

LAPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE LAPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

held on MONDAY 9th MARCH 2015, at Lapworth Village Hall, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth at 7.00 pm

MINUTES

1. **Apologies** Dr Rory Nicol, Cllr Child, Cllr Mrs Lester
2. **Minutes of the 2014 Assembly** - Agreed and signed as a true record
3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes** - none
4. **County Council Report** **Cllr Mrs Compton**

The County Council is coming to the end of the second year of four in making £92 million cuts from the Budget. To this end unfortunately an increase this year in the council tax of 1.95% was agreed at the budget meeting in February as we have many calls on our finances, including an ageing population and extra responsibilities on Safeguarding.

However it is not all doom and gloom and extra funding has been allocated for Apprenticeships, Improvements for traffic around schools, Early Start Education, Broadband, funding to try to secure a government grant re provision of LED lighting across the county. More work will be done with the Voluntary and Community Sector and the Live and Local Grant has been saved for 2015/16.

Councillors now have a delegated Transport Budget - mine comes to £32,258, but this has been top sliced by £6,000 towards Traffic Schemes at accident hot spots - but I am still awaiting costings for the other matters.

Work has now started on Kenilworth Railway Station.

Leamington Fire Station will remain where it is with other schemes to improve training and response times.

County Boundaries have now been agreed and Lapworth together with Rowington, Baddesley Clinton, Beausale, Haseley, Honiley & Wroxall will be going into a county division called Lapworth and West Kenilworth. This will take effect from the next County Elections in 2017.

A debate on Combined Authorities takes place on Monday - I do not think there is any appetite for going into Greater Birmingham - but I will report on this at future meetings.

In common with all public meetings WCC Budget meeting was shown on the Web Cam and apparently over 400 people viewed this - it went on over 12 hours - a record.

I am still on the Cabinet at WCC with Adult Social Care and Learning Disabilities being my Portfolio so as you can imagine this is a huge

responsibility, but nevertheless I attend all Parish Council meetings to attend to local issues.

5. District Council Report

Cllr Caborn

Finance. We have set a 0% council tax change for the 5year running .alongside this we have also delivered a surplus on the revenue budget. However our medium term fiNancial plan shows we need further savings of around £1 million at the present rate of reduction in Government Grant.

Members voted to delay the move of Headquarters which has reduced savings by £300k for each years delay.

Projects. We are assessing the properties around the Pump Rooms to form a regeneration area and uplift the area. Planning permission will shortly sought for the old Quicks garage site at Leamington station which we have bought for low cost or social housing. All sports and leisure sites have been surveyed and we are working on a leisure strategy for the district. We have developed a partnership with a private funder to develop sites on a shared outcomes basis.

Economy. WDC continues to be ahead of trend for economic growth and low unemployment . We have developed a starter hub in one of our empty properties for the gaming industry because Leamington is becoming the Silicon Valley of the gaming industry.

TATA / JLR is building its European Technical HQ on Tachbrook Park. On behalf of the parish I attended the inaugural meeting of the community forum formed with JLR to inform local people of all that is happening on the Fen End airfield site. I will forward the notes of the meeting as soon as I have them and have ensured Lapworth PC has a seat at the table,

Local Plan. Members voted to submit the plan to the inspector for Examination in Public. Initial queries have been answered and we await the date anytime.

Gypsy and Traveller sites continue to be a difficult issue but we finalised on 2 sites at Harbury Lane and Greys Mallory. We still are looking for a 3rd. Site, The Gateway regional employment site was refused by the inspector on the basis that use of green belt was not overwayed by the Economic benefit but it will be reexamined at the plan enquiry.

My role,as your District Councillor ends on 11 May after 24 years representing Lapworth. It has been and interesting time and I thank your Clerks and councillors over that time for their support . I apologise for not being with you tonight but am representing WCC at the LGA Fire services conference in Gateshead.

