

**Minutes of the Meeting of
LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL
held on Monday 20th March 2017**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Maliphant (Clerk), County Cllr. B Robinson, District Cllr. D East and 3 residents

1. There were no apologies for absence.
2. There were no declarations of interest

3. Public Forum

A local resident raised the issue of a footpath on the A40 from Hopeswood Park to the bus stop, saying there had been two near misses recently. LI noted that a map supplied by the resident had been shared with BR, who in turn was in touch with County Highways and Highways England, and a site visit was needed to take the matter forward.

4. Planning & Licensing

The circulated progress report on planning applications was received with thanks. After discussion it was agreed that the parish council had no objections to the current planning applications.

5. The minutes of the meeting on February 20th were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly.

6. Members' Reports

AT reported that the footpaths warden had confirmed the vegetation had been cleared back above Hobbs Lane but there had been no action on the ruts in the pathway. It was agreed to raise the matter again with County Highways. **ACTION: AM**

LI advised we were still waiting for a rearranged site visit with County Highways and police liaison officers at the Velthouse Lane / A4136 junction. There had been a further accident with a car running into the barrier outside Mrs Bruce's house on the other side of Hopes Hill, which the police had attended, so hopefully the accident would be recorded. The clerk added that we were waiting for confirmation of an appointment with Mark Harper MP as a way of trying to move forward the whole debate around safety options for the A4136. After discussion about the range of issues and potential solutions, it was agreed to write to residents about hedge cutting on Hopes Hill, and also to all residents of Velthouse Lane encouraging them to write to County Highways about their concerns. **ACTION: AM**

LI raised the matter of the culvert behind Rectory Meadow, and the clerk reported that the farmer had not yet found the paperwork confirming which council had put the culvert in place, but it was felt that it had been the District Council. After discussion about potential solutions to the problem of periodic flooding DE offered to pursue the matter of responsibility with District Council officers. **ACTION: DE**

LI reported she had attended the recent meeting of the Road Safety Liaison Group which had talked about the issue of potholes, with County Highways advising that any potholes must be reported to them, after which it became their responsibility to deal with the matter.

The issue of a general lack of police presence had also come up, which she would chase, and it was agreed to investigate hiring the mobile CCTV camera in the possession of Forest town councils for use on a Wednesday youth club night. **ACTION: AM**

There was a long discussion about the issue of car parking along Church Road by parents of primary school pupils, and a number of points were made, including:

- The school had a responsibility to help find a solution
- Part of the issue was pupils coming from as far away as Ruardean
- There are also more pre-school pupils now following the closure of the Preschool at the Latchen Room
- The Neighbourhood Development Plan says that any extension of the school must provide for further car parking
- There had been a recent issue about parents parking on the nearby industrial estate
- The school had written to parents suggesting there was car parking by the pavilion
- Current parking habits effectively made Church Road one-way at key times with no passing places
- Parking by the Latchen Room had also been suggested in the past
- Parking on a nearby transport yard could cause insurance problems for the owner

After discussion it was felt that this was a problem for many schools across the country, but there was no more that the parish council could do to help improve the situation.

7. Committee Reports

(a) Latchen Room Management Committee

SC reported there had been a possible oil theft recently, with evidence of oil being spilt but no visible drop in the level. CT noted that a white van had been suspected of involvement in a number of thefts in the village, and AT added there had been a lot of thefts around May Hill as well.

(b) Recreation Ground Management Committee

The clerk presented three quotes for mowing the recreation ground, and after discussion it was agreed to offer the three years' contract to Nick Thomas Landscapes.

8. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk posed the question of the parish council having its own Facebook page as an extra communication channel, but after discussion it was agreed to stay with the monthly public forum as a way of people raising local issues.

The county association GAPTC had issued a call for resolutions to be debated at their AGM in July. After discussion about the use of exception sites and possible new arrangements with County Highways, it was agreed to draft two resolutions for consideration.

ACTION: AM

There were a number of other items of correspondence including:

- A letter from the WI offering support for a new parish notice board. Malcolm Marshall had already kindly offered to provide a new one for the parish, and it was agreed the clerk would ask the church about putting notices on their board at the other end of the village

- County Highways had asked for suggested sites for a new weed-spraying programme, and it was agreed to suggest the pavement alongside the allotments
- The District Council had sent information about an electoral boundary review to take effect from 2019, and BR noted that the majority of district councillors had supported having 39 councillors rather than the current 48
- SARA (local search and rescue) had written asking for support for their work inland including searching for missing persons, and it was agreed to support this with a cheque for £50

9. Finance

The following invoices were approved for payment:

| | | |
|------------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| Longhope PCC | 200.00 | Churchyard management |
| Carol Tilling | 250.00 | Chairman's annual expenses |
| Nick Thomas Landscapes | 1020.00 | Grass cutting |
| Merlin Waste | 33.90 | Dog waste collection |
| Andrew Maliphant | 519.69 | Salary - February |
| Andrew Maliphant | 61.81 | Expenses – February |
| GAPTC | 95.00 | Training course |

The latest financial report was received with thanks.

10. Localism and Neighbourhood Plan

MP announced that the steering group had completed their work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan, with many thanks to everyone involved. The final version was being submitted to the District Council, and there would be a flier in due course to encourage residents to vote in the final referendum, hopefully later this year.

11. Next Meeting - Monday 24th April at 7 pm, which will be the Annual Parish Meeting to be followed by a short business meeting.

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