

**Minutes of the Meeting of
LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL
held on Monday 19th February 2018**

PRESENT: Cllrs. M Phelps (Chair), L Isko, T Barnes, R Noblett and S Collins

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Maliphant (Clerk), District Councillor Dave East and 9 local residents

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. D Attrill and J Stephens, and County Councillor Brian Robinson

2. There were no declarations of interest

3. Public Forum

Concern was expressed about the lack of maintenance of storm drains, and the danger of accident if an overflow subsequently freezes. MP asked that the parish council be informed of any drains felt to be a risk.

4. Planning

The circulated progress report on planning applications was received with thanks.

After discussion of current planning applications, the clerk was asked to respond to the District Council on the following basis:

- P0128/18/FUL Conversion of building to the rear of Central Stores – no objection
- P0104/18/FUL Erection of an extension at Wyvern, Church Road – no objection
- P0095/18/HED Removal of 15 m. of hedge and replanting of 7 m. of hedge at May Hill Distribution Service Reservoir – no objection made to the landscaping proposal providing there is proper reinstatement after the work has been done, including making sure that the paths crossed by the development work are fully reinstated and also well drained. In the absence of the parish council's ability to object to the proposed development itself as it comes from a statutory undertaker, concern to be expressed about what happens when the new reservoir system is flushed, which presumably will mean more water entering the ordinary drainage network down the hill from the reservoir towards the A40, asking that the water company take the responsibility for this drainage rather than leaving it to other landowners
- P0985/17/FUL Change of use to enable an additional 24 log cabins at Blakemore Park (revised plans) – continued objection despite the reduction in number of cabins, as issues around major development outside the settlement boundary remain, as well as the lack of conformation with other key policies in the Longhope neighbourhood development plan. In addition there are concerns about whether the cabins may become first homes rather than holiday lets, and also the ability in any case for the proposal to fit within the requirements of a new caravan site licence
- P0471/17/FUL Erection of 28 dwellings on land off School Lane – objection on the basis of sustainability due to existing full capacity at the local primary school and doctor's surgery, also concerns about the nature of the building design in a conservation area, with reference to policy PE1a in the neighbourhood development plan, as well as the number of affordable homes and the amount of visitor parking

5. The minutes of the meeting on January 15th were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly.

6. Members' Reports

LI advised there was no more news yet about the A4136. She reported that DBS checks had been carried out on volunteers at the Kids Club, and the primary school had paid for first aid training for a volunteer. The Forest Gate Church minibus had been used for a club trip to the cinema, while a trip to the Folk Museum in Gloucester and a family picnic were being planned subject to raising the necessary money.

RN reported that the store of salt bags had been moved from Longhope Welding to the rear of the Latchen Room, and salt bags also given to the shop and the recreation ground. MP added he had taken half a dozen bags to the church together with the spreader, for which the churchwarden had been very grateful.

TB reported a resident's concern about mud on the footpath left by development at a house on the A4136 / Old Monmouth Road junction, and MP advised that there was only temporary permission for access across the pathway, and the ground would have to be reinstated once the work was complete.

After discussion about the previously circulated draft usage policy for May Hill, it was agreed to adopt the policy, with one change asking members of large visiting parties to share cars to May Hill from other car parks rather than fill the one by the viewing point.

7. Committee Reports

(a) Latchen Room Management Committee

SC reported that the interior decoration had been completed, and RN added there were some fixtures and fittings to be put back in place.

(b) Recreation Ground Management Committee

TB reported the committee had found that skate parks from leisure suppliers were rather expensive, and that Longhope Welding were looking at the matter. MP raised the matter of the hedge trimming offered by a local farmer, and DE said he would ask that the work be completed by the end of February, before bird-nesting time.

8. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk presented a draft training statement of intent for the parish council, which had been previously circulated and was approved.

There was discussion about the need for a new computer and file back-up system, which was agreed in principle, with the detail to be discussed between the clerk and RN due to his IT experience, and after his attendance at a forthcoming data protection course which will be very relevant to the new legal requirements for keeping data secure. **ACTION: RN/AM**

The question of a new printer brought up the question of a parish council newsletter. It was agreed to circulate for comments the draft shown by LI, and to have the newsletter as an agenda item at the next meeting. **ACTION: LI/All**

The parish council as trustees of the Rose Barton and Margaret Skelton Trust agreed that the beneficiaries of the charity should come from the whole of Longhope Parish, not just the village. After discussion it was agreed to leave the annual party as it is, with any potential beneficiary names to be shared with DE as one of the party organisers, but also to look into possibilities for other leisure activities such as coach trips. **ACTION: AM**

Following the recent tree survey report, it was agreed to put out to tender those works recommended for the coming year. **ACTION: AM**

The clerk raised the issue of a potential community land trust (CLT) for Longhope, now that the neighbourhood development plan work had finished. It was agreed to take soundings from some local residents and bring the matter to the next meeting, as well as including the CLT in the parish councillor portfolios at the annual meeting in May.

There were a number of items of correspondence, including:

- A letter about a forthcoming orienteering event, about which the clerk was asked to call the organisers for further information
- A letter from Lloyds Bank about the lack of activity on the May Hill Trust bank account, and the clerk was asked to contact the bank to discuss their concerns
- Severn Trent had written to say customers could now choose from different water company suppliers, and it was agreed to stay with Severn Trent for the time being
- The regular Councils Connected newsletter from the county council, which TB asked to receive in hard copy
- An offer from the Royal British Legion of “Silent Soldier” silhouettes which could be placed on hillsides to remind us of the soldiers coming back from the Great War. MP offered to approach the local British Legion members for their views
- A supplier’s offer for formal “village gateways” to help reduce traffic speeds, which LI offered to raise at the next Road Safety Partnership meeting

9. Finance

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Cash	50.00	Petty cash
BJ Unwin Forestry Consultancy	540.00	Tree survey
The Workshop	543.48	NDP final print
Merlin Waste	81.36	Dog waste collection
Alpha Colour Printers Ltd	92.00	NDP leaflets
Andrew Maliphant	594.86	Salary - January
Andrew Maliphant	37.33	Expenses – January

The financial report for February was received with thanks.

The clerk presented the three bids received for the parish grass cutting contract, and after discussion it was agreed to appoint Glebe Contractors to the work. **ACTION: AM**

10. Localism and Neighbourhood Plan

MP reported that at the referendum on February 15th the neighbourhood development plan (NDP) had been approved by 333 votes to 33, which represented a 29% turnout. Sincere thanks were given to the NDP steering group who had worked on the plan for over two years.

11. Next Meeting - Monday 19th March at 7 pm

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