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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Full Meeting of Lyneham & Bradenstoke Parish Council held remotely using Microsoft Teams on Monday 7th September 2020 commencing at 8:00pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Frank Ball [FB], Liam Broughton [LB], Tim Darch [TD], Gayna Howarth [GH], Antony Jones [AJ], and Keith Webster [KW]

OFFICER PRESENT: Elizabeth Martin [EM], Clerk to the Council

CHAIR: Frank Ball

APOLOGIES: None Received

CM20/055 **TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
None received. RG not in attendance.

CM20/056 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**
None received.

CM20/057 **TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A WILD-FLOWER GARDEN AT LOCATION 51.513947, -1.981666 (LAYBY ON B4069) BASED ON THE THREE QUOTATIONS RECEIVED.**
Council confirmed they had reviewed the quotes.

GH proposed Barry Holeman (BH Wildflower). This was felt to be the most comprehensive and the best value for money.

Proposed GH. Seconded FB. Passed.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT Barry Holeman's Quote be accepted for the Wildflower garden.

CM20/058 **NEXT MEETING.**
The next meeting will be held on Thursday 15th September 2020 at 8:00pm. Unless otherwise notified, this and all subsequent meetings will be 'virtual' meetings in accordance with the current legislation, up to and including 5th May 2021.

Meeting Closed 8:32pm

Summary of Public Participation Section

A)

Letter Received from Senga Webster:

I am writing these bullet points in response to the wild flower bed which is to be discussed at the above meeting.

Who will maintain this flower bed? [Question 1]

No one wanted to maintain the small wooden flower boxes on 'The Green' which were covered in weeds, some were broken and were an 'eyesore' for a long time. These were only removed a few months ago. The various other flower beds dotted around the village were replanted this year and look nice now but for how long – who will weed them when they become overgrown?

Expense of maintaining a wild flower bed versus grass cutting [Question 2]

Surely the cost of purchasing wildflower seeds, employing someone for planting and watering them is far more expensive than grass cutting – this expense could cover a lot of grass cutting for that small area. The previous flower bed was painted tractor tyres which were full of weeds – they were never maintained regularly.

Who would actually benefit from a wild flower bed?

Cars would only see a 'quick glimpse' as they pass by. There is no seating in that area for walkers to sit for a while and enjoy it. Also there is no pavement on that side of the road.

The present full Parish Council is up for election next year.

I would like to think that the present Parish Council were voted back in but if this wasn't the case, the new Council may not want to maintain this flower bed and that would just be a waste of funds which could have gone to good use elsewhere.

I feel the Parish Council should be spending 'rate payers' money wisely on maintaining the village to keep it looking good and cared for and maybe people passing through would like what they see and consider living here.

I would rather see the money being spent on:

- *keeping pathways weed free*
- *keeping borders on main roads weed free – not adding to a 'weeding bill'*
- *cutting over-grown bushes on pathways*
- *cutting back grass which creeps onto the pavements running through the main roads of the village*

Responses In The Meeting

GH response to Question 1



Volunteers will maintain and water the beds. They have been planted with low maintenance plants that are reasonably drought resistant

TD response to Question 2

WC have traditionally cut the grass there but will now only cut the first metre and will address the rest only twice per year. Without the cutting it will become an eye sore. The PC would need to pay for this area to be cut and maintain whereas as a Wild-flower garden it becomes self-maintainable (mostly)

Response to Question 3

It would be hoped that a future Council would maintain. The Council also feels that this would be low maintenance. Hopefully the L&B will see this as a positive step.

Response to Question 4

EM stated that the majority of the items listed are the responsibility of the Parish Steward via Wiltshire Council.

These minutes are accepted as a true and accurate record: -

Signed frank hall _____

Date _____