

# LOWER WINTERBORNE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Extra-ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 8th August, 2016 at the Youth Building Winterborne Kingston, commencing 7.00pm

**Present:** Cllrs M Leaper, D Knapp, R Sorrell, S Jacobs, H Andrews, R Jessop, R Allcock

**Chair:** Cllr D Lewis

**Clerk:** Mrs A Crocker

**Also present:** 3 members of the public, District Cllr Emma Parker

### **1. Public Participation**

16.68 Although no specific points were raised, those present wanted it noted that the general standard of grass cutting throughout the village is still low. There is a lack of strimming in the graveyard around the headstones. The Clerk reported that, when she has spoken to the contractor about this, he had said that a resident had specifically asked him not to touch several of the graves. This may be part of the problem - that he has several different people telling him what he should and should not be doing.

### **2. Declaration of Interests**

16.69 No interests were declared at this stage.

### **3. Apologies**

16.70 Apologies had been received from Cllrs Jocelyn Joyce (holiday) and Graham Nash (illness).

### **4. Minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2016**

16.71 A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Andrews proposed them to be a true and accurate representation of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Leaper and agreed unanimously. The Chair signed the minutes in the presence of the meeting.

### **5. Matters arising from the minutes - for report only**

16.72 Dog bins - The two bins that had been removed from Bagwood Lane and West Street had been stored in the tractor shed. One had subsequently disappeared but has since been found in a nearby hedge. When checking on the remaining bin, Cllr Leaper found that someone had been putting dog waste bags in it. Cllr Andrews has produced some notices asking people to clean up after their dogs. Cllr Leaper will laminate them and they will be distributed around the villages. **ACTION: CLLR LEAPER**

Youth Building - A meeting will be held on the 13th September, 7pm, with the committee, Clerk and Chair of the Parish Council. The aim of the meeting will be to determine the nature of the relationship between the committee and the Parish Council.

Teddy Rocks - The sound test had taken place on the 6th August. No-one present heard anything but this may have been due to the wind direction on the day. Cllr Leaper will contact the organisers and find out the results of the test and report back at the September meeting. **ACTION: CLLR LEAPER**

### **6. Finance**

16.73 To confirm payment of accounts

The following payments had been requested:

James Carr	WK grass cutting - July 2016	200164	400.00
Mrs A Crocker	July wages + expenses	200165	611.42
HMRC	July PAYE	200166	4.60
BT	Alarm line rental - July 2016	200167	32.64
BT	Alarm line rental - August 2016	200168	32.64

The total amount requested from the Precept is £1,081.30.

Cllr Knapp proposed that the payments are made. This was seconded by Cllr Leaper and agreed unanimously.

## **7. To consider proposals for the future of the grass cutting at the Winterborne Kingston Recreation Ground**

16.74 Cllr Lewis explained that, following the July meeting, Cllr Nash had asked for help with the grass cutting at the Recreation Ground. Cllr Leaper responded and subsequently spent five and a half hours cutting the grass. Cllr Nash agreed that the current machine being used is too small for the size of the field. If a contractor is brought in to do the work, we would be looking in the region of £120/cut with about 25 cuts a year, giving an approximate total cost of £3,000.00. At present, we have a budget of £500 for the fuel and servicing of the mower.

The alternative is to purchase a newer mower and operate it with a team of volunteers.

Cllr Leaper has looked at a number of second-hand mowers:

1. John Deere 2653a ride on - 3 x 8 bladed 26" cutting units	£4,000.00+ VAT
2. John Deere 3235c ride on - 9' cutting width	£3,900.00 No VAT
3. Ransomes Jacobsen Lf3800 ride on	£3,500.00 + VAT
4. Toro Reelmaster 6700d ride on - 11' cutting width	£3,500.00 + VAT

He felt that, once tidied, the existing machine could be sold for about £1,000. Having checked all of the above machines, he felt that 4 would be the best option. It is easy to use and full training has been offered at no additional cost. The blades had recently been reground and new bottom scraped blades fitted, which would need doing every 200 hours. The cost for new bottom scraper blades and a regrind is £2,000. Based upon the estimated time that the new machine will take to cut the recreation ground (1.5 hours), new scraper blades and a regrind would be required every 5 years. This cost will need to be budgeted for within the Precept going forward. An engine service would cost in the region of £300 - £350 and, again based upon estimated usage, would need to be carried out every 3 to 4 years. At present the fuel bill is about £50/month; about £250 a year - this would be reduced as the new machine runs on diesel and it will be cutting for less hours. There would be a delivery cost of £350 from Swindon. It was agreed that, rather than have volunteers collect the machine, it would be sensible to have it delivered professionally, then it would be covered by their insurance.

19:30 Three councillors left the meeting to view the tractor shed whilst Cllr Leaper went home to collect the full set of quotations.

19:40 The meeting recommenced.

Volunteers - should volunteers be used to carry out the work, a log of names and times would be needed for insurance purposes. The Clerk suggested that, for the time being, the organisation of the volunteers should be carried out by Cllr Leaper under the control of the Parish Council. As things progress, this role may be taken over by the Youth Building Management Committee.

Cllr Lewis noted that the alarm on the tractor shed does not currently work but thought this could be repaired and linked to the alarm for the youth building. Cllr Knapp suggested it might be possible to have a separate zone on the existing alarm to cover the tractor shed. Cllr Leaper will check with the alarm company.

Cllr Leaper proposed that the Parish Council purchase the Toro 6700D for a sum of £3,500.00 plus VAT. The old machine is cleaned and sold to offset the cost. The Bere Regis Lengthsman will be employed to undertake any interim cuts of the Recreation Ground as required. Cllr Leaper will begin organising the list of volunteers and will contact the Alarm company to have an alarm fitted to the tractor shed as soon as possible. The new machine will be delivered at a cost of £350.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr Knapp. A vote by show of hands was then taken: 7 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

Cllr Leaper will go ahead and organise the cleaning and selling of the old machine, the purchase of the new machine, speak to the alarm company and organise any necessary upgrade, and will continue to draw up a list of volunteers for cutting the grass. The Clerk will arrange with the Lengthsman to carry out the interim cuts. **ACTION: CLLR LEAPER/CLERK**

Thanks are extended to Cllr Nash for the amount of time and work he has taken with the Recreation Ground over the years. Cllr Lewis will send him a letter of thanks on behalf of the Parish Council.

## **8. Planning Applications & Tree Work Proposals**

16.75 2/2016/1033 1 New Cottages, Marsh Lane, Anderson - erect 2 storey side extension and single storey rear extension, including detached garage

It was felt that the proposal tidied the existing site and was even less obtrusive than the previous proposal. No objections were raised.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:00pm.