

FINAL VERSION

NYTHE, ELDENE & LIDEN PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2022 at 6.30pm
At Liden Library

Present Cllr K Parry (Chair)
Cllr Z Hawson
Cllr C Flux
Cllr M Davies
Cllr M Vallender
Cllr B Soloman

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

Public 6 present in the room

625 Apologies
Cllr David Bell, Cllr Garry Perkins, Cllr Graham Stubbs

626 Welcome – Report by the Parish Council Chairman
I would first like to welcome and congratulate Bazil Solomon on being elected back on to the Parish Council. The last Parish Council had it challenges as we had to operate online for some of the year and with temporary clerk remote. We adapted and managed to deliver all our services with no impact to residents.

Last Year

Last year we:

- Cut the grass 15 times
- Added more bins
- Improved Shaftesbury Lake
- Invested in plants
- Added our weekly pavement sweeps
- Carried out weekly litter picks
- Improved our play equipment
- Further bush and tree work including more up-lifting of trees to enhance the area. This also included the roundabouts.
- More benches and bins added
- We received a good audit report which is excellent news
- We have provided a visual positive difference to our community.
- Improvements to Eldene Park had been agreed new matting and equipment will be fitted shortly.

Year Ahead

We will:

- Continue to deliver our standard works programme but we will also have our full summer bush works programme, as agreed in our budget earlier this year.
- We will add more bins.
- We will invest more money in play equipment and plans and designs are being draw up.

We said we will make year on year improvements, and we are delivering on our promise
Our programme and strategy are working and we continue to deliver for the residents.

627 Election of Chair

Cllr Kevin Parry and Cllr Mike Davies were both nominees for the Chairman position for 2022/2023. Both Cllrs gave a speech on why they would be best suited a vote was taken by Six Councillors, the results were Kevin Parry to be re-elected as Chairman for Nythe, Eldene & Liden Parish Council.

628 Election of Vice Chair

Cllr David Bell was the only nominee for Vice Chairman for 2022/2023. All six councillors unanimously agreed. Cllr David Bell re-elected as Vice Chairman for Nythe, Eldene & Liden Parish Council.

629 Welcome New Councillor

Cllr Bazil Soloman was welcomed as the New Councillor from the bye-election for Nythe Eldene & Liden Parish Council.

630 Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

Cllr Flux declared Chair of Youth Service. Cllr Matthew Vallender a Councillor for Stratton Parish Council.

631 Public Questions, Comments or Representations (maximum of 15 minutes – extended at Chair's discretion).

A member of the public raised a question was raised regarding the achievements of the council with regards to hedge and tree cutting, which is all very green, but what is the percentage of other interests in the community and buildings.

The chairman discussed Cllr Hawson attending the Friends of Shaftesbury Lake meeting along with South Swindon Parish Council for the Wildlife Discovery Day in late May.

The Council has held community litter picks; however, it has been difficult due to COVID, Cllr Kevin Parry personally stayed away to them due to the health and safety aspect.

There has been a community litter pick this year and Cllr Mike Davies also hold litter picks within Eldene.

Cllr Parry continued to follow with regards to the building the Parish Council do donate yearly a figure of £18,000 to the community Library.

A member of the public raised a question regarding the Library and how he is concerned due to 105.5FM being tenants of the Library building, he advised that Dale Heenan has expressed a desire to resign last summer as Trust Chairman, a year ago the Parish Council appointed a working group to make decisions regarding the future of the Library and looking back at the minutes it has never been reported about this building and whilst we have awarded monies to the Library Trust there is obviously a concern to what will happen to the building. It was raised that Dale Heenan has advised he is looking for new trustees to be appointed there has been a reference that some would but haven't been. The member of the public advised that when he questioned Cllr Bell and another Trustee of the Library he does not seem to know what's going on, Cllr Parry advised that any discussions in the working group meeting would have to be brought back to the council as an agenda item, and to date this has not happened he is hopeful this may happen at the June meeting

but has not been confirmed. Cllr Bell is very much aware of what's going on, but due to the code of conduct is unable to talk about any conversations that take place within the working group, and this applies to every member of the working group.

Cllr Parry reminded the member of the public that the contract that 105.5fm have is with the Library Trust and not the Parish Council. The Parish council only pay in to support the Library Trust and Library Service. Cllr Parry advised as a Parish we would not sit and discuss the contract of 105.5FM.

