each. Councillors suggested contacting a local company who might be able to offer a discount on these prices.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council purchase 20 litter pickers and hi-viz vest for a maximum price of £330 and the cost be met from the Miscellaneous Budget.

66 **Litter & Dog Bins (Min.45 – 03.07.17)**

The Clerk submitted an email dated 27 July 2017 from the Contractor, AllBuild a copy of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute Book.

The email asked the Parish Council to consider increasing the number of times litter and dog bins were emptied in popular locations.

RESOLVED that the litter and dog bins in the location contained in Appendix E be increased to twice weekly emptied in accordance with the suggestions made by the Contractor and the cost be met from General Balances.

67 **Website**

The Clerk had carried out some changes to the website and had put the agenda for the meeting on the website, but as had been said by a member of the public, the website was not easy to for the public to find. The Clerk suggested changing to a 'dot gov' address which could also be used by the Clerk. The cost for this would be approximately £100.

Cllr Hunt offered to help the Clerk with making the website more easy for the public to you in terms of looking at agendas and minutes.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council applies for a 'dot gov' address and the cost of approximately £100 be met from the Website Maintenance and Hosting Budget.

68 **Planning Application**

PA No S/HOU/17/1230/FELY
53 Fairlawns
Liden
SN3 6EU

Erection of a first floor and side extension
and single storey front extension

DECISION : No Objection

69 **Exclusion of Public and Press**

RESOLVED that in accordance with Standing Order 3d) that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw; the reason being Staffing Matters.

70 **Staffing (Min.28 – 15.05.17)**

The Vice-Chair reported that interviews had taken place that afternoon for the New Clerk and there had been 2 strong candidates.

The position was going to be offered to one of the candidates and when once this had been accepted, the details would be circulated to Councillors.

The meeting closed at 7.32 pm

Signed.....
Date.....
Chair of the Council

DRAFT