

Minutes of Meeting of Lapworth Parish Council 14th September 2020

Held Virtually via Zoom

Present

Cllr Henderson (Chairman), Cllr Mace, Cllr Shales,

Also present: D Cllr Illingworth, C Cllr Cooke, D Cllr Hales

1. **Apologies** – Cllr Rees, Cllr Doyle, Cllr Manley

2. **Declarations of Interest** - None declared

3. **Dispensations** – no requests received

4. **Public Participation** –

A member of the public attended to express concerns on behalf of a number of local residents regarding the Nova Stables in Glasshouse Lane which have been subject to a number of applications since 2012. It is currently subject to a planning enforcement notice however it was advised that the enforcement team would not attend without a police presence. The Parish Council supported the concerns raised and queried the delay in enforcement action or resolution which has gone on for a number of years. Request that the District Council provide a timetable for follow up with appropriate actions.

PC to take forward.

5. **Minutes** – It was **RESOLVED** to approve minutes of the Planning Meeting of Lapworth Parish Council of 10th August 2020 Meeting and to sign as soon as possible.

6. Reports for Information

6.1. Warwick District Council

The White Paper on the future reorganisation of the local government has not yet been published and I am not privy to the details. Without consultation with those affected the County have proposed a County-wide unitary. This is a possible solution but there are other possibilities such as a North-South division. The Five Boroughs and Districts are jointly investigating the whole picture.

The District Council has been pursuing three strands of the Covid-19 pandemic

1. Helping retail and businesses get back into operation

2. Getting used to new ways of working and returning staff to normal duties after redeployments

3 Planning and preparing should the second wave happen

Pubs and pavement licences have raised some concerns for the spread of Covid-19 if the rules are not properly followed. There is particular concern in Leamington with the return of the students from Warwick University.

At the recent Council meeting an attempt to extend the delegated decision powers for Planning applications which have deprived parish councils and residents of their democratic part in decisions was withdrawn.

The Government has recently rejigged the Use Classes so that many more changes of use, such as shops to cafes, are possible without requiring planning

permission. The idea is to create flexibility to support town centres but small shops more than 1 km from the next nearest will be protected as local community uses.

The Government currently has two consultations on Planning. One is for short term tweaks, but the other is a White Paper proposing a rehash of the whole planning system supposedly speeding it up and bringing it into the 21st Century. However it demands very detailed Local Plans leading to an assumption of approval for faster implementation. The devil is no doubt in the detail and some aspects are a real cause for concern. Neighbourhood Plans remain part of the system but unless these are revised as well it is not clear how the two will work together.

District Finances - reserves held but challenging in terms of going forward, £10 million in terms of lost income and increased costs.

£425,000 grants made to Lapworth area, small businesses, home based workers and hospitality sector.

6.2. Warwickshire County Council

County Council presses for County Wide Unitary Authority

The government's decision to recommend changes to the structure of local government for the first time since 1974 has already seen a flurry of activity in the County even before the publication of the White Paper which is expected to be published at the end of this month.

First out of the blocks was Warwick & Stratford Districts pushing for a merger into a so called "Super District." But this was swiftly followed by the County Council Cabinet moving to press for a takeover of all Warwickshire Districts & Boroughs to form a County Unitary Authority. I suspect that the two options which will be most closely fought will be the formation of two unitary authorities, one in the north and one in the south and the County Council's unitary bid. I think it's going to be an interesting autumn. The County Council will debate the matter on September 22nd.

Youth Workers supporting young people during the pandemic

Warwickshire County Council staff are out and about meeting young people across the county to offer them support with any issues or concerns they may have, and to help them to stay safe during the pandemic.

The council's Targeted Youth Support (TYS) service has a team of dedicated, qualified youth workers that use their knowledge, skills and experience to build strong relationships with young people to help them make positive futures.

The service has seen an increase in demand during the Covid-19 pandemic and youth workers have gone above and beyond to support young people during this difficult time on a range of issues.

Help is available for people who may be struggling to cope

Warwickshire County Council's hotline on 0800 408 1447 remains open for people who need urgent help to access food and well-being support during these difficult times.

In addition to the welfare scheme, the hotline can direct callers to other food and well-being solutions, as well as council, health and community sector support available locally, so people can find out how to protect themselves and address any issues they may face.

7. Correspondence and Publications Received for Information/ Consultation

7.1. Lapworth PCN Social Prescriber

Meeting on Tuesday 1st September with Abria Sienna suggested by GP Gareth Rowland and including Rory Nicol and Helen Wollerton of Lapworth Charity and Cllr Rees vice chairman.

Abria has been appointed as Social Prescriber for part of Arden Primary Care Trust and Lapworth falls into her area. She has yet to decide which local areas she will focus most of her time and effort on so she wanted to meet people in the areas to get an idea of what support/help groups already exist. This, combined with getting an idea of needs, will help her determine where to put most effort in.

The Social Prescriber's role is to provide non-medical support to those who may need it. It could be post-illness recovery, help with depression/alcohol/drugs, financial worries, loneliness, etc. Anything that might improve well-being as opposed to pure health. She will point those in need in the appropriate directions to find help. This is where clubs and societies may come in, as well as possible financial grants from bodies such as the Lapworth Charity.

One area of interest could be for adult outdoor gym equipment. Could we ask Warwick DC if the money allocated to Lapworth could be used more for outdoor equipment rather than indoor? In the new COVID world, outdoor equipment will be much more useful, especially if covered to keep rain off. (Also, the area behind the Surgery where we met would make an ideal spot for fitness equipment - secluded for those too embarrassed to exercise in full view!) The next step is to wait for her to report back on her investigations

7.2. Councillors Access to WALC Website - noted

7.3. WALC Training Opportunities – noted

7.4. WALC Updates - noted

7.5. RSN Rural Funding Digest - September 2020 Edition - noted

7.6. Lapworth Cricket Club - thanks for grant for electronic scoreboard

8. Items and Correspondence for Consideration and Decision

8.1. Convene – Meeting and document management system – PC agreed to trial Convene for foreseeable future, with up to 15 licences, to be reviewed in November.

8.2. Lapworth Charity Trustee Appointment – 15 trustees, 8 co-opted and 6 nominations, 5 nominations given to PC and one to WDC. Of PC five one vacancy that they do not wish to fill as moving the charity towards Charitable Incorporation with 12 trustees. Copy of proposed new constitution has been requested. It was **RESOLVED** to support the proposal not to replace current vacancy. Cllr Henderson to circulate new constitution when it is available.

8.3. Lapworth Speeding improvement scheme by Lapworth Boot – some vehicles observed reversing on to the Old Warwick Road. Proposal to install one gateway (£5,000) on the side of the highway to draw attention to entering a 30 mph zone. Cllr Cooke to advise of the materials used for the gateway, the scheme supported by Lapworth PC 12 months ago, delay caused by change in personnel at WCC. It was **RESOLVED** to support that Cllr Cooke progress this

scheme.

9. Progress Reports

9.1. Lapworth Volunteers

August has been a quiet month with little activity. Masks have continued to be distributed and donations requested, a cheque delivered to the School for £101.63 from donations made at the Surgery. The last stock of masks delivered to the Surgery. Many thanks again to the WI and others who have got so many masks out into our community, and in the process raised almost £1,100 for the school. The Headteacher will provide details of how the money has been used. With the incidence of COVID over 50 per 100,000 in Solihull and over 60 in Birmingham, the recent closure of the Boot and the return of schools, universities and workplaces, the Volunteers may need to be reinvigorated unfortunately. With many of the Team Leaders having now returned to work, a new recruitment drive may become necessary in coming weeks. The helpline remains in place but with very few callers recently.

9.2. Play Area Report

Weekly checks have been conducted and all is in order. Bins are emptied on regular basis and a few brambles cut back. Thanks to Cllrs Manley and Henderson who cut back the protruding screws on the gates - a big improvement!

Usage has been very good in recent weeks and there have been several very positive comments about the facility and fencing. Apparently it is "the best play-area by miles for miles!"

Nettles and brambles on the footpath from the canal bridge to the railway bridge have also been trimmed back a number of times through the Summer. An extensive cutback in the Autumn by Fairways would be appreciated.

9.3. Community Speedwatch update - defer

9.4. Lapworth Train Station phone box – currently being used as a donation station.

9.5. Millennium Sign – update.

9.6. Lapworth Canal Signage – Cllr Doyle progress update defer

9.7. Social Media Considerations - photography competition deadline extended to 31st August 2020

10. Reports and Questions

To receive reports and questions from members in brief, including items for next agenda. Councillors are reminded this is not an opportunity for decision making.

10.1. Lapworth Village Hall – re-opened on a limited basis, but limited bookings.

10.2. Lapworth Recreation Sites

10.3. Communications, Openness and Accountability

10.3.1. Lapworthpc.org.uk website

10.3.2. Nextdoor.com

10.3.3. Parish Noticeboards

11. Roads and Rights of Way - To receive reports in relation to roads and rights of way

11.1. Road Closure C23 RISING LANE & D5057 NETHERWOOD LANE, BADDESLEY CLINTON 7th to 22nd September 2020

11.2. Temporary closure of Lapworth Street from 24/09/2020 to 26/09/2020 To facilitate Openreach maintenance works

11.3 Some of the stiles within the Parish are not always user friendly, proposed to use Parish Online mapping system to compile a database for discussion with WCC.

12. Planning applications

12.1. W/20/1133 Packwood Farm, Packwood Road, Lapworth, Solihull
Application for Prior Approval under Part 3, Class Q (a) and (b) for proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house (Use Class C3) and associated external alterations

LPC Comment: Q6 states nil regarding that established agricultural unit, but it has previously had a conversion of the older barn next to the farmhouse within this established agricultural unit. Would also query whether statement regarding provision of services is correct ?

12.2. W/20/1195 149 Station Lane, Lapworth, Solihull, B94 6JH
Erection of first floor front extension over existing garage, alteration to single storey roof frontage, replacement of front plastic boarding with render, and erection of single storey rear extension.

LPC Comment: No objection

12.3. W20/1263 Broomfield House, Church Lane, Lapworth, B94 5NU
Erection of two storey rear extension, garage conversion, alterations to fenestration, demolition of previous rear cloakroom extension, part reroofing

LPC Comment: Objection as in conservation area timber windows would be more appropriate than UPVC.

12.4. W/20/1260 1 St Chads Cottage, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth, B94 6LH
Erection of two storey rear/side extension (resubmission of W20/0384)

LPC Comment: No objection subject to not exceeding 30% of original property

12.5. W/20/1299 Land Opposite Brook House, Bakers Lane, Knowle, B93 8PW
Erection of stable and associated hardstanding.

LPC Comment: No objection

12.6. W/20/1319 AG Helmsley Court Farm, Bakers Lane, Knowle, B93 8PT

Notification for prior approval for erection of agricultural building

LPC Comment: Objection Poor application with no justification for barn, query is this equestrian as opposed to agricultural?

12.7.W20/1256 & 1257LB Rectory Cottage, Church Lane, Lapworth, B94 5NX
Revised Scheme Demolition of 20th century garage and sunroom, replacement with single storey extension. Alterations to garden walls.

LPC Comment: No objection in principle but archaeological check needed and maybe over 30%

13. Planning Decision Notices

13.1. W20/0770 Lowering roof of garage and erection of a pitched roof over porch/garage

Address - 204 Aylesbury Road, Lapworth, Solihull, B94 6PP

Lapworth PC Comment - No objection

WDC Decision - Granted

13.2. W20/0780 Prior approval under Part 3, Class Q (a) and (b) for a proposed change of use of an agricultural building to 1no. large dwellinghouse (Use Class C3)

Address - Meadow Hill Farm, Lapworth Street, Bushwood, Lowsonford, Henley-in-Arden, B95 5ES

Lapworth PC Comment - No objection

WDC Decision - prior approval is given

13.3. W20/0887 Proposed side extension boot room & WC & garage conversion to kitchen

Address - Arden House, Station Lane, Lapworth, Solihull, B94 6LT

Lapworth PC Comment - No objection

WDC Decision - Granted

13.4. W20/0889 Erection of two storey rear extension

Address - 127 Station Lane, Lapworth, Solihull, B94 6JH

Lapworth PC Comment - No objection

WDC Decision - Granted

13.5. W20/0960 Demolition of conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension. Erection of an extension to garage to form a single storey side extension

Address - 2 Station Lane, Lapworth, Solihull, B94 6LT

Lapworth PC Comment - No objection – But query within 30% limit

WDC Decision - Granted

13.6. W20/0977 Proposed erection of replacement dwelling

Address - The Elms, 75 Chessetts Wood Road, Lapworth, Solihull, B94 6EL

Lapworth PC Comment - No objection – but query whether garage and games room acceptable to planners. Unclear from application whether a double or single entrance and which is to be used and how the garage is to be accessed

WDC Decision - Granted

14. Planning Appeals

14.1. Appeal Registered

Site Address: Rectory Cottage, Church Lane, Lapworth, Solihull, B94 5NX

Description of development: Demolition of 20th century garage block and sunroom. Erection of one and a half storey extension.

Application Reference: W/19/1963

14.2. Appeal Registered

Site Address: The Hay Barn, Packwood Lane, Lapworth, Solihull, B94

6AU Description of development: Demolition of existing timber frame garage and construction of proposed double garage

Application Reference: W20/0271

15. Finance

15.1. To approve accounts for payment as below

Invoice No.	Cheque No.	Payment Details	VAT £	
	101863	Clerk August 2020 salary and expenses inc £81.36 back pay to 1 st April 2020		650.05
	101863	HMRC August 2020		182.90
	101864	Fairways 13 of 21	84.20	505.20
	101865	C Henderson – Reimbursement for Volunteer Line Rental		13.90

16. Date of Next Meeting

Lapworth Parish Council Ordinary meeting on 12th October 2020 starting at 7.30pm to be held virtually via Zoom