Cllr Parry confirmed yes, the Parish council have been approached to see if they would like to take on the running of the library and we have a working group that are having discussions with the trust, and we hope that we can bring a report back to the next parish council meeting. That however is not set in stone as we are unsure how far they have come with the discussions and whether they are able to present back to the Parish Council and when they are it will come back as an agenda item for discussion.

The member of the public stated he finds it very strange that a year ago the working group was set up and still to date there has not been an interim report brought to any meetings. Cllr Parry advised until the working group can come back it would be wrong for us to comment.

The member of the public commented that a year for the working group to come back on such an important issue as this is extremely slow and shoddy and looking and the figures and what's involved it could have been completed in two months.

Cllr Parry advised that you must respect the working group and the code of conduct which means all the information is confidential when the working group are ready to bring it back it will be discussed in open public until that time it remains confidential. The working group are working behind the scenes to hold another meeting it may take two or three meetings, whatever the working group decide they will have to bring back a proposal it maybe they reject the library they don't want the library, maybe they do want the library there will be a recommendation brought forward to this council to decide. But if they did decide to bring back a proposal to take it on they need to show a business plan of how that is going to be achieved and that takes a lot of work, they will not be forced into a decision at the moment the library is still open, that's the end as we are not going to get drawn into confidential matters.

A member of the public raised a discussion regarding the footpath behind the back of Derek Evans it doesn't seem to be on the contractors list until they make contact, they have come, and half-heartedly cleared it with a blower. The vegetation has all grown up and there has been a branch there for months. The Clerk advised she will raise this with the contractor. Another member of the public said on the main grass areas were cut and strimming was not done, Cllr Kevin Parry advised strimming was carried out every third cut. Cllr Parry and the Clerk requested the member of the public let us know the paths and streets and we can investigate it and follow up with the contractor.

Request for a dog bin has been submitted at the furthest end of Austen Crescent, Cllr Parry advised there is a bin situated by Goldsworthy and the next one is at the school. Cllr Parry advised its about accessibility for the contractor to empty. The areas the member of the public is referring to Cllr Parry advised belongs to Royal Mail and it's their land, Cllr Parry advised they are not interested in installing a dog bin.

The member of the public also raised a concern on speeding, and how people are going way to fast and over the 30mph speed limit, the bus stop is right on the pavement its particularly dangerous if someone were to cross and a speeding driver were approaching. There is a 30mph sign each end of Liden drive but within the middle of that nobody remembers the speed limit. Cllr Parry advised that they have pushed for a community speed watch, and it was deemed as not a priority area, and that decision came from the data the borough have looked over.

Cllr Hawson advised it had been raised with Swindon Borough Council regarding speeding restrictions within the area and they have sent out teams to review and found that the speeding limit hasn't triggered further restrictions. Cllr Flux an Cllr Soloman has been pushing regarding the Borough for speeding Implementations along Liden and Eldene Drive and many other places around the war, particulate Liden Drive. Many residents are requesting speed restrictions be put in place whether it be electric speed signs or road signs and road crossings, especially for those with

young children. Cllr Flux unfortunately Advised the Borough Council is low on funds now to be able to push these requests through, however we will continue to try and get these implemented but it's a borough decision.

Cllr Soloman added we had data collection cables running across the road they were collecting how data to look how to slow the traffic, to try and get a good crossing implemented especially around schools and to control speed. Surveys have been issued to residents regarding a 20mph zone within the ward to identify problematic area. The Borough can implement but is down to the police to enforce.

A member of the public asked if an office would come back to the library so members of the public who don't have access to the internet can visit, The Clerk advised we do received letters in the post that are passed on to the councillors. Cllr Flux and Soloman advised they do hold regular surgeries and encourage anyone who struggles with emails or wishes for a face-to-face conversation to attend, these are promoted on social media and word of mouth. 105.5FM volunteered to also advertise these via the radio station.

A member of the public raised the discussion regarding a Facebook page, Cllr Kevin Parry advised this had been on the agenda twice, the outcome being there is currently no staff resource to run a Facebook Page, so it was rejected. A member of the public raised most modern organisations do have a Facebook page and suggested the council might look at it again, Cllr Parry advised it has been looked at and the reason it was rejected was down to logistics not a political decision that the member of the public suggested it maybe. Cllr Parry advised it can be reviewed again later. Another member of the public suggested it doesn't have to be a page with comments added just a page for information purposes only to include who the council are and how to contact them. Cllr Hawson added unfortunately due to the way Facebook works you can't do that; you must turn off commenting on every single post. Cllr Parry advised that people are referred and encouraged to find all information needed via the Parish website.

The meeting closed at 7.22 pm.

Signed

Date.....

Chair of the Council