

Minutes of the Full Council meeting of LYMM PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 7.30pm in Lymm Village Hall

- Councillors:
- * Cllr A Johnstone (Chair)
 - * Cllr J Stansfield (Deputy Chair)
 - * Cllr B Barr
 - * Cllr C East
 - * Cllr G Gowland
 - * Cllr I Marks
 - * Cllr C Oakley
 - Cllr K Rurlander
 - * Cllr B Selwood
 - Cllr S Sharma
 - * Cllr S Towndrow

 - * denotes attendance

Also in attendance: Kerry Duffin (Clerk to the Council)

287. Welcome, introductions and housekeeping

The meeting was opened at 7.30pm by Cllr Johnstone and housekeeping detailed.

288. Apologies for absence

Councillors Rurlander and Sharma submitted apologies, as did Daren Dennis (PCSO, Cheshire Constabulary).

289. Code of Conduct - Declaration of Interest

289.1. Members were reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or prejudicial interest that they may have had in any item of business on the agenda no later than when the item was reached.

289.2. Councillors were also reminded of the Code of Conduct and the Nolan Principles.

290. Public Open Forum

Nine members of the public were in attendance.

Richard Pearce from Lymm Community Energy spoke about the planning application for a solar farm on Whiteleggs Lane. The update included the communication with neighbours about access, parking and installation.

Three members of the Traffic and Speeding Working Group attended in support of a letter being sent to Warrington Borough Council.

Another resident raised the climate and environment emergency declaration which was made in 2019, asking whether it would be pertinent to be reviewed.

291. Police and PCSOs

The standard template was used for the report which was tabled for March's activity.

292. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Full Council meeting on 12th March 2024 were approved as accurate and signed by the Chair.

293. Update on actions from previous meetings:

Agenda item	Action point	Lead	Update
99	Draft Defibrillator Policy to be tabled at the next available meeting	Clerk	Pending
188	Set up the first Jubilee Legacy meeting	Clerk	Delegated to Events Committee
195	Follow up tree work needs at the Sunken Gardens	Clerk	Tree officer visited 27 th March 2024
324	Register Oughtrington Community Centre as an asset of community value	Clerk	Pending
43	Set next Business Liaison meeting	Clerk	Pending date approval
71.4	Open CCLA account and transfer £85k	Clerk	Pending elections
162	Contact Peel Holdings and query the decision to offer discounts based on the WA13 0 or WA13 9 postcode	Clerk	Pending reply
242	Write to Baroness Lea about using Lymm in her title	Cllr Stansfield and Clerk	Replies received and on the agenda. Remove.
265	Order additional batteries for the speed indication device	Clerk	Ordered. Remove.
266	Update the sign at the top of the dingle steps	Clerk	In process
267	Plant trees to make the Parish Council carbon neutral	Clerk	In process
268	Confirm the sites for the wildflowers in Lymm with Warrington Borough Council	Clerk	Completed. Remove.
269	Arrange for the cobbles at The Cross to be reset	Clerk	In process
275	Inform Warrington Borough Council about the road closure costs for Transport Day	Clerk	Completed. Remove.
278	Arrange for the asbestos removal at Sow Brook allotments	Clerk	Pending quote.
279	Arrange for the paper cup recycling scheme to be rolled out through the Business Liaison group	Clerk	Pending date for the next meeting
281	Submit an asset of community value application for the Bridgewater Club	Clerk	Completed. Remove.
282	Write to Warrington Borough Council about funding from HS2 being cascaded to Parish Councils for projects. Cllr Towndrow to send a draft to the Clerk.	Clerk and Cllr Towndrow	Cllrs Towndrow to meet with Clerk to review the letter drafted by Cllr Towndrow. Clerk requested the attendance of a third party at the meeting. Cllr Oakley volunteered.

294. Updates from Committee Meetings

Committee Minutes are approved at the relevant Committee. Recommendations from meetings appear later on the agenda.

294.1. Planning Committee

294.1.1. Minutes from the latest meetings were received.

294.1.2. Updates were made on a major application in Statham which has been referred to DMC, an application for Greygarth for which the Parish Council has removed its objections and the solar farm on Whiteleggs Lane which the Parish Council objected to. Councillor Marks added the value in talking to neighbours when submitting planning applications.

294.1.3. Cllr Barr updated the importance of the Parish Council sending a representative to DMC meetings when objections have been raised. A discussion took place about SIX:56 and the next steps in the inquiry. SWP may need to meet again to look at how to respond and get involved.

294.2. Staffing Committee

294.2.1. The two vacant posts are currently open for applications with a timetable for recruitment set. Shortlisting will take place next week.

294.3. Environment Committee

294.3.1. No update was made.

294.4. Resources Committee

294.4.1. Minutes from the latest meetings were received.

294.4.2. No further update was made as the recommendations are on the agenda.

294.5. Events Committee

294.5.1. No update was made as the committee has not met.

295. Monthly Finance

295.1. Schedule of Accounts

RESOLVED: March's accounts will be presented for approval at the May meeting.

295.2. Approval of Payment of Invoices

RESOLVED: Council approved recent and future payment of invoices as detailed in the table.

296. Updates from Borough Councillors

An update was made relating to the Elastomer site on Birchbrook Road. A temporary pump has been installed following a collapsed drain on Pepper Street which has been causing some noise pollution for residents.

Resources Committee recommendations, to consider:

297. Grant applications 2024-25 – Round 1

Declarations of interest were received from Cllrs Johnstone and Marks in respect of Lymm Festival and Cllr Selwood for Lymm in Bloom. **RESOLVED:** After much discussion, the recommendations were accepted by a majority and therefore carried. The recommendation to review the grants process for Round 2 was made, as well as the Clerk following up grants for the purpose of room hire with the internal auditor.

Organisation	Amount requested	Amount recommended	Notes
Lymm Festival	£595	£595	
4 th Lymm Scouts	£110	£110	
Lymm Artists Group	£371.96	£280	
Lymm Gardening Club	£270	£170	

May Queen Festival	£2,450	£1,609	Subject to a revised application form and satisfactory bank statements being presented at April's Full Council
Lymm in Bloom – 1	£300	£0	Both applications were reviewed together
Lymm in Bloom – 2	£1,240	£700	LPC will pay for the extra plants directly from the plants budget
Maple Lodge Art Group	£200	£200	
Lymm Community Radio CIC / MIX 56	£3,500	£1,000	
Lymm Round Table	£1,136	£1,136	
Lymm Rugby Club	£1,500	£0	
Lymm Rocks	£200	£200	
TOTAL	£11,873	£6,000	

New items considered:

298. Neighbourhood Plan consultant

The Neighbourhood Plan working group was presented with three quotes from consultants to complete the draft neighbourhood Plan in preparation for consultation and referendum. **RESOLVED:** Kirkwell's were selected as the preferred supplier at a cost of £8,100 + VAT. The Clerk will adjust the timetable with the consultant. The Clerk will submit a grant application to Locality once the funding stream re-opens.

299. Zero Hour

RESOLVED: Council to sign up to Zero Hour - the campaign for the Climate and Nature Bill - formerly the CE Bill and the CEE Bill – a plan for a new UK law that addresses the full extent of the climate and nature crisis in line with the most up-to-date science. The Bill is the only proposed legislation before the UK Parliament that ensures a comprehensive and joined-up approach to the emergency. A list of Councils that have already signed up to the cause can be found at <https://www.zerohour.uk/councils/>

300. Martyn's Law Working Group

RESOLVED: Council approved the Terms of Reference for a new working group.

