

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL  
held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Maliphant (Clerk), District Councillor Dave East, County Councillor Brian Robinson and 8 local residents

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. D Attrill
2. There were no declarations of interest

### **3. Public Forum**

A local resident raised the issue of non-residents parking in Nupend Gardens, when the parking spaces were originally designated for the housing association tenants. It was agreed that a replacement sign from Two Rivers Housing would help the situation.

### **4. Planning**

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

After discussion, it was agreed that while there were no objections to six of the current planning applications, a comment would be sent on the proposed barn conversion at The Nest on School Lane expressing concern that the plans don't make it clear that the closely adjacent building is a home for horses – and also it is not very clear whether the existing building fabric would be retained.

5. The minutes of the meetings on October 16<sup>th</sup> were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly.

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

BR reported that he was still progressing the issue of the A4136 road layout at Royal Springs, and would be meeting with the local highways officer and highways safety manager on site. Issues around the A40 would have to be taken up with a new contact at Highways England as the previous officer had moved on.

BR was aware that the newly-combined Stagecoach 33 and community transport bus service was not being fully co-ordinated, and the relevant county officer would be liaising with the bus companies to secure improvements. AT noted that much-needed improvements to Hobbs Lane would also help with footpath access to the A40, and BR agreed to pursue that issue as well. AT added that county highways had said they would use their 2017 budget to put in safety measures at the sheer drop from the road just by May Hill Lodge, but nothing had been done as yet.

AT reported that the new dog waste bin on May Hill was being used, and there had been good comments about the new road safety sign reminding motorists about horse riding.

SC had started receiving the crime alerts from the police, and intended putting them on the Longhope Hub Facebook page, and possibly the Longhope Noticeboard page also.

JS reported that a lot of young people had come to the October youth meeting, and the main interest was in a new skateboard ramp, which was being costed. A zipwire and a shelter (with camera and light) were also being considered. LI added the intention was for young people to take ownership of the new facility and respect it – the previous Wednesday night there had been over 40 young people gathering in the Latchen.

LI reported that the Kids Club was up and running, with 23 young people on the list so far and around 8–12 attending each week. The club is run by six volunteers, two of whom are First Aid trained, and all of whom are DBS-checked. Insurance and a safeguarding policy are in place, and there is an incident book and other facilities available for use in the pavilion. The Recreation Ground Committee has offered the club a £500 grant and a bank account is being organised, though the club is not currently looking for any further funds.

LI added that she would be attending the December chartered parishes meeting with AT, and the Forest Road Safety Partnership would also be meeting in December, when she would again raise the suggestion of a vehicle-activated sign to warn cars leaving Velthouse Lane of traffic coming down Hopes Hill.

AT opened discussion about the allotments by reporting her findings from researching other allotments. She had found no other allotments provided with a mower and fuel, and Longhope were in a minority in having no allotments association. AT showed a letter and proposed changes to the allotment agreement she had drafted, and after discussion it was agreed she would complete the revision of the agreement and send it out to allotment holders with the annual letter, addresses to be provided by the clerk. **ACTION: AT/AM**

RN reported that while the parish had large stocks of salt at Longhope Welding, they were not easy to get out without use of a fork-lift truck. As key local organisations such as the church and school do not get deliveries of grit from the county council, and after discussion of issues around clearing paths over a long period of time, it was agreed to distribute the parish supplies to more accessible locations. **ACTION: RN**

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **(a) Latchen Room Management Committee**

SC said there was nothing further to report at present.

### **(b) Recreation Ground Management Committee**

TB asked whether double yellow lines could be put on Church Road by the play area, as the closure of Harold Read's yard at Christmas meant it would be fenced off, thus no longer providing a passing place. LI offered to take the matter to the road safety meeting.

## **8. Clerk's Report & Correspondence**

The clerk had received an email with concerns about the dog waste bin at Rectory Meadow, which was overfull and also showing signs of its age. It was agreed to replace the bin, and to monitor the rate at which all the bins were being filled, moving from a fortnightly to weekly clearance if necessary. **ACTION: AM**

There had also been an email concerned about the state of the hedge along the A4136 at Hopes Hill, which the clerk would pass on to BR.

The clerk gave some feedback from his recent attendance at national parish council conferences.

There were a number of items of correspondence, including:

- Regular newsletters from CPRE and the county council
- Grant funds available for youth projects
- Information about the local roll-out of Universal Credit

## 9. Finance

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Roger Cox	100.00	May Hill plaque
SLCC Enterprises Ltd	73.60	Arnold-Baker book
GPFA	50.00	Annual subscription
Merlin Waste	33.90	Dog waste collection
The Workshop	1077.60	NDP printing
Nick Thomas Landscapes	276.00	A4136 verge cutting
Nick Thomas Landscapes	234.00	Parish grass cutting
Andrew Maliphant	573.79	Salary - October
Andrew Maliphant	37.33	Expenses – October
Longhope Royal British Legion	22.00	Remembrance wreath

The financial report for November was received with thanks.

The clerk presented the tenders received for a parish tree survey and a new parish noticeboard. After discussion it was agreed to appoint BJ Unwin to the tree survey, and Whitehill Direct for the noticeboard, asking them for a good price for a customised header board. **ACTION: AM**

The clerk reported on the experience of the first year of a call-off contract for extra work around the parish, which had deliberately been let for only one year to begin with. After discussion it was agreed to offer Nick Thomas Landscapes a further year's contract, asking them to confirm a price for clearing the vegetation growing over the Latchen pavement from the allotments. **ACTION: AM**

The clerk presented the draft budget for 2018/19 which had been previously circulated. A final decision would be taken at the January meeting when the amount due from the parish precept would have been advised by the district council.

## 10. Localism and Neighbourhood Plan

MP reported that the district council had been waiting for the updated parish electoral register before sending out information on the neighbourhood plan referendum.

## 11. Next Meeting - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 7 pm

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