

Minutes of Littleworth Parish Meeting, 27th November 2018.

Present: A. Margey (Chairman), D. Mackay (Clerk), Cllr. J. Heathcoat. (O.C.C.), R. Berry, K. Boswell, N. Codd, A. Corley, R. Fox, I. Glanville, P. Glanville, J. & R. Holdsworth, C. Mott, R. Nelmes, D. Reade, J. Smith, I. Twine, D. Winter, A. Woodward.

Apologies: D. & S. Fielding, R. Mackay, E. & J. Hood.

1. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The minutes of the Meeting of 2nd April 2018 were approved as a true record.
Prop A. Margey, Seconded D. Mackay. Approved by the Meeting.
2. **Matters arising.** None.
3. **County & District Councillors reports.** Cllr. Heathcoat gave a review, covering Trading Standards actions to remove unsafe used car tyres & illegal tobacco products from sale. The danger of fire caused by dirty cooker ovens where grease catches light and the need to impress on teenagers of the need to wear seat belts and to not distract the car driver when travelling with friends, especially over the Christmas season. The Cllr. was asked if warning signs of the dangerous highway surface cracks in the Thrupp road could be provided. Mrs Heathcoat also confirmed that there has been no change to the application criteria for a 20 mph speed limit in the village which would entail a cost to the community of several thousand pounds with no guarantee of success.
4. **Old School Playground.** M. Clay has stated that the base structure is inadequate for heavy vehicles and is starting to crack, repair costs will be significant. Repair fund contribution £500 per annum.
Action. Chairman & Clerk.
5. **Auditors acknowledgement of receipt of Certificate of Exemption 2017-18.** Explanation given by clerk.
6. **Approve Freedom of Information Act publication scheme.** Scheme explained by Clerk. *Unanimous Meeting acceptance.*
7. **Review & approve the Auditors Report plus comments on accounts 2014-15.** No comment from auditor.
Unanimous Meeting acceptance.
8. **Review & approve system of internal financial control & internal audit.** Dual signatories cheques, no cash, annual independent internal audit, result of which to be published as per past requirement. External audit. no longer required unless an objection to published accounts received from the public, cost £200 that must be budgeted and ring fenced.
Unanimous Meeting acceptance.
9. **OALC 2019-20** subscription level approx £145, **Insurance** approx £220.
Meeting approval.
10. **Set Precept 2018/19.** After discussion, Balance at 27th Nov 2018 £463.82. Anticipated expenditure £865.00 inc. £500 to add to fund Old school playground resurface/repair likely in the near future. Precept set after discussion at £900, equivalent to approx £8 on the Council Tax per band "D" dwelling, to give ability pay outgoings in first half year and to fund unanticipated expenditure during the year. Anticipated end financial year 2018-19 balance of £498.82.
Prop. A. Woodward. Sec. R. Fox. Unanimous Meeting approval.
11. **A420 Improvement.** Our MP the Rt. Hon. Ed Vaizey has recently met the Transport Minister Jesse Norman to propose upgrade of the A420 to extend the Cambridge to Oxford Expressway west to Swindon. Cllr. Heathcoat gave her view which includes a belief that dualling of the present single carriage route would not be acceptable. The high level of heavy goods vehicles causing frustration in car drivers, damaging the highway structure & causing danger to footpath users due to the narrowness of the carriageway was highlighted by the chairman. Concern was again expressed by several parishioners that crossing the A420 to or from the westbound bus stop is particularly dangerous, there is insufficient highway width for a pedestrian refuge mid highway, the only alleviation proposed was for solar powered lighting to illuminate persons crossing. A suggestion of a pedestrian activated light crossing control is unlikely to be approved due to its effect on traffic flows but could be pursued. The pressure group of Parishes bordering the A420 between Acorn Bridge (Swindon boundary) and Appleton, led by Fyfield & Tubney Parish Council, have requested a meeting to discuss options with Rt. Hon. Vaizey and a parish survey will be produced to add weight to these representations. Mrs Heathcoat reminded the meeting of the disadvantages of a dual carriageway – increased noise & air pollution, having to travel extra distance to access the dual carriageway as a specific access for Littleworth would be very unlikely. However the clerk stated that a proposed A420 dual carriageway route, dating back to the 1970's, that was aligned some half mile south of Littleworth, through farmland, could provide a straight road route and also take the highway well away from most housing, whilst the air pollution would be reduced by the vehicles travelling at steady speed, burning fuel more efficiently without constant acceleration and deceleration typical of the current traffic, this could leave the village on a quiet rural road.
12. **Any Other Business.** Footpaths Danny Reade stated that there are no significant problems, he was advised that the diversion of footpath 284/15 back to its correct route, through the Playing Field, should happen in the next few weeks.
Meeting closed at 20:00.

SignedA. S. Margey. Chairman.

Date: 30th April 2019