

## Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Great Lumley Parish Council

Held Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 6.30 pm

Main Hall, Great Lumley Community Centre

### Present:

Cllr Alan Bell (Chairman)

Cllr Neil Bains

Cllr Anne Lambton

Cllr Carol McAllister

Cllr Hyleen Wood

Cllr Phil Heaviside (Vice Chair)

Cllr Gary Brown

Cllr Hayley McAllister

Cllr Jeremy Whiting

### In Attendance:

4 members of the public

#### 1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted from Cllr Tim Robson

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

#### 3. Public Comments

No public comments

#### 4. Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes from the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September were accepted with the following amendments:

- Add "police liaison" to Cllr Jeremy Whiting's feedback

#### 5. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising

#### 6. Environment and Community

**6.1 Remembrance Day Poppies** – Cllr Phil Heaviside confirmed funding application has been approved and funds should be received in the next couple of days. Michelle Melvin had chased Lisa re the Co-op funding and will follow this up.

**6.2 View of Views** – Cllr Alan Bell has recontacted the original woodworker but has had no response to date. Original quote was £500 and this just needs to be actioned, however there is no further progress to date.

**6.3 Football Fields** – Cllr Phil Heaviside reported of a site visit by the Clean and Green Team. Football teams who use the field are making a number of demands. Parish Council will need to pay for grass cutting. DCC want to charge us from end of Dec, however Cllr Heaviside advised we don't set our budget until end of Jan. DCC agreed to review SLA re grass cutting with another meeting to decide way ahead.

**6.4 Christmas** – Cllr Hyleen Wood confirmed B Carr is organising a craft fair and has visited the centre to agree a table layout. Craft fair will be 10am to 2pm on 5<sup>th</sup> December, with Santa's Grotto followed by the Christmas tree light switch on. Cllr Alan Bell confirmed Christmas tree on standing order from Leamside.

**6.5 Fish & Chip van** – Cllr Carol McAllister confirmed Redz wants to pitch in car park on a Thursday from 4.30pm to 6.45pm. Cllr Alan Bell had spoken to Haveli and they are

fine with it. Cllr Carol McAllister to contact Redz and ask for a start date. To be reviewed in the Spring when the weather is better.

**6.6 Christ Church & water supply** – Cllr Alan Bell has spoken to ALN construction for a quote re water supply. Cllr Anne Lambton had circulated a report of her last Councillor's surgery and spoke about the thefts and damage in the cemetery. Installation of CCTV is not possible due to the size of the Church yard only giving 1 aspect due to potential positioning of cameras and the privacy intrusion to members of the public visiting the cemetery. There were also privacy issues re residents of houses in Norwich Close. Unless the Cemetery is large and Council run, there is no opportunity for Council paid CCTV. Cllr Alan Bell discussed the levelling of graves by DCC and felt a turn in weather may have delayed this. A member of the public commented that the Cemetery is in good repair compared to some others. He also confirmed normal Church services have resumed.

**6.7 Community Award Scheme** – Cllr Alan Bell advised this was discussed prior to the previous Parish Clerk leaving. Progressing this should wait until the new Parish Clerk is in post.

**7. Co-option of vacant parish councillor seat** – Cllr Phil Heaviside advised the Parish Council had given proper notice via DCC re the vacant Councillor seat. As that has expired, we can co-opt and don't need to hold an election.

## **8. Community Centre**

**8.1 Groups** – Cllr Hyleen Wood confirmed the Community Centre opened its doors yesterday. She thanked all Councillors and volunteers who helped over weekend to make it possible. Cllr Wood advised the Gymnasts are in the main hall 4 nights /week. From 12<sup>th</sup> Oct Toddlers will return 2 days per week to the main hall. Little treasures are having their Committee meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> Oct and commence their Saturday group on 16<sup>th</sup> October. A new Yoga group is commencing on 7<sup>th</sup> October in the Lumley room. Guides and Brownies have enquired about room hire and will come back to us. The Gym is opening 18<sup>th</sup> Oct, with inductions on weekend 16/17<sup>th</sup> Oct. A discussion over the increase in hire costs took place, as they have been questioned by a couple of groups. The increases are due to rise in costs of utilities, as well as the actual cost of running each room. The hire of the main hall has increased 2.50 per hour in real terms, with other room hire costs having gone down slightly.

**8.2 Bollard** – Cllr Peter Brown was not present to give an update, however it had been agreed to install at a previous meeting. Cllr Phil Heaviside had spoken to a blacksmith from the Clean and Green team and he has chased for a price to supply and fit. A question had been asked about a gate on the children's playground and Cllr Phil Heaviside agreed to ask for price to discuss at next meeting.

**8.3 Gym** - had already been discussed under Group feedback.

**8.4 Community consultation** – Cllr Neil Bains gave an update. Cllr Phil Heaviside had a meeting with DCC re questions proposed; their feedback led to us revisit questions, to ensure that any information gathered is the right info to enable public to make informed choices. Cllr Phil Heaviside is seeking indicative costs re similar projects – costs to refurb and rebuild on the same footprint/same budget and this will be part of the consultation. We now have all the information needed to explore ground source heat pump/solar panels and any funding available to balance of costs and Cllr Phil Heaviside has a meeting arranged with DCC to discuss. Cllr Neil Bains will wait until

Cllr Heaviside has had the meeting to obtain final facts and figures prior to the full consultation. Cllr Bains discussed possible surgeries for people to speak in person and he will co-ordinate dates with Councillors. Cllr Bains reported he had contacted Ruth Smedley, local social prescribing link worker, as they are willing to help us reach all parts of community, with possible funding pots available. Cllr Bains to arrange a meeting to discuss further. Cllr Jeremy Whiting asked if we still have an issue re which survey company to use, as we are unable to use Survey monkey. Cllr Neil Bains agreed to re-visit the possibility of using Google forms, as it's easy to use and the data can be interrogated.

**8.5 CIC** – Cllr Phil Heaviside advised everything was in place to form the new CIC. The Parish Council need to nominate a not for profit organisation as a fall-back position if the CIC was to cease trading . The organisation chosen is waiting to hold their AGM and hopefully will be in a position to move forward after that.

**8.6 Foodbank** – Cllr Neil Baines discussed the request from the Methodist Church to use the community centre to host their community food table. A food safety certificate needs to be in place, and without that they can't do the activity. The community centre could provide storage space for items not in immediate use that they could use later. Cllr Bains agreed to Tom Sterling and feedback to the next meeting.

**9. Accounts** – Cllr Carol McAllister had circulated the September expenditure as follows:

**Income**

Gymnastics	540.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>540.00</b>

**Expenditure**

DCC	886.00
FF salary & HMRC	808.22
CHUBB	157.70
DCC Bedding plants	4336.15
DCC repairs	161.78
Metro Rod	834.00
BT	370.96
Peter Denham	655.00 (toilet repairs)
Website Hosting	98.86
Post box	29.99
Key safe & Lights	73.78
Total Energy	11.51
Unity Trust Bank	21.00 (bank charges)
Zoom subs	14.39
<b>Total exp</b>	<b>8459.34</b>

Cllr Carol McAllister advised we were almost up to date with the outstanding invoices left over from the Parish Clerk's departure.

Cllr Carol McAllister is working on queries from Mazars on the Annual Return. She will respond to Mazars once queries have been resolved.

**10. Personnel sub committee** – Cllr Carol McAllister advised interviews for the Parish Clerk vacancy are on 13<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Caretaker – Cllr Hyleen Wood advised subject to DBS and satisfactory references, we have appointed a Handyman for 30 hours per week to open/close the community centre and undertake maintenance in and around the building. Start date to be confirmed.

**11. Councillor reports**

Cllr Alan reported grass cutting been previously covered. The LA are erecting a fence at the bottom of Danelaw to stop motorbikes going into the woods. No further update or planning application re the activity in fields next to Stainmore Drive. Cllr Alan Bell and Councillor Phil Heaviside had a meeting regarding the outstanding works on the Bellway estate. These were in hand and some had started already. The boundary fence is due to come down 11<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Cllr Hyleen Wood noted Community centre was previously discussed.

Cllr Anne Lambton had previously covered Church & cemetery update.

Cllr Jeremy Whiting had been in contact with a police officer who referred him to the police website, which brought back no results of offences in the village. Cllr Whiting has added a piece to his social media account advising his specialist area is law and order. He noted reports of milk being taken from resident's doorsteps and the milk company have taken measures to try to reduce this; that was the only offence Cllr Whiting was aware of.

Cllr Gary Brown had nothing to report.

Councillor Neil Bains advised it was the 5 year point since the Allotment Assoc had taken over responsibility for the Allotments from the Parish; this is to be reviewed at their AGM on 26/10 and Cllr Bains is to attend and observe the discussion. This will be added to the next agenda.

Cllr Carol McAllister & Cllr Hayley McAllister advised all Community centre issues had been discussed and nothing further to report.

Cllr Phil Heaviside advised a key safe has been installed outside the Community centre to enable Gymnastics to access/lock up independently; this takes the pressure off the various Parish Councillors who have facilitated opening/locking since June. External lights have been purchased and an electrician will be needed to install. There had been several drop kerb requests over last couple of months. It was noted there was no drop kerb at the Coop; this has been ordered and will be here in the next 2 months. Similarly, a drop kerb is to be installed at the Old England.

Cllr Alan Bell and Cllr Phil Heaviside had attended the Methodist Church presentation to volunteers who had helped during the Pandemic. Cllr Bell wanted to express the appreciation and thanks of the Parish Council to all those volunteers who helped during the pandemic, as their dedication had been a lifeline to residents.

**12. Planning applications** – none

- 13. Correspondence** – An email from the Toddler group had been circulated to all Parish Councillors and Cllr Hyleen Wood and Cllr Carol McAllister had had a meeting with the Toddler committee to discuss issues raised ahead of their return to the Community Centre.

Cllr Carol McAllister had responded to an email asking about use of the Community centre kitchen. She has a phone call arranged to discuss this further.

- 14. Matters for information**  
**Items for next month's agenda**  
Allotment Association 5-year review  
Gates at children's playground  
Foodbank

- 15. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd November 2021, 6.30 pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

Signed Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 2nd November 2021