

LACEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

INFORMAL MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 13th APRIL 2015

Present: Councillors, Mrs Cathryn Davies, Mr Roger Craft, Mrs Miv Hughes, Mr Dennis Claydon, Mr John Sherlock and Mr Tony Molesworth.

Clerk Mrs Susanne Griffiths.

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Cllr Mrs Cathryn Davies welcomed everyone and introduced the Parish Councillors and the Clerk.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

“Cllr Cathryn Davies, Chairman of the Lacey Green Parish Council gave the following report:-

Good evening fellow councillors and members of the public, I would like to welcome you to this Annual Parish meeting for Lacey Green Parish Council being held in Speen Village Hall.

For members of the public, I would like to introduce your councillors

Councillor Roger Craft – Vice Chairman and member for Speen

Councillor Dennis Claydon – member for Lacey Green

Councillor Tony Molesworth – member for Loosely Row

Councillor Miv Hughes – member for Lacey Green

Councillor John Sherlock – member for Lacey Green

Councillor David Clay – member for Speen

Mrs Susanne Griffiths – the Responsible Financial Officer and Parish Clerk

Mrs Jayne Mylchreest – our new assistant to the Clerk

Another year has passed and again I would wish to thank my fellow councillors for all the work they have done for the parishioners and council.

I will touch briefly on some of the events that have or are going to occur in our Parish as a much more detailed report will be presented by the Councillors concerned with the happening.

The Garden of Rest and the War Memorial saw a celebration this year, in June, when we held a dedication service at the War Memorial remembering the commencement of World War 1, followed by afternoon tea in the Lacey Green Village Hall.

This was a memorable occasion, for many reasons, and all present were both pleased and impressed with the work our councillors and clerk had done in organising this event, and I would personally wish to thank all the councillors and clerk for the efforts they all made – thank you.

Our meetings continue to be held nearly every month, alternately in Speen and Lacey Green, and are attended by our Parish, District and County Councillors, we welcome members of the public to every meeting, and they are encouraged to speak at the commencement of every meeting on any matter that they feel any councillors could assist them with.

We continue to receive planning applications from Wycombe District Council on a regular basis, far too many to discuss at our meetings, and our planning committees in both villages continue to meet and discuss outside of our meetings and report back to the council on their recommendations, we have not changed our Planning Committee comprising Councillor Claydon, Councillor Molesworth and Councillor Sherlock to discuss and decide on responses for applications relating to Lacey Green and Loosely Row and Councillor Craft and Councillor Clay to discuss and decide on responses for applications relating to Speen and I would like to thank them on behalf of the council for their hard work. Our annual precept, again this year, was not increased and the last year's was spent in line with expectations.

Councillor Claydon and our Clerk have developed a good working relationship with the local TfB technician, they have monthly meetings arranged and any concerns raised about roads, verges or rights of way are dealt with in a professional and prompt manner.

Our project, for the forthcoming year, subject to successful negotiation, will be to negotiate a lease on the playground in Speen, and, with the co-operation of local representatives, refurbish, revitalise and replace the play equipment. I have touched briefly on matters of the Parish Council and before handing over for detailed reports, I would like to thank my fellow councillors and clerks for their help and assistance

LACEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

INFORMAL MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 13th APRIL 2015

through the year.

Councillor Craft to give a financial report on matters of the parish.

Councillor Claydon on the Garden of Rest

Councillor Hughes on Playground matters.

3. PARISH ACCOUNTS AND PRECEPT

Copies of the Estimates Summary (Appendix 1) which showed the actual spend £23,294.00 against the budget £24,550.00 in the financial year 2014/2015 and the proposed budget for the year 2015/2016 of £38145.00 were distributed

Vice- Chairman Cllr Roger Craft explained the makeup of the precept. The Parish Council has requested an amount of £24,441.11. The band D council tax requested has remained virtually the same for nine years. The District Council will give a reduced grant of £323.16 in response to the reduction in tax base for the Localised Council Tax Scheme for the year 2015/2016. This is likely to be reduced again next year.

Cllr Roger Craft finished his report by saying that he hoped the residents of the Parish had approved of the expenditure of the Parish Council and that the Councillors welcome any feedback.

4. REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DENNIS CLAYDON ON THE GARDEN OF REST

The new Memorial in the Garden of Rest to former members of the Methodist Sunday School, who gave their lives in two World Wars, was dedicated on Sunday 8th June 2014.

On a fine, warm and sunny afternoon, the Chairman of Lacey Green Parish Council, Councillor Mrs. Cathryn Davies, welcomed the assembled crowd of about eighty persons, many of whom were relatives of the fallen. Some had travelled from as far afield as Gloucestershire and North Wales to be present. Reverend Gregory Hargrove conducted a short dedication service, in which members of the Parish Council took part. Two minutes silence was observed, marked by the sounding of the Last Post and Reveille. Wreaths were laid on behalf of Lacey Green Parish Council, Buckinghamshire County Council, The Royal British Legion, Princes Risborough and District and the Royal Air Force Association, High Wycombe. There was an opportunity for family and friends to place a small wooden cross in memory of loved ones.

Afterwards, sixty people were entertained to tea in the Village Hall. A book, detailing the young men commemorated on the Memorial, was on show and attracted much interest. The Parish Council would like to thank Rita Probert, a member of the local History Group, for her hard work in researching and compiling this information.

These young men, who left their native village to defend their country and never returned, cannot have imagined their names would still be honoured over a century later.

Special thanks are due to our Clerk for her valued work in coordinating the proceedings, at a very busy time in her schedule. The many complimentary comments received from those attending, show the appreciation of her efforts.

The 4th August 2014 marked a century since the outbreak of WW1 on 4th August 1914. As a token of respect for those engaged in the conflict the Royal British Legion, High Wycombe branch, organised a wreath laying ceremony at every War Memorial in the High Wycombe district. This took place simultaneously throughout the district at 12 noon on 4th August 2014. The Parish Council received a request to assist in this ceremony, in order to complete this mammoth task.

Parish Councillors laid wreaths at three Memorials within the Parish, the Lych-gate at Speen Baptist Church, the Garden of Rest, Lacey Green and Loosley Row Baptist Cemetery. A short service was held in the Parish Church and a wreath laid at the Memorial in the Church by a former Parish Councillor, Douglas Tilbury.

Thanks are due to the maintenance team who keep the Garden of Rest neat and tidy. Family and friends who have loved ones interred there very much appreciate this.

5. REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR MIV HUGHES ON THE PARKS

Cllr M Hughes informed the meeting that there had been no capital outlay on new playground equipment during the last year. Minor repairs are to be carried out on the existing equipment during the next few

LACEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

INFORMAL MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 13th APRIL 2015

months.

There has been some good feedback received from the U5s on the playground which has been nice to receive.

The Parish Council hope to lease the play area from the Speen Playing Fields during 2015 for a 30 year lease and will be installing new equipment in this play area.

OPEN FORUM –

Peter Johnson Chairman of the RACB thanked the Parish Council for the grant it had given and informed the members that the bus is serving an average of 1800 passengers per month.

Nigel Glenister, Chairman of the Lacey Green and Loosley Row Tennis Club, gave a report on the progress of the club throughout the last year. They have negotiated a sub-lease from the Sports Club to become an independent entity and have successfully applied to the HMRC for acceptance as a Community Amateur Sports Club which enables them to collect Gift Aid.

£6700 has been raised from members amounting to over £8000 with Gift Aid and a £10,000 interest free loan has been secured from the Bucks Lawn Tennis Association to enhance facilities.

Arrangements have been made with a local land owner to lease a corner of his field to use as a car park for the members of the club. A planning application is due to be submitted shortly for the change of use.

Contact has been made with the school and youth club to attract younger members.

Nigel finished his report with a request for the loan repayment £450.00 due to the Parish Council to be given as a grant to enable the improvements to continue.

The Parish Council agreed to discuss this request at the next Parish Council meeting in May.

There being no further questions, the meeting closed at 7.35pm

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Appendix 1

**Lacey Green Parish Council Accounts
Financial Year 2014 – 2015**

OVERALL SUMMARY	Actual	Budget	Difference	Budget for 2015/2016
ADMINISTRATION	£8,425.00	£8,950.00	£525.00	£9,350
GARDEN OF REST	£1,054.00	£1,550.00	£496.00	£800
PARKS	£4,139.00	£4,175.00	£36.00	£15,650
PR	£1,650.00	£1,650.00	£0.00	£750
GENERAL MAINTENANCE	£4,880.00	£5,000.00	£120.00	£5,500
GRANTS	£2,750.00	£2,750.00	£0.00	£5,600
SUBS	£396.00	£475.00	£79.00	£495
	£23,294.00	£24,550.00	£1,256.00	£38,145

* Further £10,000 earmarked for future years playground Equipment

INCOME	Actual	Budget	Difference	Reason
Precept	£24,498.00	£24,498.00	£0.00	
Localised Council Tax Grant from WDC	£382.00	£382.00	£0.00	
Internment/Memorial Fees	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00	
Speen Playing Fields (ROSPA)	£0.00	£65.00	-£65.00	
Bank Interest	£20.00	£12.00	£8.00	
Devolved Services	£3,600.00	£3,600.00	£0.00	
Parish Paths Scheme (Chiltern Society)	£781.00	£781.00	£0.00	
	£29,381.00	£29,338.00	£43.00	

EXPENDITURE / INCOME RECONCILIATION	Actual	
INCOME	£29,381.00	
EXPENDITURE	£28,082.00	
	£1,299.00	Balance to reserves