

NYTHE, ELDENE & LIDEN
PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2017 at 6.30pm
In Liden Library

Present

Cllr K Parry (Chair)
Cllr D Bell (Vice-Chair)
Cllr B Cockbill
Cllr G Cruse
Cllr Z Hawson
Cllr A Hunt
Cllr O Ibitoye
Cllr B Solomon
Cllr G Stubbs

Inspector Dave Hobman
Sargeant David Tippetts
Community Co-ordinator Phil Day

Officers

Joyce Holman (Parish Clerk)
Sue Frawley (New Clerk)

Public

Twenty-Five

**Public
Session**

Several members of the public commented on the litter in the parish, especially in the centre of Eldene and Liden and they suggested that more regular bin emptying and litter picking should be undertaken. The Chair stated that at least 8 hours each week was being devoted to litter picking in each of the centre of Nythe, Eldene and Liden and this would be reviewed.

A member of the public commented on the amount of wet leaves on the pavements which were a hazard for the elderly. The Chair confirmed that the contractor had been out that day clearing leaves and would continue to do so over the Autumn/Winter months.

One member of the public reported a low branch which was overhanging the pavement in Mackenzie Close and the Chair said that this had been referred to Swindon Borough Council.

Police

The three Police Officers present at the meeting made a presentation, which was followed by questions.

Over the last 2 weeks a concerted campaign in Eldene had seen a higher level of patrols in relation to vehicle crime and drug offences. This had meant that the incidents of anti-social behaviour had dropped and also the possible convictions of some youths for drug related matters.

It was imperative that the public contact the police to report all crimes including anti-social behaviour. This would allow the Police to evaluate areas for additional policing. The police could not act if they are not aware of the problems.

The 101 service and the website were undergoing a complete revamp, which make it easier for the public to report issues. They were undertaking a recruitment drive for call centre operators. Inspector Hobman asked that everyone be patient with the service whilst this was going on, but reiterated the need to call the number to report any crimes.

There was also a recruitment drive for new PCSOs to help with community policing which would include the visiting of school assemblies to deal with social media bullying and anti-social behaviour.

The Clerk asked a written question submitted by Nythe Community Centre about syringes that had been found in the grounds and the response that they received from the Police when it was reported. Inspector Hobman repeated that any incident like finding needles should be reported to the Police, so that they could deploy resources in problem areas.

Members of the public spoke about recent burglaries in Nythe including some in the middle of the night when the houses were occupied. A neighbourhood watch scheme had been set up and more volunteers were required to expand on their work. The Chair asked for residents of the parish to consider helping with the scheme and anyone interested should leave their details with him as interested people would be invited to attend a meeting being organised.

The public also spoke about speeding traffic in the parish. The Police spoke about the Community Speed Watch and the Chair asked anyone interested in helping to contact him. The Police stated that there was clear signage for lorries to locate Dorcan Industrial Estate and a recent assessment carried out showed that only 2% of usage of Liden Drive was down to lorries.

71 **Apologies**
None

71 **Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
The Chair declared a prejudicial interest in Min 82 as Chair of Planning at Swindon Borough Council and Cllr Hunt declared a prejudicial interest in Min 79.

72 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 14 August 2017 be approved as a correct record.

73 **Year End Accounts 2016/17 – External Audit**
The clerk submitted the comments of the External Auditor, Grant Thornton on the Annual Return for 2016/17 a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

The External Auditor had no comments to make on the completed Annual Return and this was noted by Councillors.

74 **Schedule of Payments**

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

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

75 **Bank Reconciliations and Accounts**

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

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

76 **Notice Boards (Min 46 – 03.07.17)**

The Clerk stated that Swindon Borough Council had given permission for a notice board to be erected by the Parish Council at Liden Library and Eldene Community Centre. The Parish Council had been asked to notify the tenants of the buildings and the Library Trust had given permission for the noticeboard to be placed at Liden Library. This noticeboard would be put up as soon as possible. Eldene Community Centre had stated that they were having building work carried out to the exterior of the building and had asked for the noticeboard to be put after this was completed.

77 **CCTV Cameras (Min 62 – 14.08.17)**

The Clerk submitted details of the cameras purchased from Solon Security a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

Cllr Ibitoye had made a request at the previous meeting for the Parish Council to consider the purchase of additional cameras. The Chair said that only one camera had been fitted and that it might be worth waiting to review the effect of the cameras. Cllr Ibitoye asked if some more memory cards could be purchased.

RESOLVED that the Council would purchase 5 memory cards for the current cameras and that a review of the camera be undertaken in 3 months' time.

78 **Bus Services**

The Clerk submitted an email dated 5 September 2017 from Cllr Cockbill a copy of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute Book.

