

ST LEONARDS & ST IVES PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting Of the Full Council

**Minutes of the Meeting Held On Wednesday 27th February 2013 at 7.00pm
in the Committee Room at the Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards**

Members Present: Cllr R Bryan, Chairman

Cllr J Crow

Cllr B Goringe

Cllr C House

Cllr Mrs A Warman

Cllr R Dudman

Cllr N Hindmarch

Cllr Mrs J House

Cllr R Warman

Cllr M Dyer

Cllr M Hockley;

In attendance: Mrs A Jacobs Clerk, County Councillor P Richardson and twenty four Members of the Public who came to hear about the potential allotment site at Horton Road.

400. Declarations of non-declared Pecuniary Interests: None

401. Apologies :-

- i) Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr R Adkins and Cllr G Willetts who was attending an ETAG meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.
- ii) The Clerk brought Members attention to the 6 month rule on absence and reminded Members that if so minded the Council can resolve to extend the period for example due to ill health or other special circumstances but it must be resolved before the 6 month date.

402. Public Speaking: Members heard from a Member of the public representing others present in respect of a proposal to site some allotments at Horton Road Village Green. The main issues of concern were:

- whether this was a legally permitted use of a registered village green
- whether it was a suitable site due to soil quality, flooding; parking issues and security risk
- The financial implications of such a proposal on the taxpayer

A copy of the speech made was handed to the Clerk for the record.

Other Members of the public raised concerns over the potential for an increase in rats due to poor composting methods on site, the impact of a potential increase in parking in St Ives Park; lack of toilet facilities; sheds and the keeping of chickens and rabbits (as these are usually allowed on allotments); the general loss of open space and visual appearance of the proposal as it will need fencing off. Concern over the long term viability of the proposal as it was felt that there would be a poor retention rate once the soil quality and effort required to maintain an allotment was realised. This would then result in further expense to the taxpayer to maintain the land or return it to its prior condition. The ongoing costs and the length of time it will take to recoup the set up costs

The Chairman stressed that the proposal was in its very early stages nothing had been decided and further information was still needed.

Cllr Mrs A Warman responded on behalf of the Working Party – The Working Party had already looked at three other sites within the Parish but due to a variety of reasons including access; proximity to SSSI land; and uncertain ownership they were deemed unsuitable. The Working Party have been assisted by EDDC Officers who are now looking into the legal side of the land and status. Some Village Greens have been registered in such a way to have allowed allotments on them. Sheds would not be allowed on the site and as onsite parking would be provided tenants would bring their tools with them. The plots are approximately a quarter of the normal size, EDDC would bring in topsoil at their expense and fully prepare the allotments. Water would be provided and we would condition leases to stop parking in St Ives Park. As regards gypsies and travellers there has been little trouble this year since the new transit site has opened. The EDDC Officer is offering to come in and speak to the Council and this is only the initial stage. EDDC are questioning whether the Village Green status is valid as it is not registered with them, it may be invalid.

The Chairman closed the meeting to the public to allow Members to discuss the item.

403. Allotment Provision – Members had received a preliminary feasibility report from the East Dorset Countryside Management Service about a potential site for allotments in the Parish with their agenda. See report attached with sketch plan of site. A copy of the report and plan is attached to these Minutes in the Minute Book as Appendix A. Members discussed the report.

The Chairman stressed that whilst EDDC were assisting the Parish Council the decision will be made at Parish level not by the District Council. Members discussed the report and it was agreed that there were a number of aspects which needed to be considered further. Independent legal advice would be required over the Village Green status. It was noted that the Council has a statutory duty to review and consider allotment provision, we have a number of requests for allotments on file and the Council would be negligent if it did not try and seek the opportunity to fulfil such a project. Attempts to encourage an interest in garden sharing by those with large gardens at the recent open day and in previous newsletters had met with little if any interest. The general consensus of Members was that the Horton Road site was underused. Cllr Hockley suggested potential locations at Lions Hill and off Eastmoors Farm. Cllr Mrs Warman responded that these had been looked at but ruled out due to proximity to SSSI and permission for access being denied. The Chairman emphasised the need to look at all avenues, several sites had been ruled out very quickly, this site had got to a further stage. Cllr Mrs Warman pointed out that the EDDC Officer consulted has been setting up a number of allotment schemes within the District and has the expertise to advise the Parish in this respect.

The Chairman allowed the public to speak further.

Members of the public questioned whether the rights of potential allotment holders were being put above the rights of existing site users and residents close to the site. In addition concern over the potential for significant legal costs falling on the taxpayer. Only 12 car park spaces were being provided for 25 allotments.

The Chairman closed the meeting to the public but stressed that these concerns will be looked into. It was pointed out that the agendas for meetings detailing the business to be discussed are posted 7 days beforehand on notice boards throughout the Parish.

7.55pm The Public left the meeting.

After further discussion it was clear that in order to meet its statutory obligations more information was needed to make a decision. It was agreed unanimously, to invite Mr Reeks of EDDC to the next meeting to discuss the matter further. Proposed by Cllr M Dyer, seconded by Cllr J Crow.

RESOLVED: To invite Mr Reeks of EDDC to the next meeting to discuss the matter further.

404. County Councillor Peter Richardson: A copy of Cllr Richardson's report had been circulated to Members.

Questions were put by the Members:-

Cllr Goringe has complained about the condition of the A31 and A338 and has been promised that they will be cleaned before Easter.

Cllr R Warman: raised the point of the £140m backlog of work needed on roads, and asked how much is normally spent on roads? Cllr Richardson will find out.

Cllr Bryan pointed out that the County spent over a £1m on black plastic preparing for work before even the grant had been obtained, this is now wasted and the money would have been better spent on repairs.

Cllr Mrs House asked why the yellow lines now approved, had not been put in yet? Cllr Richardson reported that he thought it was held up by the lengthy legal process.

406. Grants of Dispensation: None received

407. Minutes of the full Council meeting held on 30th January 2013 pages 64-66 -

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 30th January 2013 pages 64-66 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs J House, seconded by Cllr J Crow. Agreed, Cllr M Hockley abstained, rest in favour.

408. Matters arising from the Minutes:

Min 347.7 – Due to office issues the Clerk had not yet actioned this item.

409. Approved Minutes of the following Committee Meetings were adopted:-

i) Meeting of Planning Committee held on 10th January 2013 (p63) and 31st January 2013 (p67 & 68).

Proposed by Cllr C House, seconded by Cllr Mrs J House. agreed unanimously.

ii) Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 5th December 2012 (p59 &60) Proposed by Cllr R Dudman, seconded by Cllr M Dyer, agreed Cllr B Goringe abstained as he was not present, rest in favour.

iii) Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 5th December 2012 (p57 & 58). Proposed by Cllr R Dudman, seconded by Cllr M Dyer, agreed Cllr B Goringe abstained as he was not present, rest in favour

410. The following correspondence was noted:-

1. EDDC Agendas
2. Letter from a resident of West Moors complaining about the lack of white lines along the Ringwood Service Road and also requesting it's resurfacing. Resident telephoned and copied to County Councillor for a response.
3. Notification and invitation to POPPS event on 19th March at Durweston 9.30-12.30
4. DAPTC circular 2/13
5. Confirmation of renewal for ICO registration
6. Democracy Event – emailed to Members 22.3.13 –Involving Young people in Local Councils. The Chairman and Clerk are attending, there had been no response from other Members.

411. Dropped Kerb Request A31 – A Letter was sent to the MP as requested. Mr Chope has put down Parliamentary questions seeking the support of the Secretary of State for extending the works at the lorry park junction to include the dropped kerbs at St Leonard's Hospital. This was noted. The Chairman reiterated that It was now two years since the Highways Agency had agreed to carry out the work but would not give any precise timescale, four years had been mentioned. The Clerk had reminded the Agency of their promise on a number of occasions prior to other scheduled work in the area taking place. The Clerk was asked to put this item on all full Council agendas until the matter is resolved.

412. District Councillors' Update:

Cllr M Dyer: The Core Strategy has been put to the Secretary of State. It is only the District's view of where and how many houses, can go. Objections to the proposals can still be made at the Public Enquiry, which is likely to be held later in the year.

Cllr R Dudman: The District Council voted in a Council tax increase of 1.95%.

Cllr Mrs A Warman: Information is available on the 1.95% increase. The District had some criticism but the increase is to enable resources to carry out our plans over the next few years. 101 people watched the web broadcast. 130 people were outside with placards protesting but when invited in only 7 of them came in. There were 23 people in the public gallery. It was made clear to the Council that sites for housing must be put forward or they would be imposed on us. 2,500 sites could be found by infilling and it is clear that this Parish could take some. I do not like it but I think it will happen. The problem is that all of the brown field sites across the District do not add up to sufficient to meet the housing need. We will need to find further space.

Cllr Mrs House questioned the classification of housing "need", there was no question that affordable housing was needed but the applications we are receiving are for 4 bed luxury homes. Cllr Mrs Warman responded that there was a new requirement on developers for 4% affordable homes, in Verwood a number of affordable homes were being constructed.

Cllr Crow asked if there was any further news about future development of the Hospital Site. Cllr Dyer responded that there was nothing definite at the moment but there had been some interest. There were a number of live applications across the District which are currently not being acted upon.

413. Parish Councillors' Reports:-

1. DAPTC – no meeting
2. Homewatch - no meeting
3. PACT – no meeting
4. T AG Meetings – Cllr Willetts attending ETAG tonight. The Chairman expressed his disappointment that the District Council had decided to no longer support the group and had withdrawn accommodation when the Group which had been set up by them was working so well.
5. Youth Club - no meeting. Cllr Dyer reported that the District Council had discussed whether it was necessary to appoint a Member to attend Parish Youth club committees. It was suggested that this should be voluntary and up to the local Member. Cllr Dyer had flagged up the current situation at the Freedom Youth club. Cllr Warman stressed that he is extremely concerned that there is currently no Management Committee. He has resigned as a Trustee but is still the Treasurer. Currently the gas is £90 per quarter but only £5 is usage, units such as the heating and air conditioning are unserviced as little used, no repairs are taking place and the Club is not meeting due to a lack of leaders. This is a serious situation which cannot continue. Cllr Mrs Warman has raised the issues with Cllr Mrs Coombs, the District Councillor for Youth. Cllr Mrs Warman reported receiving two calls last week from youngsters wanting to attend. The Clerk will put this item on the next agenda to discuss fully and what steps could be taken to resolve the situation.
6. Car Park Working Party - A report had been circulated to Members. The working party were having a meeting with other site users on 28th February to put the proposals, dependant on that outcome prices will then be sought and the proposals will come back to Council. It was proposed that Cllr Goringe should be

invited to join the Working Party as he has extensive construction knowledge. Proposed by Cllr C House, seconded by Cllr Mrs J House. Agreed unanimously. Cllr Goringe accepted.

RESOLVED: Cllr B Goringe will join the car park working party group.

414. Parish Newsletter –

Printing and distribution costs of £375 were agreed. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J House, seconded by Cllr M Dyer. Cllr M Hockley abstained for legal reasons, rest in favour.

RESOLVED: Approved printing and distribution costs of £375 for the Spring Newsletter.

415. A31 (Avon Heath Country Park) Traffic Order - Proposal to impose 24 hour no waiting restriction on circulatory road and other restrictions. Full Copy of the order is on display in the Parish Office window. Consultation 21 February to 22 March 2013. Noted. No response was put forward.

416. Parish Office – The Clerk reported total computer failure on Wednesday 13th February. The computer had been declared beyond repair. This had been followed on 26th February and part of 27th by a telephone line fault cutting off all calls to the office. Cllr House and Cllr Bryan had sourced and agreed on a replacement computer system and work was currently in hand to try and retrieve data from the old system. The replacement computer and new accounts package had been purchased at a cost of £2024, sanctioned under emergency powers. There will be a period of slight disruption prior to the setting up of the new system. Currently there are some email issues to resolve.

417. EDDC announcement of sale of EDDC building at Furzehill - Evening Echo 16th January regarding the sale of the EDDC building at Furzehill. It was noted that the decision had not yet been finalised and was still under discussion. The matter will be deferred until a decision is made

418. Members RESOLVED: to exclude the Press and Public under the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960, to discuss matters relating to Trustee's and Discloseable Pecuniary Interests and the Code of Conduct.

Proposed by Cllr C House, seconded by Cllr J Crow, Cllr M Hockley voted against, rest in favour.

See confidential minute 418 in the Confidential Minute file.

419. Exchange of information:

1. Next meeting –27th March 2013 Full Council 7.00pm
2. The Clerk was asked to check and report on insurance of Members
3. Cllr Mrs Warman asked if she could make it clear that the Parish Council does own the Village Hall, why else is it named as the Lessor and listed on the Council assets register. The Clerk will put the matter on the next agenda for discussion.
4. Cllr Hockley expressed his regret concerning the recent fatal crash on the A31 by Ringwood. The Clerk was asked to express our support to Ringwood Town Council on their request for a safety review of this section of road. Cllr Dyer reported that the Highways were reported in the media as being not prepared to spend any money on improvements on this route as the collision rate was not high enough.
5. Cllr Mrs Warman reported on a NHS issue experienced by a resident who had been sent home 3 times due to a lack of beds. Cllr Mrs Warman had written to Mr Chope, MP in this respect.
6. Cllr C House reported that there are rumours that I do not support the Village Hall, I would like it noted that I do care but I am only concerned about their levels of expenditure.
7. Cllr Hindmarch reported that he had heard that the whole H block at Christchurch Hospital is being knocked down and a massive development proposal is going through. £5m would need to be spent on the block to get it fit for purpose.
8. Cllr Crow asked for the NHS information from Mr Thackray to be copied to him, the Clerk will arrange.
9. The Chairman expressed his concern that the Senior Enforcement Officer at EDDC was being made redundant when the team was so stretched, the Chairman asked the District Councillors to monitor the situation.
10. Cllr Hindmarch reported on further gas work on the A31 and has confirmed that the main pipe runs under the central reservation.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Chairman