

Lawford Parish Council



Minutes of the Public Realm Committee Meeting held virtually via Zoom on Monday 5 October 2020 at 7.30pm.

Members of the public were welcome to attend. Requests for the link and password to join the meeting to have been received by 11am on the day of the meeting to clerk@lawfordpc.org.uk

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Peachey

MINUTES

1. Present:

Councillors C Guglielmi (Host) Woods (Chair), Adcock-Jones, Pretty, Thurlow, Barrett and Newman-Wright

Clerk: Mrs Peachey

District Cllr Coley (left meeting at 20.15)

Two members of the Public

Apologies for Absence:

None

2. Minutes:

To approve minutes of the **Public Realm** meeting held **Monday 3 August 2020**.

Proposed: Cllr Adcock-Jones **Seconded:** Cllr Pretty **Agreed**
(Clerk will deliver minutes to Chairman for signing)

3. Action Points from the meetings held on 3 August 2020:

Clerk was requested to arrange a meeting with the Council, Football Club and Mrs Rolfe to decide on the bench and wording of the Plaque	Completed
Proposed date for the Frankenberg visit. Cllr Pretty will update council when the date is known	Ongoing
Rolling out the Eco-Schools program to Manningtree High & Lawford C.O.E Clerk was requested to advise the resident this is School driven and is not something Councils can trigger.	Completed
The Clerk to establish usage of weed killer undertaken by council's handyman	Completed
Cllr Thurlow to replace bins at School Lane and Lawford Church	Ongoing
Take forward to Full Council Cllr Thurlow's paper (circulated) suggesting a change to TDC's system of charging. Councillors were asked for their comments.	Completed
Ref Lawford Green Car Park - Cllr C Guglielmi to make enquiries of Essex County Council's Legal Services department to determine if LPC should negotiate with ECC or the Headmistress.	Completed
Cllr Adcock-Jones to join the Car Park Working Group given his legal knowledge. Clerk was asked to identify dates for a meeting.	Completed
Wildflower verges - Clerk to establish if the project is being followed up as no communications had been received from Cllr McClarnon.	Completed
Removal of play equipment at School Lane	Completed
Removal of Tennis Courts - second quote to be requested providing more detail as to how the removal will be achieved. Cllr Thurlow	Unknown
Clerk to order defibrillator and enquire about installation.	Completed
Cllr Barrett to contact resident that feels she takes her life in her hands crossing the road leading to the roundabout at Cox's Hill.	Completed
Request for a High Impact Barrier on the corner of Wignall Street Cllr C Guglielmi will investigate the cost of a Barrier	Unknown

4. Declarations of interest:

None

5. District Cllr Coley having been invited to discuss Climate Change, gave an update on TDC's actions

Councillors did not submit questions

- a) In 2019 TDC agreed to declare a climate emergency
- b) Cllr Coley chaired a working party to form an action plan
 - i) Look at what council's carbon footprint was and looked at actions and policies to try and make council carbon neutral by 2030
 - ii) Cllr Coley to act as a community leader encouraging partners and businesses to join council in their efforts
- c) TDC asked for tenders from experts in the field to assist with TDC's action plans, had 12 tenders and appointed APS energy who work with many local authorities.
- d) Due to covid TDC have been thrown off course.
- e) Action plan should be finalised in the next 2 weeks.
- f) Have looked internally at energy consumption/single use plastics/oil heating used for premises and so on.
- g) Have started a programme of change – lighting, changing vehicle fleets from diesel to electric, looking at recycling, planting more trees, how TDC premises are heated and lit etc.
- h) Changing diesel vehicles to electric is a huge cost, electric vehicles being twice the cost of standard vehicles.
- i) Waste collection vehicles are contracted to TDC with that company having no requirement to be carbon neutral.
- j) Recycling has been increased from 8509 tons in 2018/19 to 9198 tons the following year.
- k) Had to purchase PPE which comes as single use plastic – which is being discarded on roads and public places and **not taken home** which will inevitably end up in landfill.
- l) Food waste has gone up from 5013 tons to 7223 tons at the last fiscal year – too much food is being thrown away which has to be collected and composted.
- m) Too many items are sold/purchased in plastics that cannot be recycled, which TDC do not collect for recycling. It has been noted that this waste turns up in other countries landfill.
- n) More collections increase the carbon footprint. The cycle needs to be broken.
- o) Only 4% of Tendring is forested. A grant has been secured from the Tree council enabling TDC to plant 30,000 trees on private land and they have been in negotiation with private farms/landowners. Two hundred + trees were planted in Owls Flight Dell following an initiative by PACE **Cllr Pretty highlighted the trees have died.** Cllr Coley pointed out the initiative wasn't followed through and the trees haven't been looked after by those raising the initiative.
- p) Council writes to developers with a list of things they would like to see on new developments.
- q) PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT – public can get involved by;
 - i) Not using single use plastics
 - ii) Identifying sites where trees can be planted
 - iii) Insulating homes – a grant initiative is available