The email asked Councillors to consider a request for the re-introduction of the number 20 hospital bus and to ask Covingham and Stratton St Margaret Parish for support.

RESOLVED that Nythe, Eldene & Liden Parish Council approach Covingham and Stratton St Margaret Parish Councils with the view to jointly lobbying for the re-introduction of the No.20 hospital bus service.

79 **Volunteer Litter Picks (Min. 65 – 14.08.17)**

The Clerk submitted an email dated 30 August 2017 from Cllr Hunt a copy of which appears as Appendix F in the Minute Book.

The email made reference to the potential sponsorship by Webbswood Plc of the hi-viz waistcoats and website.

Councillors considered whether they thought it was appropriate for the Parish Council to accept commercial sponsorship for these items. The Chair said that he would prefer the hi-viz vests to state the name of the Parish Council on the back.

RESOLVED

- a) that sponsorship not be accepted for hi-viz vests that the name of the Parish Council should be on the back of the vests;
- b) that sponsorship of the website was not consider appropriate;
- c) that Webbswood Plc be asked if they would be prepared to sponsor a flower box.

(Cllr Hunt declared a prejudicial interest in the item and took no part in the discussion and voting thereon.)

80

New Benches

The Chair suggested that stated that 2 new benches were required for Liden lagoon and Nythe Lakes and there were savings in the budget from his Chair's Allowance which he would not be claiming. Cllr Bell said that he would like the Parish Council to consider the purchase of a further flower box as he did not wish to take his allowance. The Chair asked him to put this in writing and the Clerk was asked to bring this to the next Parish Council Meeting.

RESOLVED that the purchase of 2 Eco Benches; 1 for Liden Lagoon and 1 for Nythe Lake for a price of £944.86 including fitting and the cost be met from a virement of the Chair's Allowance Budget.

81

Website

Cllr Hunt expressed some concerns about the Parish Council's current website. It was agreed that Cllr Hunt should provide some assistance to the new Clerk.

82

Planning Applications

82.1

S/17/1345/IH

Imperial Commercial Ltd
Faraday Road
Dorcan SN3 5JY

Erection of 3no. Industrial Units and
and associated works

DECISION: No objection

82.2

S/HOU/17/1428/CHHO

32 Keyneston Road
Nythe SN3 3PT

Erection of two storey rear and single
storey side extensions and porch to front

DECISION: No objection

82.3

S/17/1429/CHHO

2 Elmore
Eldene SN3 3TL

Erection of 1no. dwelling and associated works

DECISION: Objection for the following reasons:

1. Overdevelopment of the plot - The new property will be squeezed into a small area between number 2 Elmore and the pavement. The side walls of the property will be abutting the pavement.
2. Not in keeping with the streetscene – The local area is known for the houses being well spread out with lots of areas of green between. There is a large area of green opposite the plot. The new property will not be in keeping with this and will create a precedent for other properties to build infill houses on small plots.
3. The Parish Council request that this is referred to the Planning Committee if the officer is minded to grant Planning Permission.

Cllr Bell offered to represent the Parish Council at the Planning Committee Meeting.

82.4

S/HOU/17/1496/CHHO

13 Hatherley Road
Nythe SN3 3NQ

Erection of a single storey rear extension and two storey side extension

DECISION: No objection

(The Chair declared a prejudicial interest in item 82 and took no part in the discussion and voting thereon.)

83

Grounds Maintenance Contract

The Chair referred to the current Ground Maintenance Contract and whether the Parish Council should go out to tender or wait until next year. The Clerk stated that Parish Council normally go out to tender every 3 years and this would be the third year of the contract with AllBuild.

RESOLVED

- a) that the Parish Council continue their current contract for a further year;
- b) that a review be undertaken of the contract and the schedule of work to be completed.

84

Office Equipment

The Clerk submitted a quotation to purchase a new laptop and software for a computer for the new Clerk, a copy of which appears as Appendix H in the Minute Book.

The Chair stated that a laptop had already been purchased for the Clerk and this needed to be found. The Clerk stated that she had not been given a laptop and had used one supplied by Swindon Borough Council. The Clerk would also require a mobile phone.

RESOLVED

- a) that if the laptop cannot be found a new lap top be purchased for the price of £509.96 and the cost be met from the Computer Hardware and Software Budget;
- b) that the Parish Council purchase a contract mobile phone for the Clerk and the cost be met from the Telephone Budget.

85 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.

86 Staffing (Min 70 -14.08/17)

The Clerk submitted copies of a Contract of Employment, Summary of Employment Terms and Employee Handbook for Councillors to consider.

RESOLVED that the draft Contract of Employment, Summary of Employment Terms and Employee Handbook for the new Clerk be approved.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed

Date.....
Chair of the Council