

MINUTES OF LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL EXTRA MEETING

Held on Monday 12th April 2021 at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom

PRESENT: Parish Cllrs. Len Arthur, Jane Waller, Sue Kent, Maurice Hillier, Helen Woodfield, David Jackson, and Tim Coomer. Also, in attendance was Deputy Leader of Test Valley Borough Council Nick Adams King, clerk to the council, Sue Holder and 26 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Johnson sent her apologies.

20/075 A two-minute silence was held in memory of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

20/076 At the Annual Parish Meeting on the 29th March the electorate of Lockerley Parish voted in support of the following:

*The Parish Council have voted not to seek independent legal advice at this time. Given the complexities of this matter and local public opinion on the proposed position of the mast would the Council be prepared to appoint a professional surveyor to advise and assist discussions?**

Initial enquires have established that a firm such as BCM, who have an office in Sutton Scotney, would be able to provide such advice and would act for the Parish Council. BCM have expertise in relation to the siting of telecommunications masts in rural locations. The surveyor spoken to, Hanna Rickards, stated that it is normal practice for their agreed fees to be paid direct to them by the Utility Companies seeking rights over land. Having regard to the fact GallifordTry has said they would fund £1500+VAT to cover such fees would this not be a sensible way forward?

α) Chairman's update on communications with BCM

The Chairman reported that the following information had been requested of BCM:

- 1) Could BCM ask GallifordTry to look at other sites around the village?
- 2) Could BCM provide some facts regarding suitability of potential sites?
- 3) What grounds are acceptable for rejecting the sites put forward?
- 4) What are the costs associated with providing the above information?
- 5) Also, if alternative sites are rejected by Galliford Try, and they proceed with an application to put the mast on the village green how can BCM help the Parish Council, and associated costs with this?
- 6) Could BCM act on behalf of the parish council if there was a tribunal? What are the implications of losing our case with regards Galliford Try costs, and again what would be BCM costs be?

At the time of the meeting, the chairman had not received a response from BCM.

β) The parish council vote.*

The parish council voted in support of appointing a professional Surveyor but also felt it would be good practice to get the opinion of an alternative surveyor to BCM.

20/077 Telephone Mast Committee.

a) Cllr Arthur proposed the Telephone Mast Committee members as Cllrs Coomer (Chair), Hillier and Waller, and Peter Funnell, Liz Davies and Henry Boler. No other suggestions were put forward and the parish council voted in support.

b) Cllr Arthur, in line with the Local Government Act 1972 s102, proposed terms of reference for the Telephone Mast Committee. As no further proposals were put forward at this meeting, the terms of reference were agreed, as attached to these minutes.

20/078 Update from meetings attended

- Cllr Adams King reported that he and Cllr Johnson had met with Cllrs Arthur and Coomer to consider alternative sites for the telecommunications mast. The alternative sites were all considered to have their merits and the Planning Officers at Test Valley Borough Council have been advised.
- There was no update from the Planning Department to report at this meeting, however the proposal has now been brought to the attention of the Chief Executive of Test Valley Borough Council.
- Caroline Nokes, MP has arranged to meet the Head of Public Affairs of O2 in Lockerley.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm.