

**Minutes of the Meeting of
LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL
held on Monday 16th January 2017**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Maliphant (Clerk), District Cllr. Dave East, County Cllr. B Robinson and 25 residents

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. A Toomey

2. There were no declarations of interest

3. Public Forum

Velthouse Lane residents presented a summary of local concerns about the lane's junction with the A4136. Points made included:

- The parish council had already voted for a 40 mph speed limit on the main road
- It was hard to see how the County Highways' proposed engineering solution of changing the traffic flow and nature of the road signage would resolve the issue
- The current 60 mph limit helps heavy vehicles get up Hopes Hill, but the proposed new layout could have cars waiting in that main lane to turn right
- The full highway verge had never been cut properly
- Nothing had happened about a safe foot crossing to the village since the issue was raised 18 months previously
- This issue had been made worse as the bus company no longer drops passengers by Velthouse Lane, so elderly residents have to walk back from the bus stop
- Could a central barrier help resolve County Highways concerns about two traffic speeds in different directions, as happens elsewhere
- Vehicles coming out of Velthouse Lane often have to make split-second decisions
- Changing highways speed signs would not be costly
- We don't seem to have the option of a speed camera
- A traffic survey at peak times is required
- This whole process has been dogged by delay, and needs to speed up, not least if something needs to go in to the Local Transport Plan by April

4. Planning & Licensing

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

After discussion, it was agreed that the parish council would make no objections to planning application P1739/16/FUL for a conservatory at Holly Tree House, Nupend Lane. Letters would be written to the District Council about the other two applications considered:

- P1582/16/FUL log cabins at Dick Whittington Farm Park – the parish council was still not happy with recent planning approval to allow longer occupation of the cabins, not least because of the housing constraints in the neighbourhood development plan, and would like the District Council to ensure the situation is properly monitored should this additional proposal be approved
- P1712/16/FUL new dwelling at the Mill House, Mill Lane – the parish council would object to this proposal as it runs counter to the neighbourhood development plan policy of no development outside the settlement boundary

5. The minutes of the meeting on November 21st were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly.

6. Members' Reports

After discussion it was agreed to write to County Highways reiterating the requirement for a 40 mph speed limit, and asking for a site visit before a further discussion at the next parish council meeting. **ACTION: AM**

It was also agreed to share County Highways' email address with Velthouse Lane residents, and to share residents' letters with BR as the county councillor. **ACTION: AM**

DA reported that County Highways are clear that the Nupend Lane drainage problem is the responsibility of Severn Trent, who would be charged by County Highways for remedial work if they didn't carry it out themselves. LI added that this had come up in the site visit with Rhodri Grey the County Highways officer, who would be emailed for an update..

A number of other highways issues were discussed with BR, who agreed to chase:

- Making Church Road a primary road for bad weather gritting rather than secondary (which gets secondary attention) due to the location of the school
- Relaying the road lanes at the Gloucester side of Hopes Hill
- Putting some councillor funds into the issue of the Latchen pavements for the financial year 2017/18
- Removing pallets from the approach road to the Dursley Cross A40 junction

CT raised the issue of increased dog fouling on footpaths in the village. BR noted that fining one person would help solve the problem, but that the street wardens needed evidence in order to prosecute. DA added there was a problem with the dog waste bin at the bottom of Nupend Lane, and it was agreed to check whether this needed replacing, and also to raise the issue of dog fouling in the next edition of the Forest Edge magazine.

ACTION: AM

7. Committee Reports

(a) Latchen Room Management Committee

SC reported that the new development was complete except for new floors. He had been asked whether anyone in the village had access to a "cherry picker" for help with the gutters, and JS offered to ask Longhope Welding. **ACTION: JS**

(b) Recreation Ground Management Committee

LI reported that the the committee would be meeting in January, and she would email the date to JS as the new parish council representative. **ACTION: LI**

8. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk reported that the Land Registry had no record of the ownership of the plot of land on May Hill, and that any records must therefore be in the hands of the Charities Committee. Following the recent site visit to the culvert off Church Road, it had been found there was no ownership record for that piece of land either, but that the farmer who

owned the adjacent field had been asked to check his records to confirm whether it was the District or County Council that had put the culvert in place.

After discussion it was agreed to amend standing order 3 (i) as previously circulated to say in relation to Public Forum “A person shall raise their hand when requesting to speak, and shall be invited to state their name and where they are from”.

There were a number of items of correspondence including:

- A letter from the Women’s Institute about the main parish notice board, and it was agreed to ask Malcolm Marshall about a possible replacement
- A circular from GAPTC asking for items for a meeting with the Police Commissioner, and it was agreed to ask for a more visible presence of a policeman on the beat
- The local GP surgery had been in touch to advise they would need to carry out staff training before confirming exactly which piece of equipment they would propose to buy in memory of Stan Stephens
- The Dean Heritage Centre had issued a call for new trustees
- The regular “Spotlight on SSSIs” newsletter from Natural England had been forwarded to AT as the parish council land at the top of May Hill is a site of special scientific interest
- Also as part of regular practice, the GPFA newsletter had been forwarded to the recreation ground committee

9. Finance

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Forest of Dean Health Forum	50.00	Contribution to outreach costs
Merlin Waste	33.90	Dog waste collection
PATA (UK)	22.50	Payroll costs
HM Revenue & Customs	12.20	PAYE
Andrew Maliphant	560.52	Salary - December
Andrew Maliphant	37.33	Expenses – December

The latest financial report was received with thanks. The previously circulated budget for 2017/18 was approved, with no increase in the level of the parish precept.

10. Localism and Neighbourhood Plan

MP said that £1,800 had been paid for an expert external opinion, which had found no major flaws in the draft neighbourhood development plan. The designer would now be asked to proceed with a final version of the plan, to which there would be no changes due to recent alterations in the District Allocations Plan. The District Council was obliged to respond to the submitted plan within six weeks, and then there is an official external examination. The target date for the referendum on the final plan was June 2017.

11. Next Meeting - Monday 20th February at 7 pm

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