

Lea & Cleverton Parish Council

Minutes of the **Parish Council Meeting** held on the **18th April 2023** in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs S Suter (Chair), C Pope, N Maidment, D Maidment, S Carroll & C Taylor

Also present: Elizabeth Threlfall (Wiltshire Councillor) & 2 members of the public

09/23 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllrs Masson & Forrest and the Parish Clerk (Cllr Pope took notes for the minutes)

10/23 To receive declarations of interest.

None received.

11/23 To receive public questions.

None received.

12/23 To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2023

The minutes were approved and will be signed at the next Parish Council meeting due to the absence of the Parish Clerk

13/23 To receive Chairman's Report

Cllr Masson was not in attendance and this item was deferred

14/23 To receive update from Cllr Threlfall

Cllr Threlfall reported that Malmesbury High St is to be refurbished in early May
WC is trying to increase the amount of recycling through various campaigns
Enquiries have been made with local PC clerks to see if they are willing to take on the LCPC role.
The Lea Top signs had been installed and the hedge cut back. The remaining road markings will be painted when it is dry.
Plans are being made to install a Speed Indicator Device at the bottom of the hill and approaching The Spinney.
Cllr Pope queried the MyWilts app as items reported on it were not being attended to in over a year or were marked as closed when in fact entries were duplicated but not fixed.

15/23 To note finance report

Due to the late submission of the financial report, this item was deferred.

16/23 To consider next steps following Cllr Suter's attendance at the Climate Action Workshop

There was a discussion on climate change and a short video; was a local action plan necessary? It could be argued that a parish action plan could be in conflict with the proposed battery storage. It was agreed that there might be a sustainability champion within the parish to work with the PC, Parish magazine advert required.

16/23 To consider request from Movies@Malmesbury for donation towards purchase of new cinema equipment

A quick show of hands showed that half of those present had attended Movies@Malmesbury at one time or another. CIL monies could not be used as it is outside the parish. It was agreed that it is a worthwhile project but the amount of donation needs to be considered within the PC's available budget.

16/23 To consider action to be taken with reference to the proposed STEAM provision at Malmesbury Primary School

Phil Yates, as deputy chair of the governors of the primary school, gave some background to the proposed STEAM facility at Malmesbury school.

There is 0.6HA of land adjacent to Malmesbury primary school which must be used for expanding the Primary School by 2031 or it will be returned to the developer. The offer of £6m from the Dyson Charitable Foundation to expand Malmesbury Primary School with 7 new classrooms (210 pupils) and 2 STEAM rooms (Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics) is seen as an exciting proposal for the town but could affect the sustainability of Lea Primary School at a time of falling pupil numbers unless it too can benefit from the Dyson project. To this end Governors have been in touch with the charity to express their interest in taking part

16/23 To receive an update from Cllr Carroll on footpaths/WALC meeting

Due to budgetary constraints Wilts Council wishes that the parishes do the work of maintaining the footpath network. Any additional stiles, signage, materials etc. is to be progressed by the LHFIG who will require a 30% contribution for any items purchased. It is necessary for Stephen Leonard to be informed of any proposed changes from stiles to gates.

16/23 To receive an update and consider next steps on Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Suter had contacted a number of people regarding resurrecting the Neighbourhood Development Plan, but had received no interest. It is necessary to continue to see if there is interest in reforming an NDP group to find a competent chairperson to lead the group.

16/23 To discuss the future of the Village Hall & action to be taken

While it was acknowledged that the Village Hall needs work carrying out, this item was deferred and requires the existing surveyor's report to be read in conjunction with the proposed budget.

16/23 To receive an update from Cllr Pope on the Local Highways & Footpaths Improvement Group and Statement Surveys 43

Cllr Pope will email Anthony Dixon (the school expansion PM) to ask why the temporary car park has not been returned to its original condition as stated in the planning application.

- 16/23 **To note position with recruitment of the Parish Clerk**
- No new applicants have been found for the role of parish clerk. Continue advertising on the Society of Local Council Clerks website.
- 16/23 **To consider planning applications received.**
- PL/2023/02315 – 2 Rushcroft Close
Following discussion it was resolved that Lea and Cleverton Parish Council has **no objection** to this application
- PL/2023/02637 – Orchard House
Following discussion it was resolved that Lea and Cleverton Parish Council has **no objection** to this application
- 16/23 **To receive an update from the Website Working Group**
- It was agreed that the PC website is in need of updating and should contain much more information. Cllr Carrol to contact Tom Sweetman (Atema) to discuss current contact, web hosting. Alternative web designers are also to be explored.
- 16/23 **To receive an update on the Allotments**
- Cllr Suter reported that all allotments bar one half allotment had been allocated.
- 16/23 **To receive an update from the Jubilee Playing Field Working Group (including proposed work to repair goals and potential use of CIL receipts for equipment)**
- The dead leylandii hedge on the JPF had been removed and a new is to be hedge planted by the JPF Volunteer Group as necessary. The state of the both goal mouths was discussed and it was agreed that repair of these areas should discussed with the volunteer group to see if they will carry it out. It was also queried how much of the CIL money could be used to replace children’s play items on the JPF. Phil Yates as lead for the JPF social committee agreed to provide a cost estimate for the play equipment concerned.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm