

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL  
held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Maliphant (Clerk), District Councillor Dave East, County Councillor Brian Robinson and four local residents

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. A Toomey and D Attrill

2. There were no declarations of interest

### **3. Planning**

The circulated progress report on planning applications was received with thanks. Three new planning applications were discussed:

P0970/17/FUL - there were concerns that the proposed extension at High Meadows, Yartleton Lane was outside the settlement boundary and also within a locally-valued landscape.

P1093/17/TCA - no objection

P1133/17/FUL - no objection

### **4. Public Forum**

It was agreed to involve members of the recreation ground committee in the discussion around Item 7 (b).

5. The minutes of the meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup> were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly.

### **6. Members' Reports**

BR reported that the county council email system had gone down, so it would be best to reach him on his district council email address for the time being. Mark Hawthorne had been re-elected as leader of the council, and BR would be chairing the children and families scrutiny committee, where there was some work to do in response to a recent Ofsted report.

Superfast broadband now covered 88% of the county with further improvements expected. People should be advised that they can put their postcode into the "Fastershire" website to check what level of service they can expect.

BR understood that county highways would be coming back with various options for the A4136, including costs. He also wanted a report back on past discussions about the road layout at Hopes Hill. County highways would be repairing the culvert near Royal Springs, as water on the road had been a factor in recent accidents.

Working was going on to reduce flooding in Hobbs Lane. BR had pushed for some resurfacing of Church Road, which was a candidate for some of the increased county funding – any other roads needing major work should also be identified. Work had been going on at the drain near Rectory Meadow.

A site visit at Hopewood Park around access to the nearby bus stop had found that a separate entrance through the park seemed to be the best solution. The owner had been asked to do this, with a supportive letter from residents and the offer of county help with any costs, and had gone away to consult his insurers. DE offered to follow up with him.

SC reported back from the GAPTC AGM that the parish council's resolution "*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*" had been passed unanimously. The police superintendent had advised that there would be a new community policing strategy in rural areas.

LI said that the new neighbourhood policing sergeant for the Forest of Dean had attended the recent road safety partnership meeting. There was a video on You Tube about the "no mobile while mobile" campaign.

## 7. Committee Reports

### (a) Latchen Room Management Committee

SC said there was no more news as yet about work on the Latchen Room guttering. RN added that the AGM would take place in August.

### (b) Recreation Ground Management Committee

JS reported back from discussions at the committee meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup> about proposed changes to the recreation ground rules. The committee had been happy with the proposed changes, but wished to place on record that they had always abided by the tenets of the original version. The parish council unanimously confirmed the new version, which had been circulated in advance.

There was some discussion about other points that had been raised recently, including:

- Publishing notices for the recreation ground AGM (already posted)
- Appointment of resident representatives at the AGM
- Hiring rules for user groups (already in place)
- PAT testing of electrical equipment (done)
- Sharing risk assessments and the current insurance certificate
- Concerns around the annual motor show (the organisers know they have to have their own insurance, and know heavy vehicles are only allowed if the ground is dry)

It was agreed to provide the recreation ground committee with a key to the parish noticeboard, and also a copy of the insurance certificate. **ACTION: AM**

The recreation ground secretary asked that further queries come to the recreation ground committee meeting as the appropriate body, rather than the full parish council.

MP raised the question of the £10,000 raised for youth club facilities, as it was not known what it had been spent on. It was hoped that the youth club leader would come to the AGM to provide further details.

## 8. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk raised the question of who would reply on behalf of the parish council to the current county highways survey, and LI offered to take it on.

The clerk reported on a second year of issues around the parish grass cutting, as the contractors only seemed to have carried out two cuts rather than the four expected by this date. Investigation had found that the operational manager thought the grass had to be cut six-weekly rather than monthly as laid out in the contract, and the most recent cut made after the clerk's prompting had not been up to standard. After discussion it was agreed to give notice to the contractors under the terms of the contract, using the council's call-off contractors for the rest of the summer, and to re-tender the contract next year.

**ACTION: AM**

No response had been received from the enquiry to GAPTC about the audio recording policy, so the clerk would contact the Society of Local Council Clerks. **ACTION: AM**

The clerk reported back on a presentation about community land trusts he had attended with MP, LI, and Bill Reay from the neighbourhood development plan steering group. The prize was some permanent affordable housing for the parish, but as well as public support there would need to be a willing landowner and an active group of people to take the project forwards. After discussion it was felt that this was an idea worth pursuing, but not until after the NDP process had been completed.

MP had received a polite request from some local young lads asking for permission to ride their powered bikes on the land behind the Latchen Room. After discussion it was agreed that this request could not be granted due to the lack of insurance cover.

The clerk reported a number of items of correspondence including:

- Details had been received of new grant funding opportunities
- The county council had suggested there be a parish flood warden, which it was felt would be SC in line with the environment portfolio
- A winter road maintenance form had been received from county highways and passed to RN as the snow warden
- There would be a road closure at Old Hill during July 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>

News of a new district council leader was amplified by DE, who reported that due to a vote of no confidence at the recent full council meeting, the Conservative party group had stepped back from its previous management role. Tim Gwilliam had been voted in as the new leader, and was seeking candidates for a new cross-party cabinet.

## 9. Finance

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Forest Sensory Services	50.00	Extend facilities
Bowel & Cancer Research	10.00	APM refreshments
Merlin Waste	33.90	Dog waste collection
Andrew Raynor	60.00	Website hosting
PATA (UK)	22.50	Payroll costs
HM Revenue & Customs only	22.00	PAYE
Andrew Maliphant	573.59	Salary - June
Andrew Maliphant	37.33	Expenses – June

The financial report for July was received with thanks. There was some discussion about the allotments budget in the light of recent capital costs, but a decision was postponed to the next meeting.

**10. Localism and Neighbourhood Plan**

MP reported that Bill Reay had helped provide the circulated draft answers to the questions posed by the external examiner, which were approved. It was hoped that the referendum on the final version could take place in early December, and as many people as possible should be encouraged to vote.

**11. Next Meeting - Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 7 pm**

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