

Lawford Parish Council



Minutes of the Lawford Parish Council Meeting held in the Main Halls at The Venture Centre Lawford on Monday 18 October 2021 at 7.00pm.

The centre's Covid guidelines were observed.

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Peachey

Please remember Parish Council meetings are held in open session and are recorded. Comments made by councillors and the public may be reported in the media.

Present:

Councillors V Guglielmi (Chair), Woods, Pretty, Kinsmore, C Guglielmi, Newman Wright, Chester, Thurlow and Payne

Clerk: Mrs Peachey

Andrew Lee (Acting Clerk, Public Realm Meeting 4.10.21)

1 member of the public

58/2021 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Miles and Barrett

59/2021 Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes of the Council meeting held on **20.09.2021** were agreed with the addition of Mr Gooding being in Attendance. **Proposed:** Cllr C Guglielmi **Seconded:** Cllr Woods **Agreed**

60/2021 Actions from the previous meeting:

Clerk to post cheques	Completed
LPC make representation to the library to provide the Museum with additional space	Ongoing – contact needed *
Clerk to advise Handyman his hours have been increased to 15 per week	Completed
Clerk to advise Landscape Services council has approved the reducing of trees, as quoted, at Riverside/Summers Park	Completed
Cllr C Guglielmi will write to the head teacher and request trees on the perimeter be trimmed back.	Unknown
Cllr Pretty suggested the letter drafted asking residents to cut back growth, be amended to state it should be cut back to the boundary. To be placed on Public Realm Agenda	Completed
Clerk to email TDC about the refuse bins at Waldegrave Way being filled with domestic waste and consequently overflowing	Completed

*Mr Phil Cunningham, Library Secretary

61/2021 Declarations of Interest:

None

62/2021 Public Voice:

- a) A resident raised concern regarding the rubbish and dog mess, which is of growing concern in Lawford, and in particular the School Lane Playing field. The resident said that Bins are constantly full, and felt larger bins were needed. It was suggested some bins were situated in the wrong places, and it was felt those moved from the Primary School and Bus shelter should not have been.

LPC's contract with TDC is to empty 17 bins, which are emptied twice per week. It was noted that it is not the first-time bins had not been emptied. It was agreed at Public Realm the Parish Council would ask Tendring District Council to empty the bins three times per week and to provide larger bins. A letter will be sent to TDC to that effect.

Cllr Thurlow suggested writing to Essex Playing Fields Association to raise this countrywide as it appears to be a countrywide issue.

- b) The resident requested dogs to be kept on leads at School Lane. Dogs off lead are becoming a problem – in addition to the dog mess being left, owners with their dogs off lead can be seen on their phones paying no attention to their dog. An owner was observed allowing his of lead dog to 'mate' with another that was on a lead and whose owner was unable to stop it. *Council will investigate keeping dogs on leads on School Lane.*

Action – to Public Realm

63/2021 Reports and updates

The following reports were circulated when they became available and where possible published on council's Website

- a) The District Councillor's report
b) The County Councillor's report
c) An Operation Quasar Crime report was not received this month and contact from PC Spencer has been minimal. Councillors are concerned that there isn't sufficient interaction with Council. There was also concern about officers being assigned to Operation Quasar duties .and it not being 'Community police'. Cllr C Guglielmi will take this up.

Action – Cllr C Guglielmi

64/2021 Administration Committee:

- a) The Clerk, having recently moved to Norfolk, advised to assist council she was happy to remain in post until December/January to enable a replacement to be employed and a handover to take place. It was agreed the Clerk would provide notice for the end of January and Andrew Lee agreed to act as Clerk at pre-determined meetings to assist the Clerk. The Administration Committee would deal with an advertisement. The Clerk suggested printing vacancies EALC advertise so that wording can be used.

Proposed: Cllr Kinsmore Seconded: Cllr Woods Agreed Action

- b) Items Councillors may wish to raise/discuss.
None
- c) Council's expenditure
- i) Council agreed to increase funds to The Royal British Legion (who provide Council Remembrance Wreath) from £100 to £200 **Proposed: Cllr C Guglielmi Seconded: Cllr Thurlow Agreed**
- ii) The North Essex Veterans Support Group now has a bank account, and a Grant can be attributed. Cllr C Guglielmi proposed a grant of £500. **Proposed: Cllr C Guglielmi Seconded: Cllr Thurlow Agreed**
- iii) A list of expenditure was circulated for information.
- iv) In line with audit guidelines (*approved at Full council August 2018*) prior to the signing of cheques a councillor verifies invoices, and the prepared cheques agree, confirmed by initialling Expenditure Spreadsheet, Cheques, and Invoices with green ink.

65/2021 Public Realm committee:

- a) An email from a resident of Lawford Green (*circulated*) expressed concern at the lack of lighting from Manningtree Station to Lawford Green and concern for the safety of those walking in the area after

dark. Council advised a survey was carried out approximately 10years ago regarding the installation of street lighting in the area and residents were very much against it. Cllr C Guglielmi spoke of the planned mini roundabout at the junction with Wignall Street/Bromley Road and suggested reassessing the lighting once the roundabout was installed. It was highlighted that there is an alternative route via Lawford Dale, Summers Park and Colchester Road.

- b) A quote received from Rose Builders to remove refuse bins from the Play area at Summers Park and re-site outside the area was £1,850.00 + vat (exact location required but it is assumed 500mm from gate)

Given the above cost to remove the bins, council agreed the bins inside the play area at Summers Park should be permanently covered, and bins be installed outside the play area so that TDC will empty them. Clerk to advise Rose Builders regarding covering the bins and contact TDC ref installing bins outside the play area and TDC emptying them. Copy in Cllr C Guglielmi

Action

It was agreed Council would revisit where bins are sited in the area.

Action - to Public Realm

- c) The residents affected by the Staghorn Sumac have contacted Council again, advising they are extremely concerned that the plant is pushing up their drive and affecting their walls. Clerk contacted Landscape Services and Cllr C Guglielmi with a view to arranging a meeting with the resident to discuss remedial action. Cllr C Guglielmi asked the Clerk to send Landscape Services email address to him so that he and Mr Glover can investigate.

Action

- d) Items Councillors raised:

- i) Cllr V Guglielmi Brought to council's attention a request from the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance for Grant funding and asked if council wish to address now or leave until July when the next cohort of Grants are discussed. Council approved a Grant of £500 and the Clerk raised a cheque for signing.

Proposed: Cllr C Guglielmi **Seconded:** Cllr V Gguglielmi **Agreed**

- ii) Cllr Thurlow updated council on the progress of works at School Lane and paths at Summers Park. He is also in contact with a resident wishing to install a Memorial Bench in memory of their parent. He is still engaged in re-siting the bricks at School Lane and a date is yet to be agreed to meet with John Duchars and Cllr C Guglielmi.

- iii) Cllr C Guglielmi suggested the request from Little Pumpkins to be taken to Public Realm.

Action

66/2021 Update ref other Meetings attended, or to be attended, by Councillors.

- a) Cllr C Guglielmi advised the meeting that the installation of a Footpath on Grange Road would commence shortly.

The meeting ended at 8.20pm

Signature (Chairman): **Date:**