

# LOXHORE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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## Minutes

Date: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Venue: Loxhore Village Hall

Present: Chris Bryars {Chair}  
Mike Young {Vice Chair and Clerk}  
Jane Vanstone {Councillor}  
Di Webber {Councillor}  
Malcolm Prowse {ND Councillor}  
Andrea Davis {Devon County Councillor – arrived 1830}

Minutes taken by: Mike Young {Clerk}

The Chair opened the meeting at 18:11.

1. Apologies: There were apologies from Carole Delve.
2. Declarations of interest: There were none.
3. All councillors present agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were a true and accurate record of that spoken and the Chair signed accordingly.

4.0	<b><u>Action points from previous meeting dated 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019</u></b>	
4.1	<p>Broadband (see also 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 §6.0, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018 §4.5, 16<sup>th</sup> March §4.3, 25<sup>th</sup> May §4.3, 5<sup>th</sup> July §4.2, 6<sup>th</sup> September §4.2 1<sup>st</sup> November §4.1, 3<sup>rd</sup> January §4.1 and 7<sup>th</sup> March §6.1)</p> <p>An email from Jane Darley (Community Fibre Partnership Manager, Openreach), sent on 28<sup>th</sup> November, confirmed that they can supply a £30k charity grant and asked for a final list of addresses so that the cost can be calculated. BT is still working on the final costings and MB will follow this up.</p> <p>He does not intend pursuing Connecting Devon and Somerset any more as Matt Barrow and others have consistently been unwilling to provide answers to his questions and there seems very little likelihood that the required broadband would be supplied to Loxhore in the near future.</p> <p>MB still processing but no update at this time. MB announced his intention to NOT stand for re-election in May but stated that he will continue to lead the Broadband Initiative. The Chair thanked him for this.</p> <p>May - MB provided details “We now have two final quotes from Openreach to equip every house and business in the village with a very fast fibre broadband connection. The first involves us digging trenches and we can cover the out of pocket costs with BT and Government Voucher. I am investigating what “self dig” entails right now. The second involves Openreach doing all the digging and costs £113K but we can only cover £107K with BT and Government Vouchers.” MB would like to request funds from the Council</p>	

	as well as from the village hall and as we are getting very close to finalising this he would need firm and binding commitment at this stage.” Matter deferred to Chair’s business post RFO report.	Closed
4.2	<p>Highway Community Enhancement Fund. (7<sup>th</sup> March §5.4)</p> <p>JM pointed out that the trimmings really need to be cleared and thrown on top of the banks to avoid the build-up of vegetation and the subsequent narrowing of the roads. MP knows someone who could possibly do this and will make enquiries. MP gave details: Darren Phillips 07768 736232. Clerk to contact and get estimate.</p> <p>Road signs also need to be kept clean and visible. Devon Highways have ignored JM’s request for better signage at the Halsey Lake telephone box junction so that drivers treat it as a roundabout. MP said that road signs are produced by a workshop in Pottington, complete with the correct fixings. MB will investigate the cost of this. MB ascertained the cost of road signs and installation. Councillors all agreed that this is a Highways responsibility and the estimated £946 should not come from Parish funds. JM has emailed AD to expedite but no replies received. Tracey Blackmore will provide MY with contact in Devon Highways.</p> <p>JM said that more working parties are needed so that the very expensive equipment stored in the shed can be put to good use. CD will organise this later in the year, when the weather improves. JV thought that many people might be keen to do one day’s work but then lose their enthusiasm. Date not yet decided, to be notified.</p> <p>May – 1. MY has spoken with Darren several times and is awaiting him to contact when free to survey the roads for an estimate. CD to liaise with Darren Phillips re verge cleaning.</p> <p>2. Highways Officer for our area is Martin Stoddart. CD to contact him (<a href="mailto:martin.stoddart@devon.gov.uk">martin.stoddart@devon.gov.uk</a>) re cleaning signs and also the keep left at Halsey BT phone box.</p>	<p>CD</p> <p>CD</p> <p>CD</p>
4.3	<p>(7<sup>th</sup> March §5.1) CD to speak again about the large and potentially dangerous potholes at Lancey Brook. CD has contacted Devon Highways about this problem and has been told that the drain needs jetting to remove the blockages. Jetting has to be done carefully because if the blockage does not move, the high-water pressure can cause the road itself to fracture. CD will contact AD to check that this location is on the ‘jetting list’ and to set up a site meeting with her. Highways came and jetted and all was well for a few days. Then the flooding returned. A grid possibly needs installing to prevent stones from blocking. More work is needed. 2 x Emails received from AD. ‘My highway officer has put in a bid for the work to be done, this isn’t something that goes to any committee, the decision is taken by officers who are controlling the budget and have knowledge of all the schemes required around Devon. I hope that this scheme does get through of course. I’ve copied my highway officer into this email so he can see your comments and the defect report, however as far as his role is concerned, he has done all the necessary preparation to send off the scheme to the team in County Hall.’ And “This is on the list for the next round of drainage funds ,this will need to be worked up and programmed and the screen made so will not be until sometime in the Summer unfortunately the stone will block the drainage in the meantime we will just have to accept that, other than causing some potholes which we will fix when we do the drainage or weather dries up it does not cause any flooding to property or make the road impassable. Unfortunately, there are many of these areas over the County, I know you are anxious to see this resolved, fortunately it will be actioned this financial year. I am sorry I cannot give any firm dates however.” CD will monitor progress</p>	<p>CD</p>
4.4	<p>Loxhore Parish Plan (7<sup>th</sup> March §5.2 (a))</p> <p>Following extensive email correspondence between councillors it was agreed that the Parish should not generate a plan. The 3 points in email from MB were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Get educated on the planning process at District and County</li> <li>2. Understand the NDDC Housing Plan and the criteria used to judge individual</li> </ol>	

	<p>applications.</p> <p>3. Write down our current view on planning for Loxhore, consistent with 1 and 2. The Council have been briefed prior on NDDC planning procedures and an outline of how Loxhore fits in the NDDC housing plan by Tracey Blackmore a Senior Planning Officer at NDDC. This briefing satisfies the first two points of the email. Council discussed point 3 and coincidentally an email has been received from Community Led Planning and Devon Community Resilience who offer to advise and assist on a Parish Plan, sometimes a Community Plan. Council agreed that contact should be made with the organisation. Clerk will email appropriately. MY has had reply. This was discussed and Council decided with advice from MP that Loxhore does not need its own Plan as it is adequately covered by NDDC plans. Therefore, matter closed</p>	Closed
4.5	<p>National Trust Accommodation Opportunity (7<sup>th</sup> March §5.2 (b))</p> <p>JM reported that she has contacted the National Trust with the suggestion that old stone barns in a poor state of repair, such as those close to the Church, could possibly be sold leasehold to Loxhore people in need of affordable housing. They could then convert them into dwellings. However, she has had no positive response from NT so far. Ray Comer said the NT uses the barns by the Church for storage. MP said that about 25 years ago he also investigated possible conversions of old buildings but the NT made it very difficult so he did not pursue the idea. The NT's policy is apparently to leave buildings as they are, even though numerous NT holiday homes and some NT hotels exist. However, MP thought that if Loxhore had a Parish Plan that showed that there are local housing needs, this could support the conversion idea. He pointed out however that converting old stone buildings into viable homes is very expensive compared with building from scratch, because of modern building regulations.</p> <p>JM has received an email from Kelly Bezer of NT stating that they will consider this and are aware of local needs. However, they cannot do anything until Autumn 2019 when they hope to be in a position to confirm or otherwise.</p>	Clerk
4.6	<p>Parish Paths (7<sup>th</sup> March §5.4)</p> <p>CB has been checking the parish paths in preparation for completing the annual report in February. He has had trouble contacting Simon Houghton to get the invoice for the work carried out last spring. There are two on-going issues at the moment. The first is path 31 (Red Lane) past the Seggons. While there does not seem to be effluent running onto the path any more, there is still a drain running onto it which will obviously cause erosion over time. CB has asked Simon Houghton for advice on this. The other issue is path 9 between Corner Cottage and Hammonds in Lower Loxhore, which needs a new gate and bridge. Funding is tight and the cost of reinstatement could be disproportionate to the amount of use the path gets. CB will also enquire about installing dog gates in some stiles</p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> March 2019</p> <p>The annual survey of Parish paths has been submitted. Apart from the continuing problem with the path from Corner Cottage in Lower Loxhore to Hammonds, CB reported no problems.</p> <p>He is still having trouble contacting Simon Houghton at DCC who is responsible for our area. CB mentioned this to Ros Davies when submitting the report and she said she would get Simon to contact him but, as yet, he has not heard from him. Ros could not see any reason why we shouldn't install dog gates, subject to contacting the landowners first.</p> <p>CB will continue to chase Simon about the water being piped onto path 31 – Red Lane. CB has asked Simon for advice regarding this and about the dog gates. CB also want to get the invoice for work done in the spring on our paths and would like to get this before the end of our accounting year so that we can reclaim the VAT. 9 May 2019 Still no response or invoice received.</p>	CB
4.7	<p>(7<sup>th</sup> March §9.2) JM raised the observation about possible unplanned development at Blackpool farm and in the field up the Bridleway at the side of Barton Court. Council agreed that Chair should send an email to NDDC Planning Enforcement raising the issue.</p>	



	Parish maintenance fund	509.00	
	Highway maintenance fund	<u>3,389.93</u>	
		5,413.00	
	<b>Non Ring-fenced Funds</b>	<u>2,184.77</u>	
	Per Bank Account	7,597.77	
	Plus VAT to be reclaimed	<u>85.51</u>	
		<u><u>7,683.28</u></u>	Closed
7.0	<b>Chair's Business</b>		
7.1	Council discussed request for grant towards Broadband installation for Parish. (See 4.1 above) RFO advised on reserves and suggested £1,000 could be considered. Council agreed to make £1,000 available to the Broadband Installation. Of course, if funding found from other district or county sources then any reduction of the PC contribution would be welcomed. MB to be informed of decision and RFO to reserve the funds.		MY/ CB
8.0	<u>Next meeting</u> The Chair closed the meeting at 18:55, thanking everyone for attending. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 18:00 in the Village Hall.		Closed

Minutes approved by Chair..... Date .....