6. Report from Lapworth Charity

Dr R Nicol

I apologise for being away at the time of the Parish Annual Meeting. The Charity continues in it's primary aim to provide and maintain Almshousing at Pound Close. In addition over the last year the charity has made grants to the Churchwardens of Lapworth & Nuthurst, LOPA, Elderberries.

Thirty three donations towards heating costs for houses on low income were made and 18 individuals received contributions towards the chiropody costs not covered by the NHS.

Eight grants were made to University students towards costs not covered by the Student Loans scheme. One grant was made towards specialist tuition of a school age child and 1 grant towards travel costs to school.

With regard to the Scout Hut Site it remains the intention of the Charity to provide affordable housing on this site. To achieve this requires an alteration to the existing right of way which runs down the side of this site, the legal processes to achieve this are progressing albeit very slowly.

7. Report from the Village Hall Committee Cllr Mrs Ludlow

Lapworth Village Hall continues to be a popular venue and praised by many. This has again been a busy year and the Village Hall Committee has continued to be active with bookings from both local organisations and private groups and with fundraising, maintenance and improvements to the hall.

Fundraising activities organised by the Management Committee have included:

- ☐ An evening with comedienne Ginny Davis
- ☐ Bridge evenings
- ☐ A themed family event based on 'Minecraft' and 'Frozen'
- ☐ A programme of films during Autumn and Winter run by the associated Lapworth Film Club
- ☐ I should also mention an evening with 'Mad Jocks and an Englishman' to be held this Saturday

Maintenance and Improvements to the Village Hall have included the following:

- ☐ Central Theatre Supplies has undertaken a survey of the stage, lights, lanterns, overstage hanging bars and curtains and remedial work completed
- ☐ The committee rooms have been decorated and more efficient heaters fitted
- ☐ Hall chairs have been reupholstered
- ☐ The kitchen has been decorated and a new commercial cooker and fridge have been purchased together with new catering equipment
- ☐ An electrical survey of the hall and electrical work undertaken
- ☐ A structural survey and valuation of the hall has been carried out and consequently building insurance increased.

In addition, an open morning explained the use of the hall and this year, the 1964 Governance document has been updated with the Charities Commission

Finally, our thanks go to the local bodies that have financially supported our work this year; Lapworth Parish Council, Lapworth Charities, the Scarecrow Festival, Film Club and the Boot. This generosity helps the committee provide the excellent facilities of the hall.

8. Report from Lapworth School

Ms C Hatton

Standards in Learning

Standards in English reading, writing and mathematics are high. Pupils are making outstanding progress in their learning and achieving excellent outcomes across all phases. These high standards have been recognised by our position in the primary school league tables for 2014 when Lapworth School was placed 20th in Warwickshire by the Daily Telegraph.

School Buildings and Grounds:

At present, the school buildings and grounds are in good order and continue to provide our pupils with an excellent learning environment.

The building work to support the planned expansion of the school is now well underway with the foundations for the additional classrooms now complete. The steel work to support the structure will be installed this week and we expect to see very quick visible progress from this point. The project is on track to be complete for the middle of the summer holidays and following some internal reorganisation of classrooms we intend to be using the new block from September onwards.

W.C.C. have this week confirmed the funding for a porch to the front of the school building which, although a separate project, will be built concurrently with the classroom block.

Sporting success:

In January, Lapworth School once again participated in the county finals of the County Small Schools Football competition, with our team representing the South Warwickshire District. Lapworth performed well in this tournament as we were by far the smallest school at the event, achieving a creditable second place overall.

During February, a number of Year 5 & 6 pupils took part in the first round of the Indoor Athletics Tournaments, again securing a place in the final where Lapworth achieved a hard fought second place. All the children gave of their very best with some achieving 'personal best' performances.

Cluster and Consortium Working:

Lapworth Church of England School is part of the Henley Cluster of local schools and the wider Stratford Consortium which encompasses all schools in the Henley and Stratford area. We also work in partnership with the Tudor Grange Alliance.

Through our involvement in these groups our pupils and staff have accessed a number of exciting opportunities this academic year including:

- Teacher training days

- Subject moderation
- Curriculum planning
- Subject leader meetings
- Admin staff support meetings
- Pupil workshops

Educational Visits:

During the first half of the Autumn Term 2014, the whole school undertook a project of Remembrance to mark the Centenary of the outbreak of World War 1.

To further extend the children's learning and to develop a deeper understanding of the significance of The Great War, 34 pupils and 7 staff travelled to France to visit the Somme Battlefields. This enabled the children to develop a personal connection to the First World War through interaction with the battlefield sites, participation in remembrance ceremonies and reflection on their own experiences. It was fascinating to visit places such as the Wellington Quarry in Arras and the re-constructed trench system at Vimy Ridge. Our tour also included visits to Thiepval Memorial and to Etaples Military Cemetery. The children laid crosses on the graves of Lapworth men to honour their memory and were led in prayer by Father Patrick.

Thoughts from the children about visiting the battlefields:

"I got a real idea of how many people died in the war and going to France really showed me what life was like for the soldiers."

"We looked at how the trenches were built and how unstable they were and the conditions the soldiers had to live through. "

Extra-Curricular Activities:

We continue to develop our extensive extra-curricular programme for pupils. Across the year we currently offer our children: Football Club for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, Cross Country, Dance and Drama, Choir, gymnastics, cheerleading, woodwind and violin peripatetic tuition and tennis. Lapworth School provides a wide variety of opportunities to enable the children to develop their own special interests and talents.

Community Engagement

There are a number of local volunteers who continue to support us in school, undertaking voluntary roles. These include: listening to pupils read, completing admin tasks, leading choir, supporting forest school sessions as well as providing additional adult support on visits.

We continue to work closely with Packwood House, holding our Upper School Christmas performance in the Great Hall, a very special occasion!

Years 5 and 6 pupils regularly visit Packwood to plant a number of trees and pick apples. We are also very grateful for the continued support of Packwood's gardening team who visit school to help maintain our forest school and plant a fantastic summer display in our front border.

This year, for the first time, we used the village hall as a venue for our annual Upper School summer performance. The children in Classes 4 & 5 gave a superb performance of Disney's Peter Pan to a 'full house' audience of proud parents and carers. The excellent stage and lighting facilities in the hall gave a very professional feel to the production and added to the whole experience for the children.

Governing Body

Following changes to the prescribed composition of the School's governing body there would no longer be a position of 'Community Governor' Lapworth School was anxious to maintain community links and would continue to encourage those with the right mix of skills and experience to represent the school's interests.

9. Chairman's Report

Cllr Corney

Our Council has been active and involved in local matters during the past twelve months. Only time will tell how effective we have been.

At last year's Assembly we were drawing together the Parish Plan and this, together with the Local Plan, have been making steady progress towards adoption by the District Council. The lower levels of proposed housing were a welcome development for our community. New moves such as the Open Space Enhancement Contributions are also promising for us, although we await the impact of this once some appropriate planning applications are granted.

Our present Electoral Ward representation is to be changed following Boundary Commission decisions and we will wait and see how this will affect this parish. We are to be incorporated in a ward which includes Kenilworth and it is difficult to see how this can be made to work for two fundamentally different types of community.

Our support for the Village Hall continues with assistance with a Rural Initiatives Grant for spending on improvements and a scheme to enhance the eastern boundary of the property. We were unable however, to be of much assistance with a difficult car parking problem.

Village open spaces, Broom Hall Lane Toilets and the Vicarage Road Allotments are monitored regularly and continue to provide a satisfactory service. We are entering negotiations with Lapworth School about Car Parking in Station Lane and we hope that a solution can be achieved which will prove satisfactory and acceptable to everyone.

Lastly I could refer to the latest legislation which enables the proceedings of our meetings to be recorded electronically for the benefit of the public. This has yet to be tested in Lapworth's case; I hope that is not an indication of lack of public interest in our affairs.

May I conclude with a tribute to our Councillors for their hard work and application on behalf of our community and our Clerk for her diligent service to us.

10. Any Other Business – none

Meeting ended 7.40