

**Minutes of the Meeting of
LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL
held on Monday 21st January 2019**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Maliphant (Clerk), County Cllr. B Robinson and 8 residents

1. Apologies for absence were received from District Cllr. D East
2. JS declared an interest in planning application P1872/18/FUL as a near neighbour, and MP and TB declared a similar interest in respect of P0007/19/FUL.

3. Public Forum

A resident noted that the 50th anniversary of the lifeboat disaster in Longhope, Orkney would be 17th March this year, and there would be a commemorative event. He also asked about the possibility of reducing the speed limit on the A40 near the Longhope turning due to bends in the road, and BR asked for the parish council to write to him on the matter so he could take it up with Highways England. **ACTION: AM/MP**

An allotment holder asked for clarity around permission for temporary structures on the allotments, currently being assessed by the parish council on a case by case basis. In discussion it was felt that a greenhouse no more than six foot by eight foot and used for plant propagation would be acceptable. It was agreed that this item should be put on the agenda for confirmation at the next parish council meeting. **ACTION: AM**

4. Planning

The circulated planning report was received with thanks. After discussion, it was agreed there were no objections to the following applications:

- P0007/19/FUL annexe at Four Seasons View Church Road
- P1996/18/TCA tree works at Walk House Church Road

There were no objections to application P1604/18/FUL with revised plans for an extension at Dursley Cross House, though there was a question about the suitability of lengthening the footpath such that it keeps walkers on the site for longer.

There was considerable debate about application P1872/18/FUL for new fencing at the Nags Head car park, much of it focusing on the planning conditions when change of use was approved in 2018. After discussion it was agreed that concerns should be raised that:

- the original approval for change of use P0461/18/FUL contains no conditions on the car parking, based on correspondence from the owner's agent saying that there would be no changes made, but this new proposal is clearly a change from that position
- residents' expressed concerns suggest that the declared intention in the original approval "to protect the living conditions of future guests and neighbours" is not being fully realised
- The materials and height for the proposed fence will tend to reduce visibility before a sharp bend in the road, and could be reconsidered in order to provide safety for road users as well as for holiday cottage visitors, not least when visitors are exiting the car park

- Inevitably, an unexpected change in the nature of the car park when none was originally proposed raises concerns that other unexpected changes may happen in future
- There is also an issue about access across the car park to a neighbouring field

The parish council felt they would be glad to see more discussion between the owner, neighbours and walkers over access concerns before any changes are approved

5. Minutes of the meetings on November 19th and December 10th

The minutes of the meetings were agreed as true records and signed accordingly

6. Members' Reports

BR reported that the draft County Council budget had been published for comment, with spending increased by £15M next year – roughly £65 more per household. 60% of the overall £420M budget would be spent on adult and social care, responsible for 2% of the overall Council Tax increase. The other major expense was on highways, with £200M budgeted over five years.

MP asked whether some of the highways money would go on Church Road, and BR replied it was on the list to be considered, though main roads were being given first priority. He added that the Lengthsman's scheme would continue under a different name, and any suggestions for minor road works could be sent to him. AT reminded BR of her previous query about safety improvements on Yartleton Lane.

BR added that the county waste incinerator would go on line in 2019. In Gloucestershire 50% of waste is recycled, and the incinerator is designed to deal with a further 30%, saving £100M over 25 years and also generating electricity.

LI asked about linking village Christmas lights to street lamps for power supply. BR felt a link to local businesses would be more likely, due to the cost of connections to street lamps, but he would take the idea away to research. **ACTION: BR**

LI tabled copies of the draft quarterly Leafletter for comments. She proposed moving the printing to a more local printer for greater ease of delivery.

LI added there was a proposal for a fundraising pop-up pub at the Pavilion, noting the success of a similar venture at May Hill village hall. The potential for an annual licence to cover a number of events each year was under review.

7. Committee Reports

(a) Latchen Room Management Committee

RN reported that heating was now available in the new side room, and repairs had been completed to the outside footpath. Progress was being made on a "Men's Shed" project, similar to the one at Whitecroft, with the intention of regular activity on Monday mornings which would in turn increase revenue to the Latchen Room.

MP raised the matter of apparent rubbish and waste dumping at the rear of the Latchen Room, and offered to work with DE to erect a fence if that was a suitable solution to the problem.

(b) Recreation Ground Management Committee

JS advised that since the last informal meeting one quote for putting in a new path had been received, and another was on its way. Following a site visit by the Barnwood Trust he was completing a grant application form, to be followed by a second bid to another source.

There was considerable discussion about the potential for a revenue budget for the Recreation Ground, with reference to an increased electricity bill and outstanding maintenance works. MP noted the parish council was awaiting a budget proposal from the Recreation Ground Committee, which would have to be spent in an accountable manner in line with the parish council's financial regulations.

8. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The circulated risk assessment for managing the new vehicle-activated sign was approved. SC and RN reported back on the practicalities of changing the sign's batteries on a fortnightly basis, and RN offered to research the cost of changing to a solar panel.

The draft terms of reference for a staffing sub-committee were approved, with SC, AT and JS agreeing to be the first committee members.

There was discussion about the effectiveness of the new signs for dog walkers, and it was agreed to buy a further sign for the top of the Recreation Ground. **ACTION: AM**

RN reported on progress with updating the parish Emergency Plan. A number of volunteers had come forward to form an emergency response group, and both the parish church and the Latchen Room had been approved as safe places in the event of an emergency. The clerk noted that while the plan was not a public document, the final version should be shared with the area co-ordinator at the District Council.

9. Finance

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Elan City Ltd	2360.40	Vehicle-activated sign
PATA (UK)	22.50	Payroll services
HMRC	8.80	PAYE
Chapel Tree Services	1680.00	Tree works
Merlin Waste	90.00	Dog waste collection
Nick Thomas Landscapes	2730.00	Grass cutting
Andrew Maliphant	591.76	Salary – December
Andrew Maliphant	37.33	Expenses – December

The financial report for January was received with thanks.

The clerk presented the draft budget for 2019/20, which was approved with an increase of the parish precept to £22,000 per annum to meet increased expenditure. This would mean an increase of about £5 per annum for the average Band D household. **ACTION: AM**

10. Community Land Trust

MP reported that the steering group had begun the next stage of making approaches to potential housing association partners. A selection meeting had been scheduled for May 1st, with a steering group meeting on March 20th to review the applications.

The clerk presented the proposed revisions to the steering group terms of reference, noting the split of tasks between a minutes secretary and a membership secretary, and the changes were approved.

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

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