

LITCHBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting at 7 pm in the Village Hall

TUESDAY 16th July 2024

1. **Councillors present - Chairman Cllr Sykes, Cllrs Aked-Walker, Drinkwater, Brunning, Lugar – Mawson, Lowery, Cllr Manners, WNS**
2. **Apologies – Cllr Robinson**
3. **Members of the public present - 3**
4. **Public Forum** : Members of the public can raise any issue with prior notice to the Clerk – Cllr Manners reported on the West Northants Council:
 - The Council had finished the year on budget despite the cost of Childrens Services at £15million.
 - Planning service still not fit for purpose
 - Potholes still a huge issue in the County
 - DHL Application at Bell Plantation is to be heard by the Strategic Planning Committee (Public meeting) in Towcester on 10th September 2024.
 - New government is planning on building a lot homes and possible new towns.
 - Towcester Relief Road to be completed by end of 2025.
5. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Lugar Mawson declared an interest in the St Martin’s Fabric Trust payment for the cutting of the Churchyard.
6. **Minutes**: The minutes of the meetings held on 21st May 2024 were agreed and signed.
7. **Ongoing Issues**: To report progress on, and to decide on any appropriate action on the following items:
 - **Defibrillator** – to receive update (Cllr Aked - Walker) – light still to be replaced
 - **Website** - to receive update (now the Clerk) – No issues
 - **Footpaths and ROW** - to receive update (Cllrs Bruning and Drinkwater) – No issues
 - **Snow and Tree Warden** – to receive update (Cllr Robinson) - nothing to report
 - **Youth Club** – Gemma Johnston – Smith was in attendance to discuss proposals for funding. She reported on the activities of the Youth Club and its current position regarding funding. A grant has been obtained from the Rural Needs Community Fund which had looked favourably upon the application because the club was attended by young people from surrounding villages. This will run to June 2025. She had no details on attendance by Litchborough young people which the Councils impressed upon her to provide in good time should funding be required. Gemma suggested the Council consider working with other local Councils in supplying the provision. Cllr Aked-Walker read an email to the meeting stating that the Club had not made use of the

Signed-----

Date-----

Allotments despite Gemma having been informed that it did. The Council and Gemma required clarification on this point. It was agreed that the Parish Council would inform Gemma if there were any social issues which could be targeted to help a situation. The **Clerk** will let her know the meeting dates so reporting could be made easier. Clerk also to write to Gemma after this meeting, and Teresa Cox will send details about the allotment.

8. Finance:

The accounts below were approved for payment:

Payee	Net	VAT	Total £	Chq No
1PCS – hosting of domain name & email May	20.00	4.00	24.00	DD
1PCS –hosting of domain name & email - June	20.00	4.00	24.00	DD
Bank Service chgs Ap - Jun			18.00	DD
R and G – Maintenance of play area x2			811.80	DDs
V Hartley – Salary for June + July			512.64	10
CYPN –	400.00	80.00	480.00	11
N Power – electricity supplies 1.4 - 30.6	247.02	12.35	259.37	12
Litchborough Village Hall – room hire 2023			45.00	13
Northants CALC	10.00	2.00	12.00	14
R and G Maintenance of churchyard	336.00	67.20	403.20	DD
Total			£2058.10	

Other financial matters to note:

- Bank balance at 30.6.24 – £20694.96
- Bank balance at 16th July 2024 - £18636.86
- VAT claim of £291.98 for year ending 31.3.24 has been submitted and received from HMRC
- Authorised Councillors to sign letter to bank requesting dual authority not triple so automatically the same when opening Savings account.
- Clerk to contact R and G to request that they invoice Parish Council and not St Martin's Fabric Trust.
- Clerk to alter standing order to R and G to cover cost of Churchyard mowing.
- Further to a discussion between Cllrs Sykes and Lowery, the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council may meet before the next Parish Council meeting to discuss where mowing should be taking place in the Churchyard.

9. - Planning Applications and updates – No items on Planning Register

10. To note and action correspondence where necessary. Various updates circulated.

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11. Other matters for report only: To discuss issues arising too late for the agenda. No decisions can be taken.

- Cllr Robinson had requested the setting of a date for a meeting for some or all councillors to meet to discuss 'Strategy Planning'. It was agreed to meet on 3rd September.
- Cllr Brunning announced that she will be moving house very soon and will be resigning from the Parish Council before the next meeting. She will submit this in writing to the Chairman. The Chairman and the Council thanked Sue for all sterling work for the Parish Council in the last 9 years. She will be missed.

12. To receive any items for the next Parish Council agenda

**13. Date next Full Council meeting Tuesday September 17th 2024
7.00pm**

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Date-----