301. Hanging baskets and planters

RESOLVED: Due to time constraints and decisions for the season, Council delegated the final decision for the plants and flowers budget for 2024 to the Chair of the Environment Committee and Clerk. The annual budget is £6,324 with £577.60 already approved for wildflowers. The remaining budget will be used for hanging baskets, planters and plants from local nurseries, including those used by Lymm in Bloom.

302. Sunken Gardens naming and signage

RESOLVED: A proposal for a sign at the Sunken Gardens has been received from Lymm in Bloom. Council considered the document, and suggested the removal of the word 'sunken' from the title.

303. Flagpole

RESOLVED: Due to the flagpole being damaged, an assessment of the current pole and infrastructure will be carried out by Harrison Flagpoles at a cost of £170 + VAT. This will also include the possibility of moving the flagpole to enable the Christmas tree and the flagpole to be in situ at the same time.

Harrison Flagpoles are specialists in flags, flagpoles and banner pole solutions for homes, businesses and public spaces and their UK manufacturing facility produces over 15,000 poles a year.

304. Ill health insurance

This discussion will be taken to the next Staffing Committee.

305. Staff pay scales

RESOLVED: Staff to rise to the next level on their pay scales, with effect from 1st April 2024, as detailed in staff contracts.

306. AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return)

The dates for the annual accounts and audit have been confirmed, with a submission deadline of 1st July 2024.

Updates to previous agenda items:

307. Baroness Lea of Lymm

RESOLVED: A response has been received. Council will respond updating the Baroness about the climate emergency and inviting the Baroness to support Zero Hour.

308. Scaffolding incident

RESOLVED: The follow up to the report of a car being damaged during the scaffolding removal was tabled with Council not wishing to take any further action.

309. Chair’s Communications

Thanks were extended to all fellow Councillors for their support during a challenging term. Cllr Barr is stepping down from Parish and Borough Council and will be missed.

310. Clerk’s Communications

310.1. Three reports of anti-social behaviour at Lymm Dam toilet have been reported to the police since March 18th and one incident of the flowers being stolen from the planter has not been reported. The toilet is now being closed at 3pm to avert further incidents.

310.2. The QEII memorial tree was planted on Wednesday March 27th. A plaque will be ordered and installed.

310.3. The Clerk has stood down as a trustee of Oughtrington Community Centre, and a Councillor will take up the role following the elections. Thanks were extended to the Clerk.

311. Date of next meetings and items for the next agenda

Staffing Committee	29 th April 2024, 4.30pm – Lymm Village Hall
Planning Committee	30 th April 2024, 6pm – Lymm Village Hall
Full Council	14 th May 2024, 7.30pm – Lymm Village Hall

Agenda item	Action point	Lead
99	Draft Defibrillator Policy to be tabled at the next available meeting	Clerk
188	Take the Jubilee Legacy meeting to the Events Committee	Clerk
195	Follow up tree work visit at the Sunken Gardens	Clerk
324	Register Oughtrington Community Centre as an asset of community value – prepare the map	Clerk

43	Set next Business Liaison meeting	Clerk
71.4	Open CCLA account and transfer £85k	Clerk
162	Chase Peel Holdings and query the decision to offer discounts based on the WA13 0 or WA13 9 postcode	Clerk
282	Write to Warrington Borough Council about funding from HS2 being cascaded to Parish Councils for projects. Cllr Towndrow to send a draft to the Clerk	Clerk and Cllr Towndrow
298	Contact the working group and the consultants with the decision about the Neighbourhood Plan	Clerk
299	Sign up to Zero Hour	Clerk
300	Set up the first Maryn's law working group	Clerk
301	Arrange a meeting with the Chair and Clerk to plan the flowers for the year	Clerk
302	Contact Lymm in Bloom about the signage	Clerk
303	Arrange a site visit from Harrison's about the flagpole	Clerk
304	Delegate ill health insurance to the Staffing Committee	Clerk
307	Write to Baroness Lea	Clerk and Cllr Stansfield