

MINUTES

Virtual meeting of Lake Parish Council held on Wednesday 13 January 2021 using Zoom software, commencing at 19.15

Present

Chairman Mrs S. Horton

Councillors Mr B. Blezzard, Mrs S. Hardy, Mr T. Outlaw, Mr D. Stephens, Mr A. Whittaker, Mrs B. Young, Mrs N. Goodall

In attendance Mr M. R. Taplin (Clerk), Cllr P. Brading (IWC). Three members of the public.

The Chairman said that Cllr Price was absent because his mother had died that afternoon. She also said that former Councillor Peter Stuart had passed away before Christmas, aged 75. A short silence in memoriam took place and condolence cards have been sent on behalf of the Parish Council.

From the floor A member of the public spoke about the previous meeting (he had been unable to log on, but had listened to a recording) and commented about the apparent behaviour of Cllr Blezzard. He sought a written explanation from the Chairman.

Another member of the public said his comments at the end of the last meeting had been set down too briefly; he offered to e-mail the Clerk the six questions he had asked. He said it was not him who had given the information about land behind KFC being for sale. He commented on the remarks by Cllr Blezzard concerning his offer of surveying expertise.

56/20-21 **Apologies for absence** Cllr H. Price

57/20-21 **To receive any declarations of interest in agenda items**

The Chairman declared her editorial interest in Ripples.

58/20-21 **To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December**

Cllr Whittaker raised a point about the start of the December meeting. After discussion it was **resolved** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held as a true record.

59/20-21 **To resolve comments on planning applications received**

20/02222 23 Newcomen Rd Proposed balcony on rear elevation

Resolved To recommend refusal on grounds of overlooking neighbouring properties. It was noted that this was a retrospective application in respect of work already carried out.

20/01296 Unit 3a Lake Industrial Park Change of use to Class B2 and/or B8

21/00029 Non-illuminated signs for above

Resolved To support the application

60/20-21 **To resolve a budget for 2021-2022 and set the precept**

The Clerk had circulated a sheet incorporating suggestions made by Cllr Blezzard.

Cllr Blezzard suggested that the amount for Section 137 grants be increased to £3000, and this was agreed. It was **resolved** to adopt the budget as amended.

It was **resolved** that the total of precept and grant for 2021-22 remain unchanged at £87 000.

61/20-21 **Lake Ripples**

Work on issue 48 had been halted since it was felt unwise to send distributors out during the current lockdown. A decision on resuming production and distribution would be made when the regulations were eased.

62/20-21**To authorise payments as per report**

The Clerk had circulated details of payments made by BACS in December.

| Cheque | Amount | VAT | Payee | Item |
|----------|------------|-----|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Transfer | £ 85.51 | | Mrs S. Horton | Christmas decorations/Wreath |
| Transfer | £ 224.84 | | Top Mops Ltd | Toilet repairs |
| Transfer | £ 103.45 | | Southern Electric SSE | Electricity supply toilets |
| Transfer | £ 1 169.18 | | Top Mops Ltd | Toilet cleaning |
| Transfer | £ 590.17 | | Business Stream | Water supply toilets |
| Transfer | £ 561.11 | | M R Taplin | Clerks salary December |
| Transfer | £ 140.20 | | HMRC | PAYE |
| Transfer | £ 150.00 | | M R Taplin | Clerk's Office |
| Transfer | £ 5.00 | | IW Sports & Recreation | Subscription |
| Transfer | £ 30.00 | | Gratuity Fund | |

Resolved – that the payments be authorised.

63/20-21**Grants to volunteer groups benefiting Lake**

It was agreed to start the process of advertising for bids for grants so they could be awarded at the February meeting.

64/20-21**Report from the Clerk**

The Clerk referred to correspondence received, particularly regarding grants available through Isle of Wight Council to assist businesses to cope with the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. He detailed Planning Training arranged for Councillors and Staff and requested Members notify him if they wished to attend. It was agreed that it would not be wise to take up the suggestion of an outdoor gym for adults in the current circumstances.

65/20-21**Councillors reports****IW Councillors**

Cllr Outlaw said that he agreed with the decision on an outdoor gym. He said there had been a statement in Parliament that afternoon indicating the government was minded to go-ahead with Council elections on 6 May, with an effort to increase the proportion of postal votes.

Cllr Brading's written report had been circulated. He was asked questions regarding buoys on the beach/beach cleaning and laptops for disadvantaged pupils.

Parish Councillors

Cllr Blezzard said the Head teacher at Broadlea School had expressed her appreciation at the supply of 52 food hampers before Christmas. He said he would attend an IWALC workshop that included the Chief Executive of NALC. He suggested an earlier start to meetings during lockdown, but this did not find favour.

Cllr Whittaker asked for progress to be made on some outstanding matters: CCTV signs on the exterior of toilets, decorative lights; code of conduct training and Clerk's appraisal. The latter would have to be done virtually.

Cllr Stephens spoke again about the new John O'Connor contract for hedge cutting with particular reference to the Cliff path. The Clerk said an annual cut would normally be carried out at the end of the spring growing season.

Cllr Goodall asked about the procedure for obtaining a postal vote. Cllr Blezzard would send her the link for the appropriate form.

Cllr Young asked about reporting inappropriate public behaviour during the lockdown. The Police and Isle of Wight Council had set up reporting systems; Cllr Brading said fines were being levied if regulations were found to be broken.

Cllr Blezzard raised the possibility of closing the public toilets until the lockdown had been eased, but the Clerk and some Members said the public were grateful that

they were kept open to meet local needs. It was agreed to obtain a quote from Top Mops for an additional clean each day.

Cllr Horton asked about progress on the New Road toilets project. The architect was still preparing the requested sketches. Danfo had indicated a cost of putting three pay-to-use cubicles in the existing building of around £80 000.

From the floor

Cllr Brading said the IWALC representative was not attending IWC Scrutiny liaison meetings. Cllr Blezzard would check that invitations were being received (note: this was subsequently resolved. The rep had attended most of the meeting).

A member of the public asked if it would be possible to publish Ripples on the website. The Editor would try to arrange this once the part-finished edition was finalised. The same person asked if it was possible for members of the public to attend the Planning training. Cllr Blezzard would check.

Another member of the public asked again about responses to the six questions he had asked at the end of the previous meeting. He spoke about how the infection could be spreading in the local area. He was in favour of postponing the local elections, and in favour of an enhanced cleaning regime at the toilets.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20.53

Chairman _____ **Date** _____

Next meeting: 10 February 2021, 19.15 via Zoom