

Lockerley Parish Council

Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Present: Jane Waller (JW) Tim Coomer (TC) Len Arthur (LA) Caroline Loveridge (CA) Peter Funnell (PF), Alison Johnston (AJ) - for the beginning of the meeting. Also present was minute taker Alex Walker.

9 members of the public

Apologies: Nick Adams-King

1. Nominations:

Only 5 nominations were received from the following candidates for the 7 available vacancies on Lockerley Parish Council - Len Arthur, Tim Coomer, Peter Funnell, Caroline Loveridge and Jane Waller. The council will run with 5 councillors in the short term and not co opt new councillors until a good working relationship has been established with the new council. The position of clerk will be advertised. A notice informing parishioners of the new councillors will go on the village websites.

2. Election of Chair: Jane Waller was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected Chair

3. Election of Vice Chair: Peter Funnell was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected Vice Chair

4. Notifications of Members Pecuniary Interests: New forms will need to be completed by all councillors, then scanned and returned to TVBC

5. Declarations of Interest: None

6. Approve Minutes: The minutes from the meeting on Monday 13th March 2023 were approved, signed and dated

7. Matters Arising from those Minutes: None

8. Open Forum: Comments and questions from members of the public present.

There were questions around footpaths and rights of way, the new working relationship with LPC and East Dean Parish Council and the replacement bench on Top Green. Spotted in Lockerley facebook group were mentioned and thanked for publicising meetings over the past 9 months. There are ongoing issues with Aster and sewage/wastewater removal which Nick Adams-King is still pursuing.

9. Dates for Future Meetings:

26th June, 11th September, 13th November, 8th January 2024, 11th March 2024, April 8th 2024 - Annual Parish Meeting and 13th May 2024 - AGM

10. Finance: Year-end accounts to be approved and annual return signed.

a) The meeting agreed to apply for an external audit waver

b) The meeting agreed to appointment Paul Reynolds as Internal Auditor

c) The meeting approved payments to:

Flexible Heating Services - for fixing plumbing in the parish rooms	£324
Replacement Bench on Top Green -	£375
Village Hall hire for meetings	£72
HALC - Annual Membership fee	£340.49

The money passed from the Lockerley Greens Society is in the deposit account but needs to be itemised as a separate amount and ring fenced for the greens

A VAT refund for just under £1,200 has been applied for from HMRC

There are unpaid bills from TVBC for litter and dog bin emptying. Tim to check how many bins and how much for each bin.

11. Highways: Outstanding issues - none

12. Greens and Open Spaces: Footpaths and Lengthsman.

Jane Waller gave a report:

Greens

The annual survey has been completed. Some work is scheduled, some has been completed and future tasks will be discussed and programmed.

The cutting programme began later this year due to the contractor's machine breaking down. The resulting abundance of wildflowers was appreciated.

Repairs needed to the unadopted/unmade road around Lockerley Green.

Brambles removed from Top Green.

Bench completely renovated on Top green.

Hedges

The hedge cutting season is now over until autumn.

We were just within the time limits to complete the hedge cutting on the area around Lockerley Green railway bridge. Replanting of about 50 native, hedgerow whips to fill in the gaps. Cutting back of brambles on the bank adjacent to the houses.

Trees

Tree work was also undertaken on the top section of Lockerley Green. Remaining beech trees now revealed.

One of the 10 flowering trees on Butts Green has died and needs to be replaced.

Permission was granted for one of those trees to be adopted as a memorial.

Late Queen's 70 th Jubilee. Memorial tree also discussed.

Ditches

HCC were sent a report of locations of many culverts in Lockerley: postcodes and photos included. Suggested a whole day in the village to clear the under-road pipes.

Some work has been completed.

Lengthsman

The programme has been approved for the coming year.

£1000 has been allocated to our parish.

April 2022: Tote Hill Common and adjacent footpath cleared.

May 2022: Public benches washed and oiled.

June and July 2022: Nothing scheduled.

August 2022: Parish Room hedge cut at end of the month.

September and October: Nothing scheduled.

November 2022: Memorial Hall hedge cut and ditch cleared.

December 2022: Fp 16 cleared (Butts Green to Critchell's Green.)

Also, the undergrowth at the corner of Dunbridge Lane cut back.

January 2023: Nothing scheduled.

February 2023: Brambles cleared on Top Green.

March 2023: Footpath 19a cleared (The Banks to Tote Hill)

Also, some brambles removed in Glebe Field near the river.

April 2023: Nothing scheduled.

May 2023: Washing and oiling of public benches.

Footpaths

I always ask for information from you regarding the condition of the 30 miles of footpaths in our parish. The fenced in footpaths can become heavily

overgrown and, on occasions, become completely impassable. Stiles break, especially the bottom foot boards. We can help with this work and can liaise with the landowners regarding repairs.

Hampshire Countryside Service

After many cutbacks and reductions in personnel we do now have a new Community Engagement Ranger.

Community Engagement Ranger: Corinne Davis-Cooke

The last time we had a ranger active in our parish was in 2016 when we installed the metal kissing gate on Footpath 16. The boardwalk was installed on Footpath 6 and negotiations begun with School farm regarding footpath 7. I shall begin discussions with Corinne soon. We hope to meet and work with her on relevant projects.

13. Other outstanding issues: Applications for financial support: How can these be supported?

a) Memorial Hall - There may be grants available for the upkeep of the village hall. This will be investigated.

b) Lockerley fete - After a gap of a few years there will be a Lockerley Village Fete again this year on 17th June on Butts Green. Phil Webb is on the organising committee and asked if the parish council could support the fete financially in some way to help with set up costs. East Dean Parish Council chair offered the use of their big gazebo and LPC are willing to purchase and possibly store some more gazebos. To be costed.

c) The Newsletter - The meeting agreed to sponsor an issue of the Thorngate Benefice Newsletter

d) Parish Room - This has been cleared of excess furniture and needs to be painted, cleaned and the access path made safe. To be discussed at a future meeting. There could be a committee to oversee the parish room improvements.

e) Thorngate Village Care group - TVBC currently support with funding. The care group could bid to LPC if they would like some financial support moving forward.

14. Neighbourhood Plan - to be discussed at a future meeting

15. Planning - None

16. Correspondence: None

17. Questions on Agenda Items discussed: Public participation.

Question about the building on Mount Lane.

18. Date of Next Meeting

26th June

The meeting closed at 9:15 pm.