

B Mysak

LEIGHTON BROMSWOLD PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Bohdan Mysak

Leighton Bromswold Annual Parish Meeting at 7:30pm on Thursday 10 September 2015 In St Mary's Church, Leighton Bromswold

Present Parish Councillors: B Mysak (Chairman), K Simonis (Deputy Chair), N Cook, R Eacott, G Troughton, H West. Clerk: Ms Mimiene, CC Cllr S Bywater. 11 members of the public.

1 Welcome by Chairman Bohdan Mysak

Chairman welcomed everyone for attending the meeting tonight.

2 To Receive Apologies for absence

The Clerk reported that District Councillor J White sent apologies for absence. Chairman reported apologies from parishioner Mrs M Mysak.

3 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 April 2014

3.1 Copies of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 14 Apr 2014 were circulated prior to the meeting.

3.2 Suggested amendment: Minute 13 change to 'Leighton Bromswold Social Committee', in place of 'Leighton Bromswold Social Club'.

County Councillor S Bywater joined the meeting.

3.3 Cllr RE proposed acceptance of the minutes with the above amendment. Cllr NC seconded the proposal. All were in favour except Cllr GT who was not present at the last meeting and it was RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted and signed as a true record of the meeting.

3.4 Chairman signed the Minutes.

3.5 It was agreed that in future, draft Parish Meeting minutes would be distributed sooner after the meeting, so that the attendees would have a chance to review them whilst the meeting was fresh in their minds.

4 To Receive Parish Council Chairman's Report

4.1 Chairman presented and welcomed a new Clerk to the Parish Council.

4.2 Tree issues: PC tree officer Cllr NC inspected the trees numerous times and still there were errors on the day of cutting last year. HDC tree officer came and produced a report which trees needed attention. A contractor had various messages and cut the wrong trees. Complaint letters were sent to the Chief Executives of HDC and CCC. Cllr KS was chasing CCC for further action. CCC has now acknowledged receipt of the PC letter. Leighton Bromswold is a village with an avenue of trees and it was suggested by a parishioner that village needs more mature trees for replacement. Trees have to be the right specification – size, specie, mature and planting has to be carried out professionally. There are beautiful trees native to Cambridgeshire, ie. maple tree, horse chestnut. Trees can be planted from October all through to March. PC can replace a tree but members want CCC to deal with the mistake they made. Parishioner suggested that PC takes the responsibility over the trees but it was explained that the tree then becomes PC's responsibility which could prove expensive. Trees are Highway Agency's property and they are maintained by them. Inspection on the remaining trees has to be carried and works for the next 5 years have to be planned. Discuss the matter at the next PC meeting in November. Matter still ongoing. CCC S Bywater suggested that Chief Executive needs chasing and if PC is not happy then go to Ombudsman.

4.3 The HDC Monitoring Dept report into LBPC was discussed: The Parish Council did not operate from Feb to Apr this year as a result of the investigation. When previous Clerk resigned in Dec-2012, Cllr HW volunteered to take over and only a brief handover was carried out. In receipt of Election papers on 12 Feb 2015 an error in the number of Councillors in office was discovered, eight instead of the electoral number of seven. The Clerk HW took responsibility for this error and immediately resigned.

4.4 Regarding the Play Area equipment: Order was placed by a Cllr and the grant application done by a Cllr too and that should have been done by the Clerk. At the time Cllr RE was a chairman, and Cllr BM was the Deputy chairman. Chairman and Deputy chair both agreed that an audit was required. Finance Officer duties were handed to Cllr KS. During the investigation Council was held in suspension and was requested not to act as a Council. Normal Election time came up. Elections passed and no representations from villagers were received. Village wanted a Council therefore after the period of 35 days the re-election followed. The temporary Council was formed of 4 members.

4.5 Areas of Improvement were issued by Julie Slatter, Monitoring Officer, HDC. Council had to hire a

professional Clerk. Cllrs NC and BM interviewed and chose the right candidate. Transparency code was introduced, changes in the rules, requirements for the PC to have a website. New Clerk's email on the NB: leightonbromswoldpc@hotmail.com Please email Clerk if you have any questions. Cllrs contact numbers are on the NB too. Chairman and all Cllrs are happy to answer parishioners' questions.

- 6 Villagers appreciated what was said by the chairman this evening and is feeling a lot happier now. More people should come to the meetings like this. NB was well used as a communicator between Parishioners and the Council. Parish has a man who cuts the grass in the village! Cllr KS joined PC not that long ago. PC and community together can make the village a better place to live in. Pleasant environment.
- 4.7 Cllr RE spoke about the Neighbourhood Plan which is more powerful than the Parish Plan. It can save the village from new development which might be forced onto the village in the future and that would allow us to control the situation in the village. Villagers have to have a say. Leighton Bromswold has a Village Plan and Road safety at the entrance into the village was done through the Village Plan where spare money were spent on traffic calming measures on Staunch Hill.
- 4.8 Refreshments were suggested by a parishioner for the next Parish Meeting in 2016.

Clerk's comment: There is still one vacancy for the Parish Councillor! Please contact the Clerk for further details. Information also provided on the Parish NB.

5 To receive Village Representatives reports

- 5.1 Parochial Church Council – report (please see attached).
- 5.2 LB Gardening Club – report (please see attached).
- 5.3 LB Social Committee – report (please see attached).
- 5.4 LB Cycling (organisers of Bikefest) – it is a huge event which supports 2 charities. This year raised £5200, previous year £4600. There were 216 cyclists. Thanks for people who let park on their land. Weather could be better but was a fabulous day anyway! Date is set for 11 Jun 2016. Massive event for the village. Opportunity to raise money and have fun!

6 Financial Report from the Clerk and Councillor K. Simonis

- 6.1 Cashbook and Bank Reconciliation circulated to members.
- 6.2 Grass cutting has been carried out in the Village. PC will continue with HDC which cut and trim around the village NB, the recreation field, the War memorial and the front of the Church. We rang them on Tue and they came next day, very good job they have done. Residents are pleased to see it cut.
- 6.3 Churchyard is cut by a villager. PC have obtained another quotation but that was very expensive.
- 6.4 Council was suggested to make sure our reserves are of 6 months' spending to allow for any emergencies.
- 6.5 2015/16 Precept is not yet received as well as grass cutting grant.

7 Public participation to raise any matters of interest

- 7.1 There were no matters raised.

Questions for the County and District Councillors

- 8.1 CC Cllr S Bywater introduced himself. He is happy to see so many people here tonight. Cllr paid attention to the cuts, major decisions in coming years – either children or trees – CCC have to choose, make preferences.
- 8.2 Question raised re: the bypass and noise mitigation of A14. This ward is on the edge. We have to wait and see. Plans are in. People can go on Highways Authorities and check the progress. Still a lot under discussion but the road is definitely going ahead.
- 8.3 Question re: connection to Huntingdon through Brampton – traffic will be diverted from Brampton but the connection stays.

8 Chairman's Closing Remarks

- 8.1 On behalf of the Council chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting tonight.

Meeting finished at 9.30pm

12/5/2016
Date

Borhan Mysak
Chairman: Borhan Mysak