



Laughton en le Morthen Parish Council

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

(Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 15th January 2025)

Present: Councillors: Mr S Johnson (Chairman), Mrs T Hutson (Vice-Chair), Mr J Hall, Mr T Stanway, Mrs J Valenzuela and the Clerk, Caroline Havenhand. In attendance – No parishioners attended the meeting.

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
25/1	To receive and approve reasons for absence.	
	Councillor Mrs J Cutting and Mr K Downing gave reasons for absence which were approved at the meeting.	
25/2	To receive declarations of interest in respect of business on the agenda.	
	None	
25/3	To authorise the chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2024, as a true and correct record.	
	The minutes were confirmed as a true and correct record and the Chairman accordingly signed the file copy.	
25/4	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 require the exclusion of press and public due to the confidential nature of items under discussion.	
	Open Forum for Parishioners in Attendance – Public Participation Session	
	No questions were raised in the public session.	
25/5	To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary.	
25/5.1	To receive a report from Ward Councillors.	
	No Ward Councillors attended the meeting.	
25/5.2	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 latest play report dated 13 th January 2025 which was designated “low risk”. Actions remain as per the last meeting which will be looked at when the weather gets a little warmer.	Clerk
25/5.3	To discuss any ongoing village hall matters, including replacing key volunteers.	

	No volunteers have come forward for the VH treasurer position. It was suggested that an idea of the scope of the role and the time it will take could be drawn up and placed on the village FB page so that people would be aware what they are volunteering for. Councillor T Stanway is to take the suggestion to the CIO meeting. No further action was proposed at this time.	
25/5.4	To receive an update on the new entrance sign for Slade Hooton.	
	The clerk advised that the sign had been ordered, and fitting should take place in the next 7 days. Information noted by Council.	
25/5.5	To discuss the plans relating to proposals for Whitestone Solar Farm following the recent public sessions and agree any action.	
	It was resolved that Council await further information on the planning process with this application which will not be dealt with at RMBC as it is ultimately the Planning Inspectorate that make the decision.	
25/5.6	To receive a response from RMBC relating to grass cutting.	
	RMBC agreed that Laughton cuts were below the average and gave logistical reasons for this. Council asked that as well as the spreadsheet relating to contracted areas being sent to the clerk every month (to confirm the date of the visit) three other areas in the Parish – none contracted – should be added, so that the number of cuts is more transparent. Clerk to request that RMBC add these.	Clerk
25/5.7	To discuss plans for VE Day 80 and agree any action.	
	The clerk advised that the band had been booked. It was resolved to place this matter on the agenda for next month to form a planning group.	Clerk
25/5.8	To discuss next steps with recruitment and agree any action.	
	It was resolved that the clerk draw up job adverts for the assistance clerk and a new wider role for a ground's maintenance person, who will maintain the village beds as well as general duties. These will be approved at March meeting.	Clerk
25/6	Matters requested by Councillors/Clerk.	
25/6.1	To discuss any requests for financial assistance	
	There were no requests for financial assistance.	
25/6.2	To discuss and agree a response in relation to the consultation regarding 'Consideration of Term Dates for 2026/27'	
	It was resolved not to respond to the consultation as the school's opinion will be the most valid.	Clerk
25/6.3	To consider correspondence from Gallagher relating to Parish Council insurance and agree next steps.	
	It was resolved to complete the questionnaire in line with existing insurance and to seek at least two quotations.	Clerk
25/6.4	To receive correspondence relating to grit bins.	
	A parishioner complained about the lack of grit bin on Abbey Close and had made a request to RMBC without response. It was resolved that the clerk contact RMBC to see what is happening with the request.	
25/6.5	To request that a thankyou letter be sent relating to the donation of the Christmas Tree for the Church grounds.	
	It was resolved to write a thankyou letter to the parishioner that donated the tree.	Clerk

