

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Maliphant (Clerk), County Councillor Brian Robinson and 15 local residents

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. A Toomey and District Councillor Dave East
2. There were no declarations of interest

3. Presentation by Catherine Harris

Catherine introduced herself as one of the new team employed by the District Council as enablers for dementia awareness in the Forest of Dean. The team were going out to schools, shops and parish councils to talk about the rising levels of dementia, as a dementia-friendly society benefits everyone including the disabled, frail, vulnerable and lonely. The objective was to enable people with dementia to live as well as possible, as long as possible. Catherine was working with parish councils to check whether their village halls and other assets were dementia friendly, as some issues like signage and use of space may not otherwise come to mind – just small things can make a difference. A checklist for assessing village halls was available, and also training sessions as well as membership of a Dementia Action Alliance. MP thanked Catherine for her presentation which was very much appreciated.

4. There were no items brought forward for public forum discussion

5. Planning

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

After discussion, it was agreed there were no objections to current planning applications, but concerns remained about the log cabin proposals for the Dick Whittington Farm Park. The clerk was asked to write to the District Council raising the issue of apparent discrepancies between the plans in the current application, which the parish council felt should be resolved before any decisions were made, and reiterating concerns about the highways impact of a large number of proposed new log cabins. **ACTION: AM**

MP added a brief update on the outstanding proposal for new housing at School Lane – the space for church parking had been kept out of the plans and would be managed directly by the diocese, but the housing application itself had been delayed for six months in order to resolve the issue around bats on site.

6. The minutes of the meetings on September 18th were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly.

7. Members' Reports

SC reported he had had a good introductory meeting with the new PCSO, Henry Davies.

LI reported she was still waiting for a response from County Highways about the suggested vehicle warning sign on the A4136 at Hopes Hill, and asked BR if there was any more news

about highway responses to the safety issues around the Royal Springs junction, as well as the issue of vegetation around the bus stop on the A40.

Residents had expressed concern that the extension of the garage on the industrial estate to provide MOT services could increase the number of cars left on the site. The state of the upper reaches of Hobbs Lane had become difficult again for pedestrians and horse riders, and the clerk was asked to pursue the matter further. **ACTION: AM**

BR responded to highways questions saying that despite his efforts there had been no progress on securing highways responses to the current planning applications that would affect traffic at Royal Springs on the A4136. His own opinion was that the current turning area marked in the middle of the A4136 at that point should be removed – if that was not the right answer, highways officers should be pressed to say what was the right response to the issue. Highways England had responded to the matter of vegetation on the A40 to say that any work would have to fit within their criteria for a safety issue, so there was no immediate answer. BR would continue to pursue both these concerns.

BR also presented new posters prepared through the Road Safety Liaison Group encouraging drivers in the Forest of Dean to control their speed.

MP spoke on behalf of AT about the proposed plaque for the trig point plinth at the top of May Hill. The plaque had been made, but the parish council felt that the proposal to cover it with glass was not a good idea for safety reasons. Two May Hill residents had been planning to pay for the plaque but one had since died, and after discussion it was agreed to grant £100 towards a safe installation.

8. Committee Reports

(a) Latchen Room Management Committee

SC reported that the committee wished to extend the car park over the now redundant play area, and the previous agreement to allow clean soil to be deposited on parish land at the rear of the Latchen Room was reaffirmed.

(b) Recreation Ground Management Committee

JS advised that the Longhope Youth Project had become a vexatious issue, and gave a long report on its history and also the outcome of a series of recent meetings. A number of points were raised and discussed, including:

- Lack of information shared by the project around the detail of a recent Lottery grant
- Lack of attendance by the project at recreation ground committee meetings, and also at annual parish meetings
- Lack of attendance by older kids at the youth club's later evening session
- Lack of detailed financial and other information, after several requests and meetings, leading to a suspension of the club's use of the pavilion while investigations were carried out
- A final email from the project declining to provide any further information and indicating their use of the pavilion was at an end

It was agreed JS would draft a letter to the project acknowledging the withdrawal of services, and asking about the future of any remaining funds or resources raised in the name of the village. In the meantime, a new youth club for the 6-11 age group was being started by a number of DRS-checked volunteers, and there would be a meeting with the older age group on October 25th to discuss what facilities they were interested in.

9. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk presented a number of options for replacing the parish notice board on Church Road. It was agreed to get quotes for both wood and metal replacements. **ACTION: AM**

The previously circulated draft letter to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in response to a resolution from the GAPTC AGM about increased fees for retrospective planning applications was approved for sending. **ACTION: AM**

The clerk tabled a sample poster about the dangers to small children from uncollected dog waste. It was agreed to use the poster while making it clear in the wording that dog waste should be picked up by dog owners wherever they were, not just on the recreation ground. **ACTION: AM**

The clerk also raised the matter of a snow clearing service in case of need this winter, and it was agreed to ask local firms whether they would be able to assist. **ACTION: AM**

There were a number of items of correspondence, including:

- Local opportunities for flu vaccination
- Notes from meetings of the Chartered Parish Group and Road Safety Group
- Details about Publica, the new service delivery organisation being formed as a shared enterprise by the Forest of Dean and three other District Councils
- The need to respond to new data protection regulations from May

10. Finance

The following invoices were approved for payment:

| | | |
|---------------------|--------|----------------------|
| GAPTC | 50.00 | Councillor training |
| Neighbourhood Watch | 50.00 | Network support |
| Merlin Waste | 33.90 | Dog waste collection |
| PATA (UK) | 22.50 | Payroll services |
| HMRC | 27.20 | PAYE |
| Andrew Maliphant | 552.73 | Salary - September |
| Andrew Maliphant | 37.33 | Expenses – September |

A payment of £29.46 for the balance of costs of the annual Rose Barton and Margaret Skelton charity event was also approved.

The financial report for October was received with thanks.

The clerk spoke to the circulated figures for recent allotments expenditure, and there was a long discussion about the question of an increase in the annual allotment fees. The allotment holders were thanked for their work in helping to manage the public spaces on the allotments, but the issue of overall costs remained. It was agreed there should be a modest increase in the fee from £12 per annum to £15, but only £28 for those with two plots.

11. Localism and Neighbourhood Plan

MP reported that the neighbourhood development plan would go to the District Council for approval the following Thursday, and BR opined there would be no problem with that.

12. Next Meeting - Monday 20th November at 7 pm

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