

**Minutes of the Meeting of
LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL
held on Monday 24th April 2017**

PRESENT: Cllrs. T Barnes (Chair), J Stephens, M Phelps, A Toomey, S Collins, D Attrill and L Isko

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Maliphant (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr. B Robinson and District Cllr. D East.
2. There were no declarations of interest

3. Planning & Licensing

The circulated progress report on planning applications was received with thanks. After discussion it was agreed that the parish council would object to the current planning application for 28 new houses off School Lane on the grounds of the sustainability of the project. Hopebrook Primary School, Hopebrook was up to its limit on pupil places with no room for expansion, and the local doctor's surgery at Mitcheldean was also up to patient capacity, with a two week wait for an appointment with a G.P.

It was noted that Longhope parishioners were not against small housing applications of up to 9 houses, as indicated in the Neighbourhood Development Plan, but opposed to larger ones. The new developer had made some subtle changes over the previous application for 28 houses, omitting any affordable homes and replacing 4 bungalows with houses, which did not reflect the requirements of the recent housing needs survey for Longhope. They had also cancelled the car park for the church, designated as a condition by the highways authority in the previous application, despite the fact that the diocese were the owners of the land. The bat problem which had been the principal obstacle to development identified during the appeal against the last refusal of planning permission had yet to be rectified.

4. The minutes of the meeting on March 20th were agreed as a true record, with some clarification around residents' concerns about the A40, and signed accordingly.

5. Members' Reports

AT said that she had only asked an allotment holder to get a price for replacing a reported missing mower part, but then the part had been bought. It was agreed to pay the bill with thanks while clarifying the restraints of parish financial regulations. It was also agreed to review overall allotment finances at the November meeting.

AT asked about the removal of dead trees on May Hill, and the clerk confirmed the matter was in hand. It was agreed to have two sets of keys to the gates on May Hill, one to stay with the May Hill portfolio holder and the other set in the parish office. AT reported that a stallion was running riot within the enclosure on May Hill, where it had no right to be, and it was agreed to contact the National Trust to ask for their assistance. **ACTION: AM**

SC reported that in his absence the Latchen Room Management Committee had decided to move future meetings to the afternoons, which he wouldn't be able to attend. It was agreed to write to the Committee asking for this decision to be reviewed. SC had also seen deer running across the A4136 between Blaisdon and Huntley, and it was agreed to ask County Highways to consider putting up a warning sign. **ACTION: AM**

LI reported back on the Velthouse Lane site visit that had taken place that morning with County Highways officers, which would be followed by another plenary meeting after the county council elections. The clerk added that notes from the morning's meeting would act as an agenda for the second meeting, before which he would be contacting residents who owned hedges along the sightline from the Velthouse Lane exit.

LI said there had been a meeting with DE, BR and Highways England about safe access to the A40 bus stop from Hopewood Park, but no solution had yet been agreed.

6. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The new policy for recording meetings was reviewed, and the clerk was asked to research the need for any additional clauses around legal access to the tapes, as well as ensuring the tapes were backed up for the agreed three-meetings period. **ACTION: AM**

The District Council had sent a letter about the potential for a community land trust solution to local affordable housing needs. It was agreed to ask for a speaker to address the June meeting on this subject, and to publicise the event widely. **ACTION: AM**

After discussion of previously circulated drafts, it was agreed to send the following resolution to GAPTC for consideration as an item for discussion at their July AGM:

"That Gloucestershire town and parish councils support the use of housing exception sites for local affordable housing need only, without the tenant's right to buy"

7. Finance

Members confirmed the following expenditure within the neighbourhood development plan (NDP) grant budget, managed by the clerk and chairman between meetings:

M E Weeks	270.00	Proofreading the NDP
The Workshop	2616.00	NDP artwork & liaison

The following new invoices were approved for payment:

Steve House Ltd	960.00	Churchyard management
Severn Area Rescue Assn.	50.00	Contribution to service costs
PATA (UK)	22.50	Payroll costs
HMRC	12.20	PAYE
GAPTC	410.30	Annual subscription
Merlin Waste	78.90	Dog waste collection & new bin
Keith Fenton	13.44	New mower part
Andrew Maliphant	581.04	Salary - March
Andrew Maliphant	37.33	Expenses – March
Cash	50.00	Petty cash

The latest financial report was received with thanks. It was agreed to reappoint Shirley Fowler as internal auditor for the annual accounts 2016-17.

8. Next Meeting - Monday 15th May at 7 pm.

Signed:.....Chairman. Date:.....