

LACEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

INFORMAL MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 14th APRIL 2014

Present: Councillors, Mrs Cathryn Davies, Mr Roger Craft, Mrs Miv Hughes, Mr Dennis Claydon, Mr David Clay, 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:-
“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

Our long term aim is to completely update the playground within the Lacey Green and Loosley Row Sports Club, and this financial year we undertook to replace the surface under the climbing frame and replace the swing seats.

This was achieved in the summer of last year and we have received positive feedback from the many users of the equipment.

The Garden of Rest and the War Memorial within, will see a celebration this coming year, in June, when we will be holding a dedication service at the War Memorial remembering the commencement of World War 1.

We are inviting members of the Parish to both the service and an afternoon tea in Lacey Green and Loosley Row Memorial Hall afterwards

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, approximately 35 on building matters and 20 on tree culture, this is surely a sign that we are taking note of our environment and looking after the trees within the parish

In line with the number of applications we receive, we have now set up a Planning Committee comprising Councillor Claydon, Councillor Molesworth and Councillor Sherlock to discuss and decide on responses for applications relating to Lacey Green and Loosley Row and Councillor Craft and Councillor Clay to discuss and decide on responses for applications relating to Speen.

This has worked very well to date, a great deal of time has been freed up at our meetings, with just the responses being confirmed at our meetings

Our annual precept, again this year, was not increased and last years 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

Councillor Molesworth continues to work on planning consultation issues, issued from both Wycombe District Council and the Government and Councillor Sherlock represents the parish at a many meetings and sits on the committee of the WDALC

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 clerk for their help and assistance through the year “

REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DENNIS CLAYDON ON THE GARDEN OF REST

It is pleasing to report the Garden of Rest is in good shape. With the coming of Spring, the mowing season has commenced, transforming the turf into stripped patterns.

The new War Memorial, replacing the former Memorial Gates, commemorating the ex Sunday School boys who gave their lives in both World Wars, was completed last year.

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We are currently preparing for the dedication service, to be held on Sunday 8th June this year. Although the Memorial commemorates men from the village who were resident here well over a century ago, a number of relatives have been traced. Some of these still live locally. Other representatives, who are keen to attend the ceremony, are from as far afield as Gloucestershire and North Wales.

Thanks must go to our maintenance team, who keep the grounds in good condition. Very special thanks also to our Clerk, for the ongoing task of administration.

It is perhaps appropriate to record the sad passing of Gordon May, in January of this year. For well over 50 years, Gordon had been associated with the Methodist Church. Over that time, he held many official positions within the Church. Amongst these was the position of Cemetery Steward. When the Cemetery was threatened with closure in 2001, it was Gordon who approached the Parish Council to take over the running of the Cemetery. The idea was to keep it open, not only for the residents of Lacey Green and Loosley Row, but for the whole Parish. It was he who suggested the renaming of the Cemetery to the Garden of Rest. He was most appreciative of our efforts and was deeply interested in the new Memorial. He would have liked to attend the dedication ceremony, however, that was not to be. It is fitting, therefore, that his last resting place should be in the Garden of Rest.

PARISH ACCOUNTS AND PRECEPT

Copies of the Estimates Summary which showed the actual spend £22606.40 against the budget £25,000.00 in the financial year 2013/2014 and the proposed budget for the year 2014/2015 of £24,498.00 were distributed

Vice- Chairman Cllr Roger Craft explained the makeup of the precept. The Parish Council has requested an amount of £24,498.00. The precept has remained virtually the same for eight years. The District Council will give a reduced grant of £382 in response to the reduction in tax base for the Localised Council Tax Scheme for the year 2014/2015. 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.

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OPEN FORUM – No questions were raised

There being no further questions, the meeting closed at 7.25pm