FINAL VERSION

NYTHE, ELDENE & LIDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2022 at 7.30pm**
**At Liden Library**

**Present** Cllr K Parry (Chair)
Cllr D Bell
Cllr Z Hawson
Cllr C Flux
Cllr M Davies
Cllr M Vallender
Cllr G Perkins
Cllr G Stubbs

**Officers** Ms Emma Hill (Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer)

**Public** Seven present in the room

**651 Apologies**
Cllr B Soloman

**652 Declarations of Interest & Application for Dispensations.**
Cllr Flux declared Chair of Youth Service; Cllr Bell declared member of Library Trust.

**653 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting and Annual General Meeting on 17th May 2022 were approved as a correct record.

**654 Public Questions, Comments or Representations**
Many questions and concerns were raised regarding the 'Friends of Shaftesbury Lake' it was clarified that the Friends of Shaftesbury Lake do not need their own Public Liability Insurance to carry out such permitted works at the Lake, if they are listed as a volunteer and the clerk has a record of their name, they are covered by the Parish Council Insurance.

**655 Schedule of Payments**
It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Schedule of Payments which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book be approved – invoices for May 2022 (£18,178.69)

**656 Bank Reconciliations and Accounts**
The Clerk submitted Bank Reconciliation and Accounts for up to 31st May 2022, a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.
It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Bank Reconciliation and Accounts which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book be approved.

**657 Internal Auditors Report 2021/2022**
The internal audit report for 2021-22 was reviewed and approved. Cllr Vallender asked if the recommendations needed to come back to full council, the Clerk explained the recommendations were made for helping her produce end of year figures more efficiently moving forward.

**658 AGAR Sign off**
a) It was RESOLVED to approve Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 - voted eight for Proposal carried.

b) It was RESOLVED to approve Section 2 Accounting Statements for 2021/22 - voted eight for Proposal carried.
c) It was RESOLVED to agree the dates of 24 June to 04 August 2022 for the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights

**659 Community Neighbourhood Policing Team**

The Team will attend the next Parish Council meeting.

**660 Lakes Working Group - Recommendation**

Cllr Hawson requested an amendment to state that Swindon Borough Council is the Landowner, and the Parish Council have authority over the Eldene and Nythe side of the Lake rather than both sides.
Cllr Hawson also stated that the Parish Council do support the Friends of Shaftesbury Lake, this recommendation is about making sure that everyone who is involved are protected from an insurance perspective and to keep what has been quite a successful partnership going.
Cllr Flux added it's important we show appreciation to the Friends for all their hard work, Cllr Flux requested clarity on what exactly a 'Community Day' Cllr Flux also added that the Parish should work closely with the Friends regarding Communications and issue joint communications and release them simultaneously, Cllr Parry added the Parish have always controlled the Parish Communications and we would like as a Parish to maintain that, If the Friends of Shaftesbury wish to have an event they would come to the Parish Council and can we advertise the event, we as a Parish would then put the Parish website and then the Friends of Shaftesbury Lake can advertise as they wish. Cllr Parry then continued to clarify regarding the 'Community Days' to include chopping, cutting, and digging, litter picking.
Cllr Flux added that he thinks there are positive things to come from the Motion the insurances being one of them. Cllr Stubbs added he think the motion looks hostile; the motion does not look like it has been written with the intention of working with the friends. Cllr Davies expressed a lot of concerns for this agenda item via a letter to the other councillors, he received a response that this was a legal motion, and the agenda item would go ahead. Cllr Davies was disappointed that no consideration was given to his concerns, the points Cllr Davies requested to be answered are the conditions regarding insurance and what the working group had in mind regarding 'after any adjustments necessary' as he feels this is a threatening clause.
The Clerk clarified that the Insurance covers people who volunteer for the Parish Council. Cllr Hawson commented regarding 'after any adjustments necessary' such as trip hazards or intervening with and plants or flowers that may need specialist care, if the parish council were to walk away and Swindon Borough Council took over everything would have to be reverted to how it originally was.
Cllr Davies requested clarification that the communications have nothing to do with the insurance, Cllr Parry stated the Parish believe is we put the communication out first we can justify to the insurance company that it's an event held by NEL Parish Council, if challenged and NEL Parish Council knew nothing of the event, why would they pay out for any potential claims. Cllr Davies advised to all councillors that is this motion was to go through, the Friends of Shaftesbury Lake would not continue to do any more works etc at the Lake.
Cllr Davies also stated that the way this has been worded and the approach taken by the working group has fundamentally damaged the relationship with the Friends of Shaftesbury Lake. Cllr Parry advised he has been contacted by members of Shaftesbury Lake who say they support this, there are people that want to support this and do understand and think it's the right decision, Cllr Parry does not want to see relationships broken down with the friends, Cllr Parry wants to see in enhanced and work together as a partnership, every single parish councillor here support the group.
The Parish Council have offered to meet with the Friends as that invitation has yet to be accepted, this offer is still open and continues to be open.
Cllr Stubbs suggested this be postponed until the next meeting on the assumption there will be a meeting held between the working group and the friends, and this issue can them be revisited.
Cllr Davies proposed moving it to the next meeting, Cllr Parry stated the only question he believes is outstanding is around the communication, Cllr Flux clarified that the term "community event" would refer to any community events with the use of tools that could cause issues or harm i.e., shovels, spades etc.
Cllr Flux proposed the wording of the motion be changed to reflect the communications, Councillor Vallender seconded this – Motion voted four in favour, two against, one abstained.

The Clerk has amended the wording accordingly to reflect the changes regarding communications:

**Lakes Working Group - Recommendation**

It must be made clear that no ownership or management of the NEL side of the lake transfers to FOSL as a result of their carrying out work. All such ownership and management responsibilities remain with the Parish Council. All volunteers' names must be provided to the council and kept updated whenever anyone leaves or joins the Volunteer Group. Friends of Shaftsbury Lake may obtain their own Public Liability Insurance to protect their own members, if they choose to do so, but will still need permission to carry out any work or hold events on the NEL side of the lake. Once any Works/Events and community days between the Parish Council and the FOSH have been agreed to be carried out/ held at the lake, Joint communications can then be published by the Parish Council and the FOSH Friends of Shaftesbury Lake simultaneously. If Friends of Shaftesbury Lake do not agree to these terms, then the parish council will not provide further permission to carry out work to FOSL and maintenance of the flowerbeds and surrounding areas will be carried out by the parish council, after any adjustments necessary.

**661 Policy Annual Review**

The Annual review of the Financial Regulation Policy and Standing Orders we agreed to remain the same by all Councillors for 2022/2023.

**662 Liden Library Working Group – Recommendation**

Cllr Vallender stated that the Liden Library Working group recommends that after seeking advice on any potential liability and clarifying the maths regarding the finances, up to two additional parish councillors join the Library Trust as normal trustees separate from their role as a Parish Councillor alongside Cllr David Bell in order to help run as a transitional team before recruiting further trustees from members of the public and volunteers to then hand over the running of the Library Trust, enabling the Parish councillors to take a step back. The Parish council is not and would not be responsible for any actions the Library Trustees take and recruitment of new trustees will take place in partnership with the Parish Council using the website, social media and approaching organisations such as 105.5fm to advertise and groups such as voluntary action Swindon. Finally, NEL Parish Council should provide the £18,000 grant for 2022/2023 financial year. This recommendation allows the Dale Heenan the current Chair of the Library Trust to stand down and step back without forcing the trust to collapse.

Cllr David Bell did not vote as he is a member of the Library Trust, two councillors abstained, five voted in favour proposal carried.

**663 Liden Library**

The Council approved payment for the invoice to be paid to the Library Trust for the sum of £18,000 to cover period of 2022/2023. Cllr Parry noted the £18,000 also included office space and that should remain the same, the accounts should be provided yearly for inspection before reapplying for the grant for subsequent financial years. Cllr David Bell did not vote as he is a member of the Library Trust, two councillors abstained, five voted in favour proposal carried.

**664 All Build – Contractor**

The council approved the increase in diesel costs for the contractor regarding grass cutting.

Cllr Davies asked the question to why the contractor had changed from red diesel to white diesel.

The Clerk advised the change in law meant that only those working in horticulture were permitted to use red diesel.

**665 Wiltshire Wildlife – Formal Request**

The council fully support the plan for bird and bat boxes to be fitted around the Nythe Eldene & Liden side of Shaftesbury Lake, Cllr Hawson asked if the boxes would be fitted in a tree friendly way, the Clerk to feed this information along with our support of this project back to Wiltshire Wildlife.

**666 Welcome Signs Nythe, Eldene & Liden**

The clerk incorrectly noted Nythe on the agenda, the Welcome Signs are for Eldene and Liden. The council discussed that five signs would be required. All Councillors unanimously agreed, Cllr Hawson and Cllr Davies will start the application process, with support where required from the clerk.

**667 New Bin Request**

A new bin was approved for to be situated at Richard Jefferies, the clerk to talk to the contractor on an exact location. This is to avoid any anti-social behaviour or potential damage.

**668 Granted Planning Permission**

Planning Permission granted for Erection of a single storey side extension with solar panels to roof at 19 Ashbury Avenue, Nythe Swindon SN3 3LX. Certificate of lawfulness Granted (Proposed) for the erection of a single storey rear extension. Second Schedule: 40 Edale Moor, Liden Swindon SN3 6LT
Planning Permission granted for Erection of two storey and single storey side extensions at 109 Ridge Nether Moor, Liden Swindon SN3 6NE.

**669 Refusal of Planning Permission**

Planning Permission refused for Outline Planning Application for circa 120 bed hotel with function facilities and restaurant with standalone restaurant and associated car parking. (All matters reserved). Site Address: Area 29 , Faraday Road Dorcan Swindon SN3 5EY – Reason for Refusal The proposal, which would result in the loss of an allocated employment site and a major main town centre use outside the Swindon central area which would undermine the strategy vision for the borough and affect the vitality and viability of the town centre and the regeneration of more appropriate and sustainable sites for similar uses in a more central location.

**670 Planning Committee**

The Planning Committee minutes were received and approved.

**669 Date of Next Meeting**

Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 19th July 2022 at 6.30pm – Location – Eldene Community Centre

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Signed ……

Date…….

Chair of the Council