COVID has delayed TDC's

Cllr Pretty has seen green plastic boxes full of single use plastic but they are still collected, what happens to it?

Cllr Coley – the bin would have to be sorted and if not recyclable, plastic ends up in landfill.

Cllr C Guglielmi – plastic in bins is a major problem and needs to be publicised more to educate people.

6. Use of Pesticides:

Additional information circulated to council from a member of PACE.

Council was advised by a member of PACE that Manningtree have a trial underway to hand weed and TDC & ECC have agreed to suspend the use of glyphosate in Manningtree while trials are underway. Whilst acknowledging Lawford do very little spraying council was urged to consider other options together with other things to improve biodiversity. Council was asked if they are interested in

supporting the initiative and the representative from PACE suggested getting people together to hand weed one of the housing estates.

Cllr Pretty pointed out that Manningtree and Lawford are very different areas when it comes to weeding and finding volunteers to weed all the pavements and footpaths on a regular basis is difficult. There are 610 houses on Lawford Dale alone, to hand weed will take many man hours and finding volunteers is difficult.

Cllr Woods advised council is committed to doing all it can

For information – LPC undertakes minimal use of pesticides and only on footpaths where nettles and brambles are prevalent.

Gaius Phillingham Chair, Premises Governors, Highfields School sent a letter (*which has been circulated to councillors*) on behalf of Highfields School following concern about the condition of the path at the back of the school on the north edge. Due to covid parents must now wait outside the school in this area, and the surface has become very muddy. Approaching winter, it is needing urgent attention. It was queried if the council could assist with remedial work. The school are happy to contribute to the project.

Cllr C Guglielmi said that it would likely be included in a footpath project planned when Riverview becomes LPC property, but that a short-term solution could be looked at and porous plastic tiles to reinforce the surface were suggested. Clerk to investigate costings **Action Clerk**

7. Single use Plastics

Request from a member of PACE that LPC pass a resolution to support PACE in their journey to becoming plastic free. The resolution to state council will lead by example and remove single use plastic items from its premises and operations. (*When information is received it will be circulated*)

Cllr Adcock-Jones proposed this be put to Full Council with a view to passing a similar resolution to Mistley.

Proposed: Cllr Adcock-Jones **Seconded:** Cllr C Guglielmi **Agreed**
Action Clerk

8. Memorial to Mr Rolfe M.B.E:

Update: The bench and plaque are on order with a 4-week lead time

9. Frankenberg Partnership Association:

Update ref 50th Anniversary and a prospective visit to the area in May 2021.

Cllr Pretty advised the revised date is 1 week end in October 2021

10. Refuse Bins:

a) Update ref Installing a refuse bin at School Lane to replace the removed concrete bin.

b) Update ref installing a larger Dog bin at the Church

Items a & b Cllr Thurlow and council's Handyman will be installing the bins Wednesday 7th

Note: a resident has suggested the bin on Footpath 12 be moved to one of the bus stops on Long Road when the footpath is closed. *To be taken forward.*

c) Update ref proposal for a revised contract to empty bins, submitted to TDC for discussion

Cllr C Guglielmi submitted the proposal to the Corporate Director responsible and will chase it up.

