

**Minutes of the Meeting of
LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL
held on Monday 19th November 2018**

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

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

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

3. Public Forum

A resident expressed concern about new groundworks at Holly Bush Farm, and MP proposed to visit the site to confirm the details.

Another question was raised about developments at the Dick Whittington Farm Park, and the clerk advised that council officers were already in touch with the owner.

4. Planning

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

- P1791/18/FUL & P1792/18/LBC barn alterations at Brook Farm
- P1687/18/TCA Longhope parish application for village tree works
- P1604/18/FUL extension at Dursley Cross House
- P0788/18/FUL revised plans for change of use at Marshes Farm barn

No comment could be made on the application P1629/18/FUL for a steel frame building at Lane Farm, Little London as it had not been possible to view the site.

Concerns were raised about application P0120/18/DISCON for discharge of planning conditions for May Hill reservoir, as councillors were still concerned that the arrangements for water discharge from the site were insufficient, and felt they would need reassurance before giving any approval.

5. Minutes of the meeting on October 15th

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

6. Members' Reports

AT reported back from the councillor training course that decisions around staff pensions should be noted in the minutes, and the clerk confirmed that he had been offered inclusion in a pension scheme when the issue had first arisen, and declined by letter. AT added that it was considered good practice to have a staffing committee, for the benefit of employees, and it was agreed to add this to the January meeting agenda.

AT reported that the allotment holders had formed their own group which was buying petrol for the mower. There had been no complaints about the allotments, and it was agreed that the allotment rents should stay the same.

LI asked whether the vehicle-activated sign (VAS) had been ordered yet, and the clerk replied he was still waiting for official approval from the County Council legal team. LI added that the PCSO had dealt with the parking issue raised by a resident at Meadows End.

There had been a site visit by the Honourable Company Charity, which looked promising for a £1,000 grant for the youth club. The youth café was going strong, with average takings of £70 per week to boost recreation ground funds. Over sixty children had attended the Hallowe'en event, and plans were under way for a Christmas event on Saturday 15th December.

RN as snow warden reported that preparations had been made for winter weather.

BR reported that, following a past request, a drop kerb on the Latchen had been added to the highways programme. Other road repairs were also going forward, and BR had asked for traffic figures to confirm whether the new Over roundabout was actually benefitting travel to and from the Forest. AT asked whether there had been any progress with the crash barrier on Yartleton Lane, and BR agreed to chase the matter.

BR added that Ofsted had been pleased with progress on improving the county children's service, which was about a year away from delivering the service as it should. Part of the problem was the high turnover of social workers, with 40% of workers still coming from agencies, meaning higher cost but less continuity.

7. Committee Reports

(a) Latchen Room Management Committee

RN confirmed he was on the case with agreed changes to the Latchen Room insurance, meanwhile the insurers had advised that Café Bonnies is currently covered by public liability insurance as it is not a commercial venture. The new Latchen Room balcony had been built, with the doorway to be completed soon. A risk assessment had been completed and placed in a folder in the kitchen, and information also updated on the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council website. The new waste bin by the car park was being used by young people as intended, the new dog walker signs would go up next.

(b) Recreation Ground Management Committee

LI advised that there were plans for a shipping container to be placed outside the pavilion for sports kit. She had been to a Barnwood Trust drop-in and advised they could come out and give free advice on community spaces, including the proposed new path and car park improvements, after which the Recreation Ground Committee could apply to them for a grant.

8. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk said he would check the installation plan for the VAS and circulate the details to RN and SC. He would also order Longhope Parish Council high-vis jackets to improve safety for councillors working on the VAS.

ACTION: AM

Merlin Waste had accepted responsibility for not installing the new dog waste bin bought by the parish council for Rectory Meadow, and would be resolving the matter themselves.

There were a number of items of correspondence including:

- Forest Health Forum newsletter
- Training courses from GAPTC
- Councils Connected newsletter from the County Council
- No rough sleepers in the parish to report for the annual survey
- County Highways report of a closure of part of Church Road on January 4th – all such notices would be placed on the parish council website under News

9. Finance

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Longhope PCC (replacement cheque)	200.00	Churchyard management
GPFA	50.00	Annual subscription
Whitehill Direct Ltd	236.98	Dog walker signs
Merlin Waste	90.00	Dog waste collection
Earth Anchors	237.54	Dog waste bin
GAPTC	95.00	Councillor training
Alpha Colour Printers Ltd	77.00	Parish newsletter
Mike Phelps	250.00	Chairman's allowance
Andrew Maliphant	654.39	Salary – October
Andrew Maliphant	37.33	Expenses – October
Longhope Royal British Legion	24.00	Remembrance wreath

The financial report for November was received with thanks.

The clerk presented the draft budget for 2019/20, to be finalised at the January meeting once the taxbase for the precept had been confirmed by the District Council. There was discussion about the possibility of having an annual revenue budget for the recreation ground and pavilion due to the current low level of lettings income and the need for several items of maintenance. It was agreed to ask the Recreation Ground Committee to consider this possibility at their December meeting, also to remind them of the need to observe parish council financial regulations when getting quotes for new work. **ACTION: AM**

10. Community Land Trust

MP reported that the public meeting on November 15th had been well attended and provided very useful examples of CLT work elsewhere. The clerk added that the next step would be to form a partnership with a suitable housing association, and it was noted that the steering group should gather information about candidate housing associations and ask them to make a presentation before any appointment.

11. Next Meeting - Monday 21st January at 7 pm

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