

LAWLEY AND OVERDALE PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Unit 2 West Centre Way
On Tuesday 3rd March 2015

PRESENT:

Cllr. Alan Hussey, Cllr. Darren Blackburn, Cllr. Rob Parker, Cllr. Richard Long, Cllr Tony Proctor, Cllr. Deb Crane, Cllr Stephanie Morley

CLERK:

Sharon George

IN ATTENDANCE:

Helen Barker (Assistant Clerk)

Lauren Wood-Bennett (Assistant Clerk)

2014/146 CHAIR'S WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He extended a particular welcome to the new Assistant Clerks that commenced their employment on 2nd March and were attending their first Council meeting

2014/147 APOLOGIES

No apologies received

2014/148 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Interest	Declaration	Minute no.
Stephanie Morley	Lawley Community Centre	Chairperson of Puddleducks Under Fives, tenants at Lawley Community Centre	2014/153

2014/149 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None present

2014/150 MINUTES

The minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd January 2015 were **APPROVED**. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be signed and **ADOPTED** as a true record. This was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Darren Blackburn and **SECONDED** by Cllr. Tony Proctor.

**Cllr Parker asked for an update on item 2014/132 of the minutes relating to the Old Park PIYC bid as to whether it had gone forward or been successful. The Clerk advised that notification had been circulated to Members stating that the bid had been successful and that the Parish contribution had been well received. The residents at Old Park are delighted and passed their sincere thanks to the Councillors. A notice of intended works has been posted on the website and on noticeboards.*

2014/151 Elections/Ward information

Members were reminded about the new ward breakdown for nominations which is Central Ward- 4 nominees, Lawley Ward – 2 nominees, West Ward- 1 nominee and a new ward of Dawley Bank – 1 nominee. The clerk is to attend a briefing regarding the forthcoming election on the 18th March and will inform Councillors of the process for nomination after that. It may be that a separate meeting is required to establish which Wards members are going to stand for – this will be decided as more information becomes available. Councillors asked if maps showing the boundary changes with Parish wards visible were now available and the Clerk advised that they are expected within the next couple of weeks.

After discussing the parishes' information that had been made available a discussion followed regarding representation of Councillor numbers for the electorate in the Parish. Looking at the information we had there seemed to be no obvious formula as to how it was worked out. The Members asked the clerk to check with NALC and Democratic Services regarding:

- When will the number of Parish Councillors increase to meet the needs of its electorate?

- What is the criteria/formula that decides how many Councillors each Parish should have?
- Are there any costs to the Parish if a Community Governance review is held?

Councillor Crane suggested that perhaps we should initiate a review or at least to continue the debate regarding proportionate representation for our increasing number of residents. The Clerk will gain what information she can and it will be an agenda item at the next full council meeting.

ACTION:

Clerk is to obtain Boundary Maps showing Parish wards

Clerk is to contact NALC & Democratic Services for information regarding a Community Governance review

2014/152 PET UPDATE

The Clerk advised that TWC are in agreement to continue our arrangement with them for a one year term for the PET for 2015/16 with full costs plus the outstanding monies from 2014/15 to be paid in full by March 2016 as discussed at the precept budget meeting.

The continuation of the PET went forward on a majority vote and it is important to ensure that the electorate are fully aware of this scheme and what works are being done in the Parish. Cllr Parker stated that the PET works should be shared with a wider audience and that updates should be placed on the website, noticeboards etc. more frequently. Cllr Long commented that the existing noticeboards are not located in the most accessible places and that they need replacing which is something that can be looked at and costed.

The Clerk advised that whilst we can carry forward any unspent 'PET materials budget' that it would be preferable if we could decide upon expenditure and commit the funds. A discussion followed regarding possible gateway signage/flower boxes at strategic points in the parish to denote specific areas.

ACTION: The clerk is to contact Public Realm and seek advice regarding placement of signs, permissions, locations and costs.

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is requested that the public and press should not be present

2014/153 COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Lawley Community Centre

The Clerk reported that we are no further forward with the Lease agreement as the meeting requested with James Dunn, Marc Jones & Chris Goulson (TWC Officers) to discuss the options available to move this forward has not happened in the last month but is scheduled for Monday 9th March.

The Community grant agreement will be held in abeyance until this meeting has taken place and the Clerk will inform Rachael Jones accordingly.

A robust discussion took place between members regarding the options available to us moving forward and after lengthy discussion the Members decided:

- It needs to be made very clear to TWC the difficulties we face in financing the facility year on year and the proportionate cost within our budget – if they could come to some agreement that instead of a full repairing lease that some type of match funding arrangement could be considered would be helpful.
- The car parking element of the shared site is not acceptable and the school have requested changes and we feel that moving forward this needs to be addressed for the benefit of all parties
- We have the option to 'walk away' but if that were to be the outcome then we would insist that current users hire agreements are honoured for a minimum 12 month period by TWC

Cllr Hussey and the Clerk are to meet with TWC in the first instance on 9th March and present the options as discussed as being available and report back the response from TWC. So as not to delay the lease process any further than it already has been, an extraordinary meeting may be called for all Members to deliberate any outcomes

Tenders regarding caretaking, key-holding and cleaning at Lawley Community Centre

This item was deferred to the earliest available meeting following the TWC meeting on 9th March when an outcome regarding the leasing arrangements should be clearer

2014/154 PARISH LIGHTING

The Clerk reported that no further information has been made available since we met with TWC Lighting Team on 12th January.

The Clerk was asked to again chase up a current lighting map of the Parish, check status regarding agreements for April 2015 onwards and check the replacement column on Bellpit Road is in the process of replacement.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Lighting team regarding map, agreements and lamp replacement

2014/155 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Lawley Community Centre – Works/lease
- Elections/Wards
- PET Team
- Fun Run

2014/156 CORRESPONDENCE

- The Clerk advised that she had been invited to a Newdale Stakeholders meeting on 9th March which she would attend prior to the meeting with TWC

2014/157 FINANCE

Payments were approved by members tabled at meeting.

- The Clerk also advised Members that the registration for the CILCA qualification had expired and that she was prepared to pay the additional fee of £250 personally as she had not completed the modules in the time allowed. The Council suggested that this would perhaps be an incentive to get the qualification completed and that upon successful completion that they would reimburse the costs. The clerk agreed that this was fair in the circumstances and thanked them for their understanding as to why it had not been completed on time.
- Cllr Hussey asked the question if IT equipment could be purchased as soon as possible for the two Assistant Clerks. Following a discussion it was decided that a £700 maximum budget would be available for the purchase of two laptops with cases and any other associated IT equipment to facilitate their roles. This was proposed by Cllr Parker and agreed by all Members.

2014/158 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **NOTED** that the next parish council meeting would take place on **TUESDAY 7th April 2015 at Leonard Smith House, West Centre Way commencing at 6.30pm**

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed..... Chair

Date.....