It is felt the proposal provides a good solution to the problems of siting refuse and dog bins

Action Cllr C Guglielmi

11. Management of Council's Car Parks:

Meetings have taken place and council has been updated (*notes from 7/09/20 circulated*)

a) Signage for School Lane Car Park (*Cllr Thurlow's suggestions circulated*) *It was proposed quotes be obtained for the signage.* **Proposed:** Cllr Adcock-Jones **Seconded:** Cllr Barrett **Agreed**

Action Clerk

b) Update from the meeting held at Riverview by members of the Car Park working Group

A barrier is required to close off the car park once a year. Groundwork is needed. There is an ivy growing that needs removing to install gate posts and the existing gate needs replacing. Council's Handyman will meet Cllr Pretty to discuss if he would be able to remove the Ivy (and to look at

the path outside the school). Quotes required to include in Budget forecast.

Proposed: Cllr Pretty **Seconded:** Cllr Adcock-Jones **Agreed**

Action Cllr Pretty

- c) An invitation was extended to the headmistress of Lawford Primary School to discuss the Lawford Green Car Park agreement. She sent it to her chair of governors and Essex legal Services for their advice before attending the meeting.

The agreement was discussed, items were agreed, and some issues were raised. Various actions have been taken away by both parties and a further meeting will be arranged in due course. Council is keen to get the car park opened as soon as possible to alleviate the congestion caused at school delivery/collection times. The main problem is securing the entrance from the school to the car park, which the school have advised cannot be done until builders are on site in January to start the school extension and to secure the entrance.

*Cllr C Guglielmi will speak to Steven Rose to see if it can be made safe and Cllr Adcock-Jones will meet Cllr Guglielmi at the site to understand the difficulties. **All councillors are encouraged to also visit the site for an understanding of the issue when discussed at Full Council.***

Action Cllr C Guglielmi and Adcock-Jones

12. Wildflower Verges:

Update: Cllr Mclarnon has left Manningtree Town Council and Cllrs Barker and Brown have identified areas in Manningtree where they would like to see Wildflowers. Advised it is not clear how the three councils could team up as their areas are not shared.

13. School Lane

- a) Update ref 3G pitch/Tennis Courts and acquiring a more detailed second quote to remove the tennis courts. *Cllr Thurlow advised there was no update and he had not yet acquired a second quote.*

Action Cllr Thurlow

14. Riverview Purchase update

Council's solicitor advised they are waiting for a response from TDC's legal department.

Cllr C Guglielmi will chase TDC

Action Cllr C Guglielmi

15. Defibrillator:

- a) *Update: The order has been placed and delivery is expected in 4-6weeks.*

15. Highways Matters:

- a) *Parking in Station Road – ongoing and in a queue. Waiting to hear from Highways*
b) *Lorries are using School Lane as a short cut knocking down signage and churning up grass verges. Cllr C Guglielmi advised officers were shocked at the damage and a traffic survey will be carried out. Cllr Pretty believed the damage to the verge was the Gas Board. Cllr Guglielmi met them onsite and advised it is on their radar to clean the road of the mud. He has also spoken to Highways about the damaged signs.*
c) *Request for a High Impact Barrier on the corner of Wignall Street. If there is an update Cllr Guglielmi will forward to council*
d) *Rented Property in Waldegrave where resident is deceased, and the garden is overgrown and encroaching on the footpath. Cllr C Guglielmi has this in hand. The property was rented from TDC.*

Action Cllr C Guglielmi

For note: *Cllr C Guglielmi will contact the head following a report of a group of children from Manningtree High school issuing abuse when asked to step aside on a footpath, followed by them standing in the road to block the vehicle moving off.*

Action Cllr C Guglielmi

The meeting ended at 20.44. The next **Public Realm Meeting** is scheduled for **7 December 2020**

Signature: (Chairman)Date: