

DRAFT VERSION

NYTHE, ELDENE & LIDEN PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**Minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2023 at 6.30pm
At Liden Library.**

Present Cllr K Parry (Chair)
Cllr D Bell
Cllr Z Hawson
Cllr M Davies
Cllr M Vallender
Cllr G Perkins
Cllr B Soloman

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

Public Two in attendance.

729 Apologies

Cllr Flux, Cllr Stubbs

730 Declarations of Interest & Application for Dispensations.

Cllr Bell, Cllr Garry Perkins, and Cllr Basil Soloman declared members of the Library Trust. Cllr Davies advised he is no longer a trustee of the Library Trust.

731 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting and Annual General Meeting on 15th November 2022 were approved as a correct record.

732 Public Questions, Comments or Representations

Two members of Public in attendance resident. The Parish was advised of no streetlights at the beginning of Liden Drive, the Chairman advised Swindon Borough Council would be notified.

733 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 December 2022 (£31,854.73)

734 Bank Reconciliations and Accounts

The Clerk submitted Bank Reconciliation and Accounts for up to 31st December 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.

735 Police and Crime Commissioner

Philip Wilkinson presented to the Parish Council information regarding special measures and new plans across the Wiltshire Police Force. The police will be attending all Parish Council meetings and the Parish will be working with them to assist wherever possible in reducing crime within the Parish.

736 Nythe Community Centre

It was agreed for the Clerk to send a letter direct to the Cabinet member regarding repairs of Nythe Community Centre to bring it back to a structurally sound building and to be able to be fully functional for use. The Clerk to bring the response back to the Parish Council when received. The Parish does not believe it's their responsibility and therefore it's for Swindon Borough Council to deal with any insurance claims.

737 Parish Council Meeting Dates 2023/2024

Cllr Vallender asked for some of the meeting dates to be changed, the clerk agreed to amend the dates and send to the agreed date changes to all councillors for 2023/2024.

738 Liden Library Trust request for extra funds

The Chairman of the Library Trust Cllr David Bell opened the discussion by stating that there are grave concerns over the finance of Liden Library.

David Bell expressed the need to sit down and have a meeting regarding the future of the library, this would mean looking at all the finances to see if the running of the library is still viable. Trustee Gary Perkins adding the agenda item was about moving the funding forward not providing extra funds. Chairman Kevin Parry responded to this stating that what we see is on the agenda, and for clarification for the minutes the request is that the Library Trust are requesting their grant early, Chairman of the Trust David Bell replied that at the moment the trust are not in a position to be able to do that but he stated there are a few things the trust need to sort out and then they would like to have a meeting with the Parish and the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer of the Parish to discuss if this is still a viable option to the keep the Library running. Chairman Kevin Parry stated that the grant that the trust refers to is not for £18k, the grant is for £11.5k the remaining £6.5k is for the office space, every year that the trust apply for the grant it is reviewed, so its looked at to see how the trust have spent that money previously and how it will be spent moving forward.

The Chairman Kevin Parry agreed with David Bell that there does need to be a meeting to go through the figures, the business plan etc ... and it's not a decision that any of the councillors could make at tonight's meeting because all the supporting documents are missing from tonight's meeting.

Chairman Kevin Parry would support a meeting with the trustees and the meeting would also be open to all councillors that wish to attend.

Cllr Soloman a trustee of The Library stated he will be staying a trustee of the library because that what the resident's want from him to save the Library and the community services, he stated he will stay and keep working at it. Chairman Kevin Parry advised Cllr Soloman that he has declared an interest as a trustee, the Parish cannot stop you from voting on a decision, but you have to be very clear you are a trustee and a member of the Library Trust but you have to go through the process on whether you can be challenged and as a rule Cllr David Bell has been a trustee for many years on the Library Trust he has never voted. What the Parish is saying tonight is we would meet with the Library Trust to discuss and go through everything to see how the money has been spent what the business plan is, is it viable, what do the Trust need what do they require. That would then be brought back to a Parish Council meeting at a later date.

Cllr Vallender added when the trust return in May 2023 requesting the £11.5k he would like to see a budget similar to what the Parish presents, and how they are going to fund the shortfall if there is one between the Parishes grant and what the trust are forecasting, showing a level of transparency that the parish has not really had previously from the Trust, so the Parish can make a more informed decision about where the money is going. The Chairman of the Trust David Bell added that the Parish Council pay to use this facility, the facility obviously has overheads so David would just like to remind everyone that if anyone comes to use the Library building they are expected to contribute towards the overheads by applying a booking charge, moving forward this is how it will managed.

Cllr Davies raised a concern regarding how the trust are being overly scrutinised regarding the grant and how previously he believed this has not been the case, Cllr Parry advised that there was a three year business plan produced by the previous Chair of the Library Trust which has now expired, as long as the Library was open and running the monies were paid each year over that period.

It was agreed that the trust will send the Clerk the information requested, once received a meeting will be arranged for anyone who wants to attend from the Library Trust the Parish Council, the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer will also attend, after this meeting has taken place the minutes and information will come back to the nearest Parish Council meeting so an informed decision can be made regarding the request of a grant of £11,500 for the period 2023/2024.

- 739 Parish Allowances**
As there was no change in the allowance amount for Councillors, the Parish Council unanimously agreed to keep the same figure of £879 for 2023/2024.
- 740 Budget and Precept 2023/2024**
The Council reviewed the draft budget provided by the Clerk; the Council agreed this. The Precept forms were signed by the Chairman and two other councillors the Clerk will submit this to Swindon Borough Council by the requested deadline.
- 741 Edison Roundabout**
The quote provided was agreed by the council regarding the planting of Flower Beds on the Edison Roundabout.
- 742 Granted Planning Permission**
Consent granted for Works to T1 Sycamore under TPO Woodland No 4 1971 at 49 Okebourne Park, Liden, Swindon, SN3 6AJ.
Planning permission granted for Continued siting of a hot food vending van at Land at Faraday Road, Dorcan Swindon SN3 5HQ.
Grant Advertisement consent for Display of 1 no. Totem sign and 5 no. Fascia signs, at Unit 8, Ignition Park Swindon SN3 5FB.
Grant Advertisement consent for Display of hoardings and fascia signs at Morrisons, Dorcan Way Centre Dorcan Way Swindon.
Planning permission granted for Conversion of a garage into utility room and office, dropped kerb and provision of hardstanding for additional off-road parking at 35 Dickens Close, Liden Swindon SN3 6JN.
Planning permission granted for an Erection of a single storey front extension at 99 Overbrook, Eldene Swindon SN3 6AT.
Planning permission granted for Erection of two storey/ single storey rear extensions, at 153 Ridge Nether Moor, Liden Swindon SN3 6NF.
Planning permission granted for Erection of a first-floor rear extension, at 109 Eastmere, Liden Swindon SN3 6LG
- 743 Refusal of Planning Permission**
Refusal of Planning permission for Use of part of carpark for car valeting operation and erection of a valeting pod at Morrisons, Dorcan Way Centre Dorcan Way Swindon.
- 744 Planning Committee**
The Planning Committee minutes were received and approved.
- 745 Date of Next Meeting**
Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 6.30pm – Location – Eldene Community Centre

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

Signed

Date.....

Chair of the Council