

**Minutes of the Meeting of
LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL
held on Monday 18th February 2019**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Maliphant (Clerk), County Cllr. B Robinson and 5 residents

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

3. Public Forum

A resident presented a proposal for a variation on the 24/33 bus timetable that would improve the service along the A40 between Boxbush and Huntley. After considerable discussion, including a review of the 746 and Dial-a-Ride services, it was agreed that a survey of transport needs for those who might use a revised bus service should be carried out to support a subsequent approach to Stagecoach.

Another resident advised he would be going to Longhope in Orkney for the church service to commemorate the lifeboat disaster of 1969, at which time there had been a lot of support from the parish for the families and the community involved. He was asked to write in about a possible contribution towards a wreath.

4. Planning

The circulated planning report was received with thanks. There were no planning applications to review.

5. Minutes of the meetings on January 21st

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly

6. Members' Reports

BR reported that the County Council had now agreed its budget for the following year, which included an extra £150,000 to support bus services. The county element of Council Tax would be going up by 4.9%, with the district element going up by 2.9% and an increase also for the police, making overall an extra £90 per year for the average Band D household.

The A4136 at Royal Springs would be getting better road surfacing and relining, similar to recent work at Plump Hill, and resurfacing for Church Road was in the plan for 2020/21. County Highways were unwilling to turn Hobbs Lane into a pristine public path, but could be approached on a cost share basis. Highways England could possibly be asked to become involved, but they would need a letter making the case for doing so. It was agreed to include the use of Hobbs Lane in a public survey that could then be used for evidence of the need for improvements, together with the need for bus transport. **ACTION: AM**

BR added that all smaller highways jobs should be notified for him to pass on to the lengthsman team. He himself managed a local highways budget of around £25,000.

LI asked about power links from lamp standards for Christmas lights, and MP added that some street lights seemed not to be working, following recent replacements with LEDs. It was agreed to write a letter via BR asking for further details. **ACTION: MP/AM**

The clerk asked about Yartleton Lane improvements requested by AT, and BR replied that the site had been visited and the work would be carried out. The clerk added that AT had reported an issue with the seat on May Hill provided by Newent Rotary Club, and the Club had said they would be checking the seat promptly.

RN reported that the vehicle-activated sign had been moved to Church Road, and tabled the latest statistics on vehicle speeds. There were problems with the timespan of the battery charge, and he was researching other options including solar panels.

LI reported that the Youth Project had received a grant of £1,000, bringing the project fund to just over £6,000. This meant that quotes were being obtained for a basket swing, Phase 1 of the proposed improved facilities for young people.

7. Committee Reports

(a) Latchen Room Management Committee

RN reported that work was going ahead with developing the Latchen Room downstairs for a "Longhope Workshop" to take place every Monday morning.

(b) Recreation Ground Management Committee

JS advised that he was filling in grant applications for the path development, and was awaiting another quote for the costs.

The clerk reported a suggestion from the Recreation Ground Committee that the parish council's capital budget for the recreation ground be used to cover outstanding small works such as repair to the front railings, while a revenue budget might be set up to cover the cost of the pavilion's electricity bills. After discussion JS offered to sit down with the warden and the treasurer to come up with a budget figure, and to ask for a written request for the parish council to take on identified small works. He would also confirm the requirements for the annual safety inspection of the play area, and ask the Committee to respond to the primary school's recent request for use of the recreation ground. **ACTION: JS**

The clerk presented a quote from the suppliers for a second dog walker sign as discussed at the previous parish council meeting. It was agreed to ask the neighbouring landowner for permission for the sign to be fixed to their wall by the rear entrance to the recreation ground. **ACTION: TB**

8. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk re-presented the substance of discussion at the previous parish council meeting, the proposal to allow allotment holders to erect a greenhouse no more than six foot by eight foot and used only for plant propagation. This was agreed, noting that allotment holders should still contact the parish council in advance as per the rental agreement, and the clerk was asked to arrange a notice for the allotments notice board accordingly. **ACTION: AM**

The clerk presented the annual accounts for the Rose Barton & Margaret Skelton Charity. He also confirmed that the circulated draft policies had been prepared in response to a recent communication from the Charity Commission, reflecting the parish councillors'

responsibilities as charity trustees, and JS offered to review the drafts for further consideration at the March meeting.

ACTION: JS

Details were becoming available about the forthcoming parish elections on May 2nd, and it was agreed to draft a notice encouraging parishioners to put their names forward.

ACTION: AM

There were a number of other items of correspondence including:

- A request for funding from Lydcare, which was discussed but declined
- A forthcoming short closure of Old Monmouth Road
- Notes from the Chartered Parishes meeting
- Research by the District Council into future land for housing

RN raised the question of keeping the neighbourhood development plan up to date, and it was agreed to confirm details of the process.

ACTION: AM

9. Finance

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Whitehouse Press Printers	120.00	CLT leaflets
Flying Colours	79.00	Leafletter printing
Merlin Waste	99.94	Dog waste collection
Andrew Maliphant	640.44	Salary – January
Andrew Maliphant	37.33	Expenses – January

The financial report for February was received with thanks, noting the unexpected expenditure this year on tree surgery and the vehicle-activated sign. It was agreed that any budget changes around the Recreation Ground would be reviewed at the March meeting.

10. Community Land Trust

MP reported that replies were coming in to recent letters to local housing associations, seeking potential partners for the next stage of the CLT process.

11. Next Meeting - Monday 18th March at 7 pm

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