25/6.6	To receive a request for a memorial bench on the Recreational Ground.	
	It was resolved that the Parish Council has no objection to a bench subject to it matching the other benches and the groundworks being approved by the Parish Council. The PC is happy to take responsibility for the bench if it is donated to the Parish.	Clerk
25/7	To consider relevant planning applications as published on RMBC's weekly Lists 49 (2024) to 1 (2025). In particular, to discuss: - No applications	
	It was resolved that no further action is required at this time.	
25/8	To receive information on any previous planning applications/issues and discuss further action.	
	No applications	
25/9	Financial Matters	
25/9.1	To receive the RFO's report.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) After 9 months of the financial year 103% of annual anticipated income has been received, as expected. 63% of planned expenditure has been spent. b) The account balance on 31st December 2024 is £88,732.36 c) The full year 2024/2025 Precept (£45,250) has been received from RMBC. d) £217.66 VAT refund received for 2023/2024. VAT refund to 31st October received - £2,648.79 2024/2025. The clerk is in the process of doing a further return at the end of January. Information noted by Council	
25/9.2	To receive bank reconciliation to 31 st December 2024.	
	The bank reconciliation was verified and signed by two Councillors.	
25/9.3	To approve accounts for payment and note contractual payments made under clerk delegation. Please see Appendix 1.	
	Council resolved to note the contractual payments made and that the accounts due are agreed and can be paid.	Clerk
25/9.4	To agree any transfers to or from reserves.	
	It was resolved to transfer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
25/9.5	To discuss and agree the final budget for 2025/2026, 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 £49,500.00 be approved and called for from RMBC, to meet the budget requirement for 2025/26, and that the clerk should send the notification to RMBC. This will result in a band D equivalent increase from £97.78 to £106.80 – This equates to £9.03 increase per household per annum (9.2%). This reflects the general rising of costs for insurance, grounds maintenance, staffing (including the new National Insurance changes) 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 £49,500.00.	
25/9.6	To review the current Reserve Policy and agree any changes.	

	<p>The existing policy was reviewed, and it was <u>resolved</u> that it is adopted for a further 12 months without change.</p> <p>It was <u>resolved</u> that General Reserves to be maintained at no less than 50% of precept.</p> <p>Current General Reserves £22,919.96, 51.4% of precept, proposed 2025/26, 49.3%. (following 1.5K in budget). Small shortfall to be reviewed at year end.</p> <p>Current Earmarked Reserves – £44,386.15</p> <p>CCTV - £2,299.00 - To renew and update as required – to smooth out budget.</p> <p>Village Hall - £705.33 - Repair fund.</p> <p>Village Hall Building Project - £28,288.36 - For VH refurbishment.</p> <p>Allotments - £2,190.00 - General Clean-up fund</p> <p>Noticeboards - £2,035.00 - allocated for Newhall and Slade Hooton – other NB are showing wear.</p> <p>Defibrillator £160.00 – fund for maintenance of 5 defibrillators.</p> <p>Laptop - £132.39 - towards next replacement, to smooth out budget.</p> <p>Play Area - £6,656.01 - To cover repairs and smooth out budget, additionally play surface needs topping up every other year.</p> <p>Legal Fees - £500.00 – To cover unexpected legal costs required.</p> <p>Election Reserves - £1000.00 - To cover polls.</p>	
25/10	To notify the clerk of matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.	
	<p>The following matters will be placed on the next Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barrier Gate • Car Park Lighting • Fly Tipping Carr Top • VE Day 80 • Damaged wall on St Johns Road 	Clerk
25/11	To fix the date and time of the next Ordinary Council Meeting (suggested 19th February 2025).	
	It was <u>resolved</u> that the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 th February 2025 at 7.15pm.	
	The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.	

Chairman

Date 19th February 2025

Appendix 1 – Accounts paid or for payment

January Payments

PAYMENT LIST - JANUARY 2025						
Date	Supplier	Item	Cheque No	Cost	VAT	Total
15th January 2025	Salaries	Payroll Employees	IB	£ 922.13		£ 922.13
				£ 26.00		£ 26.00
				£ 948.13		£ 948.13
15th January 2025	Re-imburse Clerk	Other	IB	£ -		£ -
		Mileage	IB	£ 49.50		£ 49.50
		Total		£ 49.50		£ 49.50
15th January 2025	Laughton Village Hall CIO	Hall Rental	IB	£ 36.00		£ 36.00
15th January 2025	SLCC	Subscription	IB	£ 102.00		£ 102.00
15th January 2025	Keystone Yorkshire Ltd	New Village Sign	IB	£ 265.00	£ 53.00	£ 318.00
15th January 2025	Hobson Nurseries Ltd	Hanging Baskets	IB	£ 2,620.00	£ 524.00	£ 3,144.00
22nd January 2025	NEST	Pension payment	DDR	£ 47.78		£ 47.78
JANUARY 2025				£ 4,068.41	£ 577.00	£ 4,645.41
C/F 2024	CARRIED FORWARD			£ 34,072.22	£ 3,080.77	£ 37,152.99
YEAR TOTAL 2024/2025				£ 38,140.63	£ 3,657.77	£ 41,798.40