

Monthly Meeting of Great Lumley Parish Council

Held on Tuesday 3rd October at 6.30pm
Great Lumley Community Centre

Present:

Cllr Phil Heaviside (Chair)

Cllr Peter Brown

Cllr Alan Bell

Cllr Anne Lambton

Cllr Mhairi Pugh

Christine Colledge (Parish Clerk)

Cllr Norman Foster

Cllr Jeremy Whiting

In Attendance: 4 members of the public

1.	Apologies Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Carol McAllister, Cllr Hayley McAllister, Cllr Michael Burdon, Cllr Neil Bains & Cllr Tim Robson.
2.	Declarations of Interest Cllr Jeremy Whiting item 6.1
3.	Public comments A member of the public spoke of his concerns regarding the gym closure and he feels that the Parish Council could maybe do more to help and asked was there anything in the horizon to assist. He feels that the public are not being made aware of what is happening with issues including the centre and the possibility of restarting the Lumley festival if enough volunteers come forward. Cllr Phil Heaviside that the gym agreement is to be discuss later in the meeting regarding how to go forward, things have been held up due to last month's abandoned meeting and the summer break in August. The Asset Transfer for the centre was also put back when DCC cancelled the meeting last month when the building was due to be signed over. Regarding the Lumley Festival, last year no volunteers came forward, the festival needs to be organised a year in advance for it to be a success. Cllr Alan Bell said it is hoped that the festival will go ahead next year. The member of the public raised the gym situation again and Cllr Alan Bell said that after meetings with the gym it was established that they were struggling to run a variable business. The Parish Council are disappointed that they learned of the closure on social media which reflects badly on the PC when the public do not know the full facts. Cllr Phil Heaviside explained that initially the gym were paying £150 per month equating to £5 per day in order to help him establish his business. This was on the understanding that this was a temporary arrangement and the rent would gradually increase to the amount that was offered from gymnastics which was the equivalent of £33 per day (£1000 per month). The gyms rent was raised in May 2022 to £300 per month (£10 per day) it was raised again in January 2023 (to £500 per month (£16.40 per day). Their last agreement which was sent out in July 2023 to raise the rent to £750 per month (£25 per day) was not acceptable to them. All of the monthly rent included the utility costs and rates. Christine Colledge explained that after the gym had met with Cllr's to try to come to an agreement emails had been exchanged asking for an update on a decision from the Parish Council, emails were forwarded to all Cllr's and it was explained that any decisions regarding the agreement needed to be discussed at a Parish

	<p>meeting and because of hold ups with the abandoned meeting and the August Summer break it had taken longer than anticipated. During this time the gym were continuing to pay the £500 per month but then announced closing the gym on Facebook.</p> <p>A member of the public said the there was always enough volunteers for the Lumley Festival and funding needs to be in place and a committed committee in place in order for it be a success.</p>
4.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>Minutes from the previous meetings held on 4th July and 5th September were agreed and signed.</p>
5.	<p>Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>Cllr Jeremy Whiting said that in a previous meeting a member of the public expressed his interest in becoming a MG Trustee, however his email had not been received because of a technical error on his part. His family have since said that he is not up to standing as a trustee. Cllr Mhairi Pugh said that the matter of the paths at the top of Sevenacres had improved.</p>
6.	<p>Environment and Community</p> <p>Item 7.3 MK Sports potential youth hub was brought forward – 2 representatives discussed their proposal to utilise the Centre for various classes including a youth hub and sport for all ages and levels of fitness. Information regarding their proposal was handed out for the Parish Council’s consideration. They were asked to email the Parish their proposal as it asks to use the whole building, Cllr Alan Bell said that asset transfer may not allow subletting the building.</p> <p>6.1 Millennium Green – Cllr Jeremy Whiting explained that at least 2 trustees need to remain, he has been doing a lot of research regarding the MG and there has been a lot of miscommunications, there had been false quotes saying that the PC wanted to tear down the MG. Cllr Peter Brown said that there has been a lack of communication between the MG and the PC. The current PC have always stated that they wanted to work with the MG to resolve matters. Cllr Alan Bell asked about the overhanging trees at Hazel Leigh, Cllr Jeremy Whiting said that Groundwork West Durham were awarded the contract for planting but Natural England are stakeholders in all MG’s and any changes need to go through them. No decision was made regarding the trees.</p>
7.	<p>Community Centre</p> <p>7.1 Groups – In Cllr Carol McAllister absence Christine said that some of the groups had a summer break and were now back for their usual classes.</p> <p>7.2 Asset Transfer – Cllr Phil Heaviside said that the DCC meeting on 5th Sept where matters were due to be rubber stamped was cancelled, it is now back with DCC Legal to complete the Heads of Terms. Cllr Heaviside has pushed DCC and stated that the planning permission runs out in January 2024, there is £600k to start the first phase which includes the roof. Monies that have already been paid for asset transfer have been applied for to be released, Cllr Heaviside said that the bank accounts are currently earning a considerable amount of interest.</p>

<p>8</p>	<p>Accounts:</p> <p>Income</p> <p>Room Hire 1322.50</p> <p>Total income £1322.50</p> <p>Expenditure</p> <p>Salaries 1179.92</p> <p>Zoom 15.59 (reimbursement to C. McAllister)</p> <p>HMRC Cumbernauld 169.40</p> <p>DCC Rates 1010.00</p> <p>Wix Website 120.46</p> <p>Stationary 3.00 (reimbursement to C. Colledge)</p> <p>DCC Bedding Planting 4666.78</p> <p>SEFE Gas 63.45</p> <p>Total Gas & Power Electric 23.66</p> <p>Bank Charges 27.15</p> <p>Total exp £7279.41</p> <p>Community Centre Income £1322.50 Expenditure £1943.74</p> <p>Parish Council Income £0 Expenditure £5335.67</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Personnel Sub Committee</p> <p>Christine Colledge announced that she will be resigning at the end of December 23 and an advert for the post needs to go out asap to start someone in January 2024.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Councillor Reports – to receive updates on specific areas of responsibility:</p> <p>Cllr Peter Brown said that the roads and paths are basically the same and DCC are doing repairs as the budget allows. Cllr Alan Bell said that DCC were instructed to trim the hedges at Cocken Lane but some works still need to be completed.</p> <p>Cllr Norman Foster suggested moving a litter bin from the old co-op site down to Ouse Crescent, Rivers Estate near the kissing gate. He also mentioned the problem with rats at the Rivers Estate and said that one issue is falling apples which the rats feed on. Cllr Foster said as a former employee of Rentokil that he was happy to do site visits and to advice residents of how to avoid the problem.</p> <p>Cllr Jeremy Whiting mentioned notices that had been posted around the village, these were reported to the police.</p> <p>Cllr Alan Bell said that there had been a good response to a request for volunteers to run the Lumley Festival, however there needs to be a committee to organise the event and for the Parish to assist with some funding. There is currently over £6k in a bank account for the festival.</p> <p>Cllr Alan Bell said that there had been an enquiry regarding disability football which needs to be considered.</p>
	<p>Planning applications</p>

11.	<p>No controversial plans received; Cllr Phil Heaviside said that the PC will support the planning application at Fenton Well Lane reasons are: To tidy up unsightly brown field site. Reduce the ongoing youth ASB and drug taking at the site. The sites' sustainable location near shops and bus routes. Lack of available 3 bed properly in the parish.</p>
12.	<p>Correspondence Discussed throughout the meeting. Christine Colledge spoke of the communication between the gym and the PC, although every email is acknowledged there had been a hold up to some responses because of cancelled meeting in September and it was explained that any decisions need to be agreed at a Parish meeting.</p>
13.	<p>Matters for information MK Youth proposal needs to be discussed further. Christmas Tree.</p>
14.	<p>Next meeting next meeting 7th November 2023</p>

Signed:

Councillor

Date:

Great Lumley Parish Council