

Minutes of Wymondham & Edmondthorpe Parish Council Meeting

Held at Edmondthorpe Social Club Monday 4th January 2019

Present:

Councillors: Christian Semmens as Chair, Trevor Mear, Matthew Williams, Howard Gresham

Clerk: Terry Brown

District Councillor Joe Orson

PC-4364 Sharon Roscoe

Public Time: None

001 To receive apologies for absence

Cllrs Pat Peters & Kevin Spiers

District Councillors: Malise Graham

002 District and County Councillor Time

Cllr Joe Orson reported on the current status of the LCC proposal for a unitary authority reiterating that it was a proposal that did not have the support of the District Councils.

Melton Borough Council was in the process of agreeing its 2019/20 budget with Children Services being a pressing problem.

MBC is considering moving from its present committee-based system to a cabinet-based system, a change designed to improve decision making as the Council sought to become a "commercial council". Some committees would remain e.g. Planning but in general decisions would normally be made by cabinet members with Full Council concerned with the most decisions.

MBC is conducting a review of its planning process. Cllr Semmens expressed his concern at his experience that planning officers failed to alert Planning Committee members fully on the impact of a Neighbourhood Plan for an application.

003 Police Time

PC Sharon Roscoe gave details of forthcoming Beat Surgeries in the Parish. (Edmondthorpe Social Club 3rd February 3-4pm)

There had been three burglaries in unoccupied properties in Wymondham just prior to Christmas. She emphasised the need for people to take simple and sensible steps to stop this such as leaving random lights on and alerting neighbours.

She emphasised the need to encourage people to report all incidents and that online reporting would be the best means for doing this since staffing by officers was determined by the incidence of problems.

She confirmed that she would continue to take a high-profile approach to speeding. The policy was one of zero tolerance and a recent survey had caught a driver at 49mph who had since lost his licence.

004 Members Declarations of Interests

Cllr Williams declared an interest in 011/2 through a family member interest.

005 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of Council held 3rd December 2018

The minutes were approved & signed by the Chairman.

006 Matters arising from previous meetings

/1 to review progress on allotment issues

The Clerk reported on recent discussions by the WAA Secretary with interested parties and agreed that there was scope for a compromise agreement to be made to meet the needs of all parties. The Clerk was instructed to send a letter to that effect. Action Clerk

The Clerk reported a continuing problem in getting an up to date water bill and the Parish Council agreed to include a small contingency in the 2019/2020 budget to allow for this.

/2 to discuss progress on issues concerning St Peter's School.

Discussed at item 011/2.

007 To receive Councillor reports

None

008 To receive & consider reports from representatives on outside bodies & meeting

/1 to discuss LCC Highways latest proposals

Councillors noted the email from LCC Highways replying to the Parish Council's request for changes to B676 signage in order to reduce the HGV problem through the village. Whilst disappointed at the reply that no change was possible, they agreed that the accompanying news that there would be an imminent decluttering of signs in the area would produce a beneficial result to Parish road problems.

Cllr Williams reported that the expected capital cost of the new VAS sign would be approximately £5000 with yearly maintenance charges over 10 years of £600 per year and the Parish Council noted these for inclusion in the 2019/20 budget.

009 Planning: None

Decision and Information Notices received: Noted

010 Correspondence

Emails: Noted

011 Matters for Discussion

/1 to note Clerk's advice on powers and duties

The meeting noted the Clerk's advice on the full range of powers (and duties) available to the Parish Council. (See <http://www.we-pc.info/policies-1> for the full list.)

The Clerk reported that 2019 Register of electors stood at 546 electors and that with the s137 allowance set at £8.12 for 2019/20 (£7.86 in 2018/19) the full s137 allowance for the Parish Council from 1st April 2019 would be £4433.52.

/2 To consider an application from St Peter's School for Grant aid for the repair and development of the Playground.

The meeting considered carefully the application for £1600 towards this project. However, the Council could not support the application in its current state. Councillors did not consider that the application met criterion E of the grant process.

Cllr Williams expressed a concern that the application had contained no information indicating that the School itself is, has been or will be fully funded: this is a requirement of the grant. Whether or not the playground is fully funded as a separate project is a further but secondary concern

Given the current situation with the School roll Councillors agreed that financial prudence required a greater certainty and knowledge of the full funding (and the timing of such) that would be available to meet the target project cost.

However, the Council would welcome a resubmission if this weakness of information could be corrected.

Action Clerk

/3 to consider progress on possible LED lights conversion

The Council considered the Clerk's advice that outlines three possible strategies, namely no action, a change to LED provision paid for over 5 years or one paid for over 10 years.

Any change in provision is complicated by the mix of poles (wood or galvanised) used for the lamp posts in the Parish. Wood poles would be almost twice as expensive to convert. Also, there is the possibility of work in the near future by Western Power to change the overhead cabling to an under-ground provision and this would have an implication for any wood poles.

Therefore, the Council agreed that the most prudent way forward would be a hybrid response and to seek to convert the newer galvanised lamps as a first stage.

Cllrs Semmens and Williams would carry out an audit to confirm the poles required for the Clerk to then request a new quote from Leicestershire Highways.

The cost implications of this were then carried forward to the consideration of the 2019/20 budget and precept.

Action Cllrs Semmens & Williams

/4 to consider the Budget and Precept for 2019-20

Councillors agreed that the 2019/20 budget should make provision for the cost of elections as previously notified by Melton Borough Council (£1500) and for the maintenance charge of the new VAS to be installed (£600). Making use of reductions in administration costs in 2018/19 the Parish Council approved a budget for 2019/20 of £19557 which would require a precept of £19500, a similar precept to that claimed in 2018/19.

With a 2019/20 tax base for the Parish Council of £303.06 this is equivalent to an annual charge of £64.34 to a Band D council tax payer.

Action Clerk

/5 to consider the award of prizes for best kept allotment

Deferred to the next meeting.

/6 to consider themes for APM May 2019

Deferred to the next meeting.

/7 to consider Councillor responsibility for the Village Hall

The meeting agreed that Cllr Williams should assume this responsibility. The Clerk is to update the website

Action Clerk

012 Finance

The submitted schedule of payments was approved.

Bank balances at 16/12/18 were confirmed as:

Current account	£18751.54
Deposit Account	£25068.30

013 Date of next meeting: Monday 4th February 2019 at 7:30pm at Wymondham Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 10.05pm

Please note a change of meeting venue:

Monday 4th November 2019 Edmondthorpe Social Club

Monday 2nd December 2019 Edmondthorpe Social Club