

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL  
held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

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

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

1. There were no apologies for absence
2. There were no declarations of interest

### **3. Public Forum**

A resