



Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council

The Village Hall
 Firbeck Avenue
 Laughton-en-le-Morthen
 S25 1YD

(Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 17th January 2024)

Present: Councillors: Mr T Stanway (Chairman), Mrs T Hutson (Vice Chairman), Mrs J Cutting, Mr K Downing, Mrs S Fielding and Mr S Johnson and the Clerk, Caroline Havenhand. In attendance Parishioners: One parishioner was in attendance.

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
24/1	To receive and approve reasons for absence.	
	Councillors: Mrs S Varkey gave reasons for absence which were approved at the meeting.	
24/2	To receive declarations of interest in respect of business on the agenda.	
	No interests were declared.	
24/3	To authorise the chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2023, as a true and correct record.	
	The minutes were confirmed as a true and correct record and the Chairman accordingly signed the file copy.	
24/4	To identify any agenda items which may be considered following the exclusion of the press and public, due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.	
	It was resolved that no items required the exclusion of press and public.	
	Open Forum for Parishioners in Attendance – Public Participation Session	
	No items were raised.	
24/5	To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary.	
24/5.1	To receive a report from Ward Councillors.	
	No Ward Councillors attended the meeting.	
24/5.2	To review the most recent play inspection report and agree any action.	
	Council engage RMBC monthly to check the equipment and point out any areas that may need repair or monitoring. The clerk circulated the play inspection report dated 16th January 2024 which was designated ‘Low Risk’. The play area surface still needs spreading in some areas once the weather is warm enough. It was resolved that current actions from the report are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To change out the worn chain on the Swings - 1 Bay 2 Seat (Flat) as it is over 40% worn – clerk to contact RMBC to action this. Cost should be within the allocated discretion. • To ask RMBC maintenance whether the fungi identified needs any special treatment. 	Clerk
24/5.3	To review progress since the November meeting in relation to speeding and parking issues	

	around schools.	
	<p>Ward Councillors were not able to attend but did reply to the clerk with an update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A survey has been circulated, though due to budget constraints it was only circulated electronically. • Meetings with the schools have not yet taken place. • H markings at Laughton All Saints will be done by March. • Some signage on St John's Road has been changed but others are on the list pending budget constraints. • A parking area opposite Laughton All Saints has been put forward but <p>The information from mobile data has not yet been seen and Ward Councillors are to check when the results of the survey would be available. Some signage</p>	
24/5.4	To receive any update on the building work sign off.	
	The clerk has advised that a meeting date of 31 st January has been set up to meet with the builder to bring this matter to a conclusion. Information noted by Council.	Clerk/ Chairman
24/5.5	To receive an update on the play area surface and to ratify the additional spend by the clerk to transport and offload the play surface material.	
	The play area surfacing arrived as expected. However, the clerk reported that in order to meet the installation deadline, in conjunction with the chairman, she had agreed a late price increase and an additional amount for transport as two lorries had been needed due to lack of space for a 60-foot arctic to manoeuvre. As a result, the cost was £3900.00 with a potential cost of £100 for the machine to lift it on. There will also be costs for the caretaker to distribute the material as only 1 volunteer came forward to assist. It was resolved to ratify the agreement for the increased spend.	
24/5.6	To receive correspondence from the local neighbourhood team relating to Dog Fouling stencils.	
	The clerk confirmed that the Neighbourhoods team have now ordered the stencils and spray paint, and these should be with us in the next 10 to 14 days. Councillor S Johnson volunteered to do the marking when these arrive.	Clerk
24/5.7	To show council a copy of bound minutes done to date and agree a quote to bind memorial sheets.	
	The first two Minute Books have been received and Council was very happy with the service. It was resolved to spend £132.00 to get the memorial binder bound in the same manner.	Clerk
24/6	Matters requested by Councillors/Clerk.	
24/6.1	To discuss any requests for financial assistance.	
	There were no requests for financial assistance.	
24/6.2	To discuss recent crime issues.	
	Concerns were raised about a recent burglary and the degree of petty crime over the festive season. The police were unable to attend the meeting, so it was resolved to request that a PCSO attend February meeting.	Clerk
24/6.3	To discuss and agree a response in relation to the consultation regarding 'Consideration of Term Dates for 2025/2026'.	
	It was resolved that Council do not wish to comment on the consultation other than to confirm a preference for Easter holidays to align with Good Friday and Easter Monday.	

24/6.4	To consider correspondence from Gallagher relating to Parish Council insurance and agree next steps.	
	The clerk advised Council that the three-year agreement had now ended. The insurance is due for renewal on 1 st April. It was resolved to get two quotations for renewal, three quotations if possible, for review at the March meeting.	Clerk
24/6.5	To discuss the damage to Slade Hooton signs and agree any action.	
	It was resolved to request a quotation for work that requires doing to do of the signs and to remove the brambles that have covered one of the signs once the weather improves.	Clerk
24/6.6	To share guides relating to Councillor emails.	
	The guides have been shared to assist councillors who have struggled to link the new emails to their phones and laptops though outlook. It was resolved that the clerk reissue passwords and user ID's and that Councillors attempt to reload these before the next meeting.	Councillors/ Clerk
24/6.7	To discuss external perimeter of playing field and feedback from the football team.	
	It was resolved to get a quotation for clearance and rubbish removal down the left-hand side of the field.	Clerk
24/7	To consider relevant planning applications as published on RMBC's weekly Lists 49 to 52 (2023). In particular, to discuss: - RB2023/1697 - Use of land for off road parking and dog training, land off Kingswood Avenue, Laughton-en-le-Morthen. http://rotherham.planportal.co.uk/?id=RB2023/1697	
	It was resolved that an objection be raised as there are concerns about noise, light pollution, traffic and the fact that this is green belt land.	Clerk
24/8	To receive information on any previous planning applications/issues and discuss further action. RB2023/1460 - Demolition of existing front & rear porch and erection of porch to front, single storey rear extension with balcony area above and increase in roof height to part of dwelling & existing detached garage to create rooms in roof space at 20 Grangewood Road, Laughton en-le-Morthen. Granted Conditionally 04/01/2024.	
	It was resolved that no further action is required at this time.	
24/9	Financial Matters	
24/9.1	To receive the RFO'S report.	
	a) After 9 months of the financial year 96% of annual anticipated income has been received, as expected. 61% of planned expenditure has been spent. b) The account balance on 31 st December 2023 is £78,905.46. c) The full 2023/2024 Precept (£40,750) has been received from RMBC. The first quarter VAT claim has been received £824.11.	
24/9.2	To approve accounts for payment and note contractual payments made under clerk delegation. Please see Appendix 1. To retrospectively agree additional items for the opening event.	
	Council resolved to note the contractual payments made and that the accounts due are agreed and can be paid. See Appendix 1 in the minutes.	
24/9.3	To receive bank reconciliation to 31 st December 2023.	
	The bank reconciliation was verified and signed by two Councillors.	

24/9.4	To agree transfers to reserves or changes to budget lines.	
	There was resolved that no transfers required at this time.	
24/9.5	To receive information on Councillors quarterly review of receipts and payments.	
	This matter was deferred until the next meeting due to work commitments.	
24/9.6	To discuss and agree the final budget for 2024/2025, set Precept for the next financial year, and authorise clerk to write to RMBC to notify them of the Precept agreed.	
	It was resolved that a precept of £45,250.00 be approved and called for from RMBC, to meet the budget requirement for 2024/25, and that the clerk should send the notification to RMBC. This will result in a band D equivalent increase from £88.32 to £97.78 – This equates to £9.46 increase per household (10.7%). This reflects the general rising of costs for insurance, grounds maintenance, staffing as well as provision for phase 2 of the work required on the village hall and the hanging baskets for Summer. It was resolved that the clerk write to RMBC to request a precept of £45,250.00	Clerk
24/9.7	To review the current Reserve Policy and agree any changes.	
	The existing policy was reviewed, and it was resolved that it is adopted for a further 12 months without change. It was resolved that General Reserves to be maintained at no less than 50% of precept. Current General Reserves £20,957.77, 51.4% of precept, proposed 2024/25, 48.5%. (following 1K in budget). Small shortfall to be reviewed at year end. Current Earmarked Reserves – £39,241.94 CCTV £1,899.00 – To renew and update as required – to smooth out budget. Village Hall £705.33 – Repair fund – funds currently directed to refurbishment project. Village Hall Building Project £28,604.89 – For VH refurbishment – should be £22k left towards phase 2 on 31 st March 2024. Allotments £1,590.00 – General Clean-up fund Noticeboards £2,035.00 – allocated for Newhall and Slade Hooton – reviewing as to change supply. Defibrillator £295.80 – fund for next defib required, to smooth out budget. Laptop - £142.39 – towards next replacement, to smooth out budget. Play Area – £2,656.01 – To cover unexpected repairs and smooth out budget additionally play surface needs topping up every other year. CIL £0. Legal Fees £500.00 – to cover unexpected legal costs required, Election Fees – £500.00 Election May 2024.	
24/10	To notify the clerk of matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.	
	D Day 80 celebration and beacon.	Clerk
24/11	To fix the date and time of the next Ordinary Council Meeting (suggested 21st February 2024).	
	It was resolved that the next ordinary Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st February 2024 at 7.15pm.	
	The meeting closed at 9.10pm.	

Chairman

Date 21st February 2024

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Chairman's Initial

Date 21st February 2024

Appendix 1 – Accounts paid or for payment

PAYMENT LIST - JANUARY 2024						
Date	Supplier	Item	Cheque No	Cost	VAT	Total
10th January 2024	Salaries	Payroll Employees	IB	£ 933.71		
				£ -		
				£ 933.71		£ 933.71
17th January 2024	Shaw & Sons Limited	Minute Binding	IB	£ 282.00	£ 56.40	£ 338.40
17th January 2024	Village Hall CIO	Room Hire December	IB	£ 36.00		£ 36.00
17th January 2024	Vision ICT Website hosting support	Website	IB	£ 225.00	£ 45.00	£ 270.00
17th January 2024	CEM Electrical	Certificate	IB	£ 30.00	£ 6.00	£ 36.00
17th January 2024	YLCA	Training - Clerk	IB	£ 30.00		£ 30.00
17th January 2024	Re-imburse Clerk	Mileage Expenses	IB	£ 39.60		£ 39.60
17th January 2024	Brailsford Printers	Signage amendment	IB	£ 50.40		£ 50.40
30th January 2024	NEST	Pension payment	DDR	£ 19.24		£ 19.24
				£ 1,645.95	£ 107.40	£ 1,753.35
DECEMBER 2023 C/F				£ 35,956.10	£ 2,487.66	£ 38,443.76
Jan-24				£ 37,602.05	£ 2,595.06	£ 40,197.11