

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL  
held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Maliphant (Clerk), District & County Cllr. B Robinson and six local residents

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. S Collins and District Cllr. B Jones
2. There were no declarations of interest
3. **Co-option of new parish councillors**

After presentations from the two candidates, Andrea Godwin and Gary Nicholas were unanimously co-opted onto the parish council.

#### **4. Public Forum**

A local resident asked if there was any more news following the public consultation on bus routes along the A40, and it was agreed to re-contact Stagecoach and the County Council to ask for feedback

**ACTION: AM/BR**

There was considerable discussion with Recreation Ground Committee members about the circulated proposals for clarifications to the Committee's rules.

#### **5. Planning**

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

- P0878/19/FUL front porch and outbuilding at Zions Barn, Green Lane
- P0841/19/TCA fell cedar and crown reduce ash tree at Wallbrook, Church Road
- P0075/19/DISCON discharge of conditions at Belmont Cottage, Old Hill

In discussion about application P0781/19/LD2 for creation of a new driveway at the Old Farm, Barrel Lane, it was felt that the parish council would have objected to it if presented as a full application. Councillors were concerned about potential problems with heavy rain on a gravel driveway, with the steepness also creating a potential problem in the case of sudden braking, and the fact that the driveway is very close to a bend in the main road.

#### **6. Minutes of the meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>**

The minutes of the meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup> were agreed as a true record with one amendment of the value of the Youth Fund from under £4,000 to £7,000, and signed accordingly.

#### **7. Members' Reports**

MP reported local concerns about street lights in Church Road being masked by a farmer's hedge, and BR said he would pursue the matter. BR added that street lights had all been changed to LEDs, and were individually controlled, so local changes could be made. Street lights were also automatically dimmed by 30% at midnight, providing a further energy saving.

BR reported that Ofsted had carried out a further review of the county children's services, and were happy with the steps being taken. 90% of the team managers were now full-time staff, but there were still a lot of agency staff, which meant it was still a struggle to deliver a consistent good service.

The District Council had held its first annual meeting with newly-elected councillors, and a "rainbow coalition" of several parties continued to fill the Cabinet posts. A key issue now was to redress the financial balance as the council was currently spending from reserves.

AT asked about the subsidence on the A40 at May Hill, and BR confirmed that Highways England had acknowledged the problem, but he would continue to press them for action as there were a lot of issues along the A40. BR would also pursue the reported issue of a blocked drain by the Latchen bus stop.

LI publicly thanked RN for all his work as project manager for improvements to the pavilion, also MP and SC for their work in preparation for the new canopy.

She also raised the issue of a dog waste bin at the bottom of School Lane, and TW confirmed as a local resident that dog waste was becoming an increasing issue. AT cautioned against a proliferation of red waste bins throughout the village, but agreed with the unanimous view that a new dog waste bin should be installed. **ACTION: AM**

## 8. Committee Reports

### (a) Latchen Room Management Committee

RN reported that the Monday workshop was going well. The committee were looking at replacing the downstairs radiators, and were also keeping funds back for a boiler service.

### (b) Recreation Ground Management Committee

The draft changes to the committee rules, clarifying matters such as the appointment of trustees and the operation of sub-committees, were approved as circulated with the amendment that the annual general meeting would elect the trustees from amongst the committee members appointed. The revised rules would now be confirmed by the current four trustees who would then register the changes with the Charity Commission in advance of the next AGM on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

LI raised the issue of insurance for the extra stock and equipment needed for the pop-up pub, and the clerk was asked to confirm any increased premium with the parish insurers **ACTION: AM**

## 9. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

After discussion, it was agreed to draft a brief for improvements to Hobbs Lane for circulation to councillors before sending out to get quotes.

There were a number of items of correspondence including:

- Notice of local dementia awareness events, which AT would research in advance of the next parish council meeting
- Notice of the Society of Local Council Clerks' national conference in October, which it was agreed the clerk would attend
- A promotional letter about charge points for electric vehicles – the clerk was asked to research an order of costs for installation **ACTION: AM**

Local people had received letters from Gigaclear about a new network of fibre-optic cables, which the clerk was asked to investigate further. RN added there would be a session about broadband taking place in the Latchen Room on the evening of June 28<sup>th</sup>.

## 10. Finance

- a) The following invoices were approved for payment:

John Hicks	67.40	Play safety inspection
Merlin Waste	90.00	Dog waste collection
Glebe Contractors	118.69	Grass cutting
Water Plus Ltd	16.88	Allotments water supply
Utilita Energy Ltd	171.53	Pavilion electricity
Roger Noblett	93.05	VAS improvements
Information Commissioner	40.00	Data protection fee
Andrew Maliphant	558.61	Salary - May
Andrew Maliphant	37.33	Expenses – May
Shirley Fowler	85.00	Internal audit

- b) The monthly financial report was received with thanks
- c) After discussion, GN was appointed as a new cheque signatory in place of past councillor Terry Barnes **ACTION: AM**
- d) The governance statement in the Annual Return for 2018/19 was reviewed and approved unanimously
- e) The accounting statements in the Annual Return for 2018/19 were reviewed and approved unanimously
- f) The clerk reported that there were still not three quotes for all the work in the pavilion brief. It was agreed to continue to seek the necessary third quotes while expediting the safety work on the pavilion railings **ACTION: AM**
- g) The current call-off contract for work in the village was reviewed and approved for a further year **ACTION: AM**

## 11. Community Land Trust

MP reported he had attended a seminar on community land trusts run by the District Council, and gained a lot of useful information.

## 12. Next Meeting - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 7 pm

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