

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL  
held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Maliphant (Clerk), County Councillor Brian Robinson and 36 local residents

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. A Toomey, D Attrill, R Noblett and J Stephens, and District Councillor Dave East
2. There were no declarations of interest

### 3. Public Forum

MP asked for measured presentations from opposing views of the current application P1307/17/FUL for two new dwellings on land off Old Monmouth Road. He commented that the anonymous pamphlets opposing the application were misrepresentative, in that the way the NDP logo and policies had been used suggested that the pamphlet had been circulated by the parish council or some other official body, when this was not the case.

Those opposed to the application made a number of points, including:

- The proposed development is in the conservation area, and a key open space on the site of an historic orchard – the District Council’s conservation advisor had already expressed concerns about this
- The proposed access point is very close to a blind bend, and the height of the proposed walls would further reduce visibility and make the access dangerous
- The area is already badly impacted by surface water flooding – at least one nearby house has its basement flooded at times of heavy rain - and the proposal has not been assessed for flood risk
- There was a danger of further parking on the side of the road, already an issue for the Latchen

The site owners making the application said a number of things in reply, including:

- Planning permission had been given several years before for a single house, which would have been for sale - the current proposal would be for rented property, currently in short supply in the village, to be provided for local people via local estate agents
- The proposal is a reasonable application for a small development, in line with the local preference incorporated in the neighbourhood development plan
- Previous use as a fruit orchard was no longer profitable, but planting more trees was part of the plan
- The site owners were there to listen, and would go back to speak to their architect to see if the plans could be adjusted to fit with what the neighbours would prefer – the architect had been asked to make the development as attractive as possible to enhance the village
- There was no intention to build further houses on the site in future

A separate issue was raised around the dangers of young people skateboarding in the Latchen, and it was agreed to share this concern with the police.

**ACTION: SC**

## 4. Planning

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

MP summarised a number of points around the earlier discussion of the Old Monmouth Road application, including:

- Traffic congestion is an issue throughout the village, but the police when approached say this is useful for traffic calming – there are no legal restrictions on roadside parking
- The proposed site is on higher ground than the brook, which has never flooded at that point in recent times. The brook is being monitored to reduce risk – if the culvert under the bypass became blocked that would be a flood risk for the whole of the lower village
- The village waste water system had been considered adequate to support recent applications totalling 43 extra houses, so the 2 being proposed should be covered

After discussion, members voted unanimously that there would be no objection from the parish council to this proposal.

The clerk was asked to request an extended time period for the council to consider application P0076/17/DISCON around the discharge of planning conditions at the Dick Whittington Farm Park.

**ACTION: AM**

5. The minutes of the meetings on July 17<sup>th</sup> and August 7<sup>th</sup> were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly.

## 6. Members' Reports

SC reported he would be meeting the new PCSO Henry Davies on Wednesday, who wanted to know about local crime issues. One concern was around young people on the village roads, particularly on Wednesday youth club nights, and LI added there was going to be a meeting on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October in the Latchen Room when young people would be invited to come and say what they wanted.

LI reported she had attended the recent Road Safety Partnership meeting, and raised issues around the A4136 again with highways officer Brian Watkins, who would see if there were any further responses from the highways team. LI had researched one proposal for the Velthouse Lane junction, a vehicle-activated sign telling drivers coming down Hopes Hill that a vehicle was coming out of Velthouse Lane, but the cost would be around £40,000.

## 7. Committee Reports

### (a) Latchen Room Management Committee

SC reported that the roof guttering had been fixed with the help of local farmer Dave Palmer. Any contributions were welcome towards the £1,000 cost of a new dishwasher. The clerk was asked to provide a copy of the current insurance certificate for display in the Latchen Room.

**ACTION: AM**

### (b) Recreation Ground Management Committee

TB advised there was nothing to add to what had already been said about young people.

## 8. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk presented the parish grass cutting contractor's request for the recent cancellation of their contract to be reviewed. After discussion, the councillors agreed unanimously to keep to the original decision. It was suggested that the terms of the contract be reviewed in advance of the new tendering process next Spring, and also to ask future contractors to remove all grass cuttings from the three sites. **ACTION: AM**

The clerk had asked the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) for their advice on the audio recording policy. The firm opinion had been given that recordings should be erased as soon as the meeting minutes had been agreed, as that was then the official record of what had been discussed, and it was agreed to adopt this approach in future.

A local resident had complained about dog fouling on agricultural land, and this led into a discussion about dog fouling generally, including the comment that some football matches on the recreation ground had been cancelled in the past due to the extent of dog fouling there. It was agreed to put up a further sign on the parish noticeboard about the dangers of disease from dog fouling, particularly for young children, and to put a message about dog fouling on the Longhope Hub page on Facebook. **ACTION: AM**

The clerk had spoken to the District Council and found two options to resolve the issue around domestic rubbish being left in the Latchen bus stop bins, which would be shared with the local resident in question. **ACTION: AM/FODDC**

There were a number of items of correspondence, including:

- Consultation on the proposal for a redrawing of District Council ward boundaries – it was agreed there would be no objection to the proposal for two district councillors to jointly cover Longhope and Huntley
- A request from GAPTC to follow up on a resolution from their AGM that there be extra charges for retrospective planning applications – it was agreed the clerk would draft a suitable letter
- A request for funding from the Neighbourhood Watch – it was agreed to bring a proposal for a £50 grant to the next meeting
- A solution had been found to the removal of the 33 bus service from the A40 between Lea and Huntley
- The District Council had granted £108,000 towards affordable housing in Newent
- The May Hill notice board had been repaired

## 9. Finance

The following invoices were approved for payment:

GAPTC	50.00	Councillor training
Earth Anchors Ltd	385.20	New dog waste bins
Came & Company	1585.80	Insurance renewal
SLCC	315.60	Conference attendance
Merlin Waste	33.90	Dog waste collection
Grant Thornton UK LLP	240.00	External audit
Andrew Maliphant	594.66	Salary - August
Andrew Maliphant	37.33	Expenses – August

The financial report for September was received with thanks.

The clerk spoke to the circulated summary of allotments expenditure and income, noting that while the new mower had been covered by annual rents, there was still a deficit over the previous four years of around £1,350 due to capital expenditure on the fence line next to the Latchen, and the removal of schumaker trees. It was agreed to contact the two allotment holders who had offered to maintain the bank behind the bus stop about further budding schumaker trees before writing to all allotment holders to explain the situation, and advising that a decision on future rents would be made at the next parish council meeting in October.

LI asked that Two Rivers Housing be approached about the brambles along the lane from the Latchen to the Willows, and it was agreed to ask the parish council's call-off contractor to deal with the messy verge on the Latchen side of the allotments fence. **ACTION: AM**

## **10. Localism and Neighbourhood Plan**

MP reported that some changes had been made to the NDP to match the District Council's core strategy, but otherwise it had been fully approved by the external examiner. The District Council would meet to consider the final version in December, and the village referendum was expected in early 2018.

## **11. Next Meeting - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 7 pm**

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