

**Minutes of the Autumn Lancing Village Residents Meeting
held on Thursday 12 October 2017 in
Lancing Parish Hall, South Street, Lancing**

Councillors Present: James Butcher, Mick Clark, Lee Cowen, Gloria Eveleigh (Chair), Geoff Patmore, Emma Purnell and Jean Turner.

Youth Councillors Present: H. Atterbury and H. Churchill.

In attendance: Helen Plant, Clerk and Vally Fish, Assistant Clerk.

There were seventeen residents of the Parish who signed the attendance register.

1. Chair's Welcome

The Chair of Lancing Parish Council opened the meeting at 7:00pm and welcomed all the attendees. Cllr Eveleigh explained the purpose of the meeting was to present successful Grant Aid applications, update residents on progress made in relation to the issues raised at the Annual Village Forum (in May) in addition to a general update on Council projects, followed by a residents' question time.

2. Presentation of successful Grant Aid applications

As approved at the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held in September, the £5000 grant aid was allocated and presented as follows -

- a) Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance - £250 to support ongoing running costs.
- b) Lancing & Sompting Concert Band - £150 to purchase 50 4-ringbinders to store the music.
- c) Lancing Football Club - £1,000 to provide equipment to all levels of the Club's teams.
- d) The Globe Primary School - £3,600 to support fundraising efforts to refurbish the school's swimming pool.

Representatives from Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance, Lancing Football Club and The Globe Primary School gave a brief outline of how the grant would be spent and thanked the Council for the funding.

3. Update on progress made in relation to the issues raised at the Annual Village Forum held in May

The Chair advised that the report attached to the agenda outlined the issues raised at the meeting in May and the progress that the Council had made so far.

4. General update on Council projects

- a) **History and Heritage** – Cllr Patmore reported that the corridor along the Parish Hall would now be known as *Lancing History Avenue* (and that after refurbishment, the pictures are now on display). Cllr Patmore also reported

that cabinets to display historical items have been ordered for the Parish Hall foyer and an opening event is planned. The air raid shelter on Beach Green is an ongoing project, investigating whether it can be opened to the public to relive the experience. Cllr Patmore added that projects such as the Blue Plaque Scheme would hopefully form the basis of a history trail around Lancing (a Nature trail, possibly around Widewater, could also be considered).

b) Beach Promenade Lighting – Cllr Butcher reported that the Working Group are in the process of investigating the feasibility of lighting the whole promenade in Lancing (similar to Worthing and Shoreham). As a result of the Lancing Vision (2012) and Beach Green Vision (2013) proposals, residents petitioned LPC in 2014 for further regeneration in Lancing, one suggestion being Promenade Lighting along Beach Green and Widewater. Cllr Butcher also reported that lessons had been learned during the Skate Park consultation and that after the feasibility study, options would be presented to the public. The consultation would be a phased approach, starting with Beach Green. Within this project, improvements to the WSCC path along the top of Beach Green would also be implemented to provide a safer environment. Cllr Butcher stressed that this project was in its very early stages and further consideration is needed regarding the Nature Reserve at Widewater, funding from external sources, and the views of local businesses and residents.

c) Monks Rec Improvement Project – Cllr Cowen explained that improvements to Monks Rec had become a priority to the Council when elected in 2016. Since then, additional signs, tables and bins have been purchased, with a zip wire being erected in November. Design and architect company BDP (who created the Lancing Vision document), are in the process of creating a design brief. A public consultation will follow with funding being source externally. The Working Group are considering additional paths, trees, foliage as well as a sensory garden whilst retaining the football pitches. It is felt that if the public are involved at every stage, they will have a stake in the area, which should reduce the acts of vandalism at Monks Rec.

Residents requested more signs for Lancing Community Bike Project and flower beds to be included in the design - Cllr Cowen confirmed both of these could be considered.

d) Parish Youth Council – YCllrs Atterbury and Churchill reported the progress LPYC has made since its formation in May. This included ongoing negotiations with Lancing Library to have an internet café on the Library premises and approaching youth organisations in Lancing to increase the number of members. Progress of LPYC is to be outlined on LPC's website. During the Skate Park opening event and the Monks Rec Play Day, surveys were undertaken to gain views of young residents resulting in LPYC agreeing three priorities for Monks Rec (Basket Ball and Climbing Wall equipment as well as more activities for toddlers and small children).

Residents asked what response LPYC had received from young people and how LPYC are reaching out to young people - YClrs Atterbury and Churchill stated that they had received positive feedback so far and that young people seemed invested in having a youth council to represent them. Recruitment is still ongoing and Members are keen to engage with schools and youth organisations (for 13-19 year olds) to increase membership and ensure wider views are represented.

- e) **Lancing Vision** – Cllr Eveleigh reported that the multiagency Working Group agreed the main priority is to improve the village centre. During the Farmers Market (21-10-2017), members of the Working Group will be requesting views from the public as a basis to begin a more formal consultation.
- f) **Keep Lancing Safe** - Cllr Eveleigh explained this multiagency group was formed after elderly residents reported that Lancing became a 'no go' area at night. As a result, representatives are now sitting on the Joint Action Group and PCSOs have a greater presence in Lancing. Cllr Eveleigh reported that Chief Inspector Alan Lowe deemed Lancing to be a priority area and the additional police presence will continue.

Residents stated that reporting crimes via telephone can take over 10 minutes and questioned whether the additional police presence would be Police Officers or PCSOs - Cllr Eveleigh advised that reporting via email is much quicker (crimes and other issues can also be reported via the *Self Evident* app and *Love West Sussex* app). Cllr Eveleigh confirmed that Police Officers and PCSOs will both have a greater presence in Lancing, including ununiformed. YClr Churchill added that some young people also fear Lancing at night but also groups of young people are often unaware that they are perceived as a threat – this is an issue that the Youth Council hopes to address. Cllr Eveleigh stated that a Community Meeting with Chief Inspector Alan Lowe is being planned and stressed the importance of reporting all crimes officially.

A resident stated that the issues of anti-social behaviour and vandalism at Monks Rec during the summer were now being witnessed at Beach Green - Cllr Eveleigh confirmed the Police are aware of these issues and staff at Electric Storm Youth had planned an outreach program during the evenings. Cllr Butcher added that the Council puts pressure on other levels of local government to support businesses, stating that empty buildings and lack of night-time economy in the village centre leads to anti-social behaviour.

- g) **Other Council projects** - Cllr Eveleigh listed some of the other projects the Council had recently undertaken: Blue Plaque at Lancing Library, Skate Park opening, Garden Competition, Car Park resurfacing and bay parking at Beach Green and Widewater, additional memorial seats, installation of murals at Monks Rec, creation of the Community Cinema, formal objections to the New Monks Farm and A27 proposals, revamped the Millennium Handshake on Beach Green, delivery of quarterly newsletter and purchase of gazebos.

Forthcoming projects include improvements to the steps at Widewater, information boards at Beach Green about anti-tank blocks, purchase of a deliberator.

5. Residents question time

The Chair called for questions and statements by the Public and the following issues were raised -

- a) As former member of the Mash Barn Residents Association, who is best to contact regarding landscaping the grass verges? £500 had been received but clarity was needed concerning permissions.

The Clerk requested the information be sent to the Parish Office to investigate further.

- b) There is no footpath on South Street by the former Bell Memorial Care Home whilst the building works takes place.

Cllr Clark advised that he would report this issue WSCC Highways and inform the resident of the outcome.

- c) When are the mounds of earth on Beach Green going to be moved?

The Clerk advised that after half term the soil is to be used to top up areas around the Skate Park and pathway and fill in sunken areas on Beach Green. Wild flowers will be planted where the mounds are currently.

- d) There is nowhere to safely cross Brighton Road onto Beach Green.

The Clerk advised that the Council had investigated this issue after it had been highlighted by students of the Globe School and during the Skate Park consultation. It is the responsibility of WSCC Highways and County Cllr for Lancing Ann Bridges (also a district and parish councillor) is lobbying for improvement. Cllr Clark advised residents to lobby WSCC as more action will be taken if it is community lead. However, during previous discussions, it had been noted that zebra crossings would slow the traffic too much and the narrowness of the roads would not allow for islands.

- e) What are the Council's and Youth Council's thoughts on engaging disaffected youth – who approaches and when?

Cllr Eveleigh advised that staff at ESY are undertaking outreach programs during the evenings and LPYC hoped to reach out to more young people. It was acknowledged that young people described as *disaffected*, may not engage with organisations such as ESY and LPYC therefore during the recruitment process, LPYC must advertise its achievements.

Members of the Council congratulated The Globe Primary School on their OFSTEAD report and thanked Wendy Peters, and other members of Keep Lancing Lovely, for their continuous efforts in Lancing.

Meeting closed: 8:35pm.

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