

Lea & Cleverton Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Lea & Cleverton Parish Council held on **7th May 2019** in Lea Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Cull (Chair), T Culling (Vice Chair), P Fuller, B Gore, J Crockett, A Barnes & S Suter

Also present: John Parmiter (RFO), Claire Mann (Parish Clerk) and 48 members of the public

34/19 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllrs N Maidment & D Maidment

35/19 To welcome our visitors & members of the Parish.

Cllr Cull thanked Parishioners for coming to the meeting and stated that he was pleased to see so many people in attendance.

36/19 To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 1st May 2018.

The Minutes were signed and approved as a correct record.

37/19 To receive the Chairman's Annual Report for the year ended March 2019.

In his eleventh annual report at the Annual Parish Meeting the Chairman briefly looked back at the year as a platform to look to the future.

The recent article in the Parish Newsletter gave an insight into the work that the Parish Council and its sub-committees do on behalf of the parish.

The main activities are clearly visible – the Village Hall Committee, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, the Playing Field Committee and the work in connection with the school expansion. But there are so many other things that happen every month of the year that go unnoticed.

He expressed his thanks to the Councillors and the members of the sub-committees; but extended a very special thank you to all of those behind the scenes helpers. Their work is appreciated even though only a few know the work that has been done.

During the year many things have stretched the thinking of the PC and tested the resources. The planned development of the school has been plagued by discussions, mainly on the subject of travel plans and traffic management. Those highly charged conversations are still continuing ahead of the formal planning application for the project.

Issues with regard to the future of the Village Hall have emerged and formed a major part of the meeting agenda. The Chair and Secretary of that Committee – Kevin Tibbs and Denise Ducker have both announced their withdrawal from the committee after many years in post. They have both worked extremely hard to ensure that the Village Hall has functioned effectively. They will be missed but they have agreed to carry on in the short term as a decision on the future of the hall is considered a new committee is formed.

Signed.....Date.....

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been extremely active in building a platform for the development of the Plan. The positive steps that have been achieved are the start of a long and detailed process.

Since the last Annual Meeting there have been changes in administration of the Parish Council. John Parmiter has resigned as Parish Clerk after 20 years in post but has carried on as our RFO. So the PC said their thanks to John for all his dedication and hard work over those two decades in the role and at the same welcomed Claire Mann the new Parish Clerk.

The Chairman said that the next twelve months will be extremely busy and challenging as the PC looks for solutions to the many issues that need to be resolved while trying to manage within the budget.

Success will require commitment and patience from the community as work continues to make the Parish a good and safe place to live.

38/19 To receive a presentation by the Neighbourhood Steering Group.

Tamsyn Luggar, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group gave a detailed and informative presentation of the work carried out by the group so far and what will take place in the future.

Summary of presentation;

- The response rate to the Householder Survey was much higher than average at 42%.
- The three most popular things about living in the parish were: The environment, the countryside the location.
- 68% of respondents were prepared to accept some form of housing development (6-10 houses)
- There are many concerns around traffic issues
- The Steering Group have considered the survey responses and have drafted the following vision statement. *“To maintain and further develop a safe, sustainable and vibrant community, which protects its historic, rural character and open Countryside, whilst continuing to evolve to reflect changing times and the wishes of the Parish.”*
- Over the summer the Steering Group will be looking in more detail at Housing, Transport and the Historic Environment.
- During the first half of 2020, the NPSG will be focusing on, Economy and Enterprise, Infrastructure, Population, Climate change and flood risk, Landscape and the natural environment & Health and wellbeing.

Tamsyn asked if there were any questions.

Q. What is the main constraint to get the Plan made?

TL Answer. The amount of work to be completed within the timeframe.

Q. Can it be published piecemeal to progress it more quickly?

TL Answer. No, there are 8 tests that must be covered by Wiltshire Council before the Plan can go to Referendum to ensure that it comes in line with the Wiltshire Council Core Policy.

Q. Would more help speed the process up?

TL Answer. Potentially, yes.

Signed.....Date.....

Q. How much protection will the NHP give the parish with regard to development?

TL Answer. A made Plan clearly guides development within the parish, without a Plan we are completely exposed.

Q. Is there already a minimum amount of development that we have to accept as a parish?

TL Answer. No, we are classed as a Small Village so there is no minimum requirement.

Q. The original map is difficult to follow.

TL Answer. The two published maps so far are the Designated Area of the Neighbourhood Plan & the Conservation Area.

39/19 To receive a presentation and discuss the future of the Village Hall

Kevin Tibbs, Chair of the Village Hall Committee had circulated a report to all. In summary he thanked all members of the committee for their hard work and support. The finances are in a healthy position but the future of the Village Hall is under review. Bookings have decreased and a number of repairs are required.

Cllr Cull asked the floor, by show of hands, "Do we **need** a Village Hall?" to which the vast majority present answered "Yes" followed by, "Do we **want** a Village Hall?" to which a similar number also answered "Yes." Cllr Cull stated that a letter drop will go to all parishioners requesting their help in progressing the future of the Village Hall as it appears there is a desire, in some form, to keep the Village Hall & that a Maintenance Group & Fundraising/Events Group will be set up to achieve the preferred outcome.

40/19 To invite questions from the floor

Cllr Cull invited questions from the floor.

It was asked if we have missed the opportunity of using funding from the School application for community space and it would appear that there is not a willingness for that to be considered. Are there other grants available? The Parish Council will look into funding opportunities. Various points were made about the viability of the Village Hall; is it self-sufficient? Are we in a position to make sure that public liability can be put in place. What would the possibility be of the Village Hall being sited on the Playing Field? What is the overall picture of supply and demand? Cllr Cull stated that two groups would be set up to a) consider the overall future of the Hall & b) to assist with the general maintenance.

Cllr Cull thanked everyone for their attendance and asked for suggestions of use for the Village hall to be put on the board at the back of the room.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed.....Date.....