

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL  
held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Maliphant (Clerk), District Councillor Dave East, County Cllr. B Robinson, Roger Noblett and two local residents

### **1. Election of the Chair and Vice Chair for 2017/8**

In a secret ballot, Mike Phelps was elected unopposed as chair of the council for 2017/8, and Lenette Isko was elected vice chair of the council for 2017/8 after receiving four votes while Debbie Attrill received three.

Terry Barnes was thanked for his short term as interim chairman.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. S Collins

3. There were no declarations of interest.

### **4. Membership**

Roger Noblett had put himself forward for the parish council vacancy, and was co-opted by unanimous vote.

### **5. Public Forum**

Jackie McCrone the secretary of the tennis club raised concerns about the club not being advised of recreation ground committee meetings or about plans for the tennis courts.

### **6. Planning**

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

- P0693/17/FUL Mernocho, Old Hill, erection of a new garage
- P0595/17/FUL Hazeldene, Old Hill, erection of a two-storey extension and porch
- P0039/17/DISCON Barn at Court Farm, Hobbs Lane, discharge of conditions

### **7. Annual Meeting agenda items from standing orders:**

- i. MP delivered his acceptance of office form as Parish Chairman
- ii. The minutes of the meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup> were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly
- iii. The existing councillor portfolios and portfolio holders were confirmed, with the exception of flood alleviation and police liaison which were transferred to SC, and snow warden which was transferred to Roger Noblett
- iv. When considering the terms of references for committees, LI raised the issue of clarity around the elected members of the recreation ground committee, as the committee rules did not make it clear how people put their names forward for election. It was agreed to take this matter along with the issues raised about communication to the next committee meeting.

**ACTION: JS/TB**

- v. There were no other nominations to existing committees
- vi. No new committees were appointed
- vii. The standing orders and financial regulations had been reviewed in Autumn 2014 and were kept unchanged
- viii. The only regular arrangement with other authorities, street cleaning on behalf of the District Council, was noted to continue as before. In light of residents' concerns about sightlines towards Mitcheldean for cars exiting Velthouse Lane, and the known timetable for the bi-annual cuts by County Highways, it was agreed to ask the call-off contractor to carry out an extra cut of the grass verge and bank, and to seek formal approval from County Highways **ACTION: AM**
- ix. It was agreed that LI and DA would attend the Road Safety Partnership meetings, and DA and JS would continue to attend the Boar Solutions meetings
- x. The council accepted with thanks the revised inventory of land and assets previously circulated by the clerk, with a request that the dog waste bins be included.
- xi. After a summary of current insurance cover by the clerk, the council asked for the existing arrangements around recreation ground and play area cover to be reviewed, as well as any replacement of the bus shelters should they become damaged, before the insurance came up for renewal in October.
- xii. The council's membership of GAPTC and GPFA was confirmed
- xiii. The current complaints procedure was confirmed
- xiv. It was confirmed that in the event of receiving requests under the Freedom of Information and Data Protection Acts, advice would be sought from the District Council.
- xv. The policy of councillors speaking to the media rather than the clerk was confirmed, with individual councillors being careful to advise the chairman beforehand, remembering that policy statements could only be made once agreed by the full council
- xvi. It was agreed that the full parish council would meet on the third Monday of every month at 7 pm in the Latchen Room during 2017/18, except in August and December.

## 8. Members' Reports

AT reported there were problems with the highway drains on May Hill, particularly along Sterrys Lane, and it was agreed to contact County Highways accordingly. There were also still problems with the horses on the top of May Hill, which had been reported again to the National Trust.

In response to a question from LI, the clerk reported he had received no response from the police liaison officer about a meeting to discuss the A4136. BR noted there had been a request to involve the MP's office in a meeting after the general election, and it was agreed to arrange an A4136 meeting with all parties in mid-June. **ACTION: BR/AM**

BR added he had met with residents of Hopeswood Park together with DE and an officer from Highways England. A meeting was being arranged with the owner to agree a better access route to the nearby bus stop.

RN advised there had been some damage done to the redundant drain at the back of the Latchen Room, and it was agreed to review the drain with a view to potentially filling it in to prevent any accidents. **ACTION: MP/AM**

## 9. Committee Reports

### (a) Latchen Room Management Committee

RN reported that a recent query about insurance had been resolved by taking out extra cover for committee members. The search was continuing for more bookings for the downstairs space, and there was a proposal for a table sale weekend.

### (b) Recreation Ground Management Committee

TB reported that the tennis courts had recently been pressure-washed, and three new memorial seats had been installed.

## 10. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk reported there had been complaints about the lack of mowing along Brook End – the same issue as the previous April – and that he would be calling the contractor again accordingly as the April cut had clearly not been carried out. Three bids had come in for the task of removing dead trees from May Hill, and after discussion it was agreed to offer the work to Chapel Tree Services.

There were a number of items of correspondence including:

- Anne Charnock had reported damage to the notice board on May Hill, which Malcolm Marshall would be repairing
- The Latchen Room Committee had replied to the parish council's request to confirm they would be reverting to evening meetings
- Details had been circulated of a new campaign "Love Your Forest"

## 11. Finance

The clerk reported that an expected repayment of £630 had been made to Groundwork for an unused portion of the recent neighbourhood development plan grant, and this repayment was confirmed by the council.

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Mike Brooks	5.96	Allotment mower petrol
Merlin Waste	50.85	Dog waste collection
Recreation Ground Mgt. Comm.	1600.00	Warden's fee
John Hicks	67.40	Play area inspection
Andrew Maliphant	532.96	Salary - April
Andrew Maliphant	37.33	Expenses - April

It was agreed to make a payment of £10 to charity in lieu of paying for the refreshments at the Annual Parish Meeting organised by LI.

After discussion, it was agreed to add the allotments budget to the agenda for the June meeting.

The financial report for May was received with thanks.

The clerk's proposal to retain the current contractor for the street cleaning work funded by the District Council was agreed, in line with the contract.

**ACTION: AM**

After discussion, it was agreed that £500 would be made available in advance to the organisers of the annual Rose Barton & Margaret Skelton party.

**12. Localism and Neighbourhood Plan**

MP reported that we were still awaiting the outcome of the submission of the neighbourhood development plan to the District Council.

**13. Next Meeting** - Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 7 pm, when agenda items would include the Annual return and the potential for a community land trust for Longhope

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