

MINUTES OF LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING

Held on Monday 9th August 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Room

To consider the use of Butts Green for an "Action Against Hunger Car Boot Sale" on Sunday 19th September

PRESENT: Parish Cllrs. Michael Bowyer (Chairman) [MB], Barbara Boby [BB], Paul Butler [PB], Roger Fawcett [RF] Tim Iles [TI]. Clerk: Frances Hanks [FH]. 15 Members of the Public were present.

APOLOGIES: Bill Mc Clintock [BMc] due to holidays, Andy Harper [AH] due to holidays.

- 1) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Paul Butler declared an interest as Treasurer of the Village Hall.
- 2) **OPEN FORUM for public comment on allowing the use of Butts Green for a charity Car Boot Sale;**
 - a) **Introduction by the applicant Mrs Diana Drummond:** Diana explained that this would be a charity and not a commercial event. Bookings would be made in advance. Butts Green was the requested location as the Village Hall was booked to enable the provision of breakfasts and refreshments.
 - b) **Common Registration Act:** Mr Gerry Hewitt, Chairman of the Greens Preservation Society, stated that under the Common registration Act, the Green could only be used for sport and recreation by local inhabitants and this use may be unlawful.
 - c) **Insurance:** Gerry questioned if the applicant had adequate insurance cover which she confirmed.
 - d) **Future Demands and Precedent:** Gerry expressed concern about future further demands. The precedent issue was also raised as a concern by other residents at the meeting and by one in writing.
 - e) **Character of Village:** Concern was expressed that events of this nature would effect the character of the village.
 - f) **Number of Cars on the Green:** Concern was expressed about the likely number of cars parked on the green and the possible damage.
 - g) **Road Closure:** It was questioned whether the road in front of the Village Hall would be closed and this was confirmed by the applicant. It was also confirmed that the road closure would not affect emergency vehicles getting through if required.
 - h) **Criminal Activity:** Concern was expressed about the fact that car boot sales attract criminal activity. The applicant responded to say that booking in advance would allow some control and the intention was to restrict applicants to local people as far as possible.
 - i) **Unsuitable Activity for a Sunday:** One resident was not happy about this kind of activity taking place on a Sunday.
 - j) **Notification of meeting:** A Newtown resident was unhappy that a notice regarding the meeting had not been placed on the noticeboard at Newtown. The clerk responded that it had not been possible to advertise the meeting throughout the parish due to the time constraints of organising an extra ordinary meeting at short notice (just before she was due to go into hospital). A notice of the meeting had been displayed on the Village Hall noticeboard which satisfied the legal requirements. In addition the agenda had been hand delivered to 25 properties surrounding/close to Butts Green so that all residents likely to be affected had been notified.
- 3) **Consideration of the use of Butts Green for an Action Against Hunger Car Boot Sale:** The Chairman asked Councillors for their views before a vote was taken. 2 Councillors were for as it also benefited the village, it would be well organised and relevant control measure were in place. 2 Councillors were against due mainly to the precedent issue and also because a suitable alternative was available (Glebe Field).. The Chairman asked Councillors to consider if precedence could be controlled, for example, by limiting the number of events or on merit but no agreement was reached. The Chairman then put the resolution "To allow the use of Butts Green for a Charity Car Boot Sale" to the vote. With 2 for and 2 against, the Chairman reluctantly made the casting vote against as no agreement had been made to regulate the precedent issue. The resolution therefore was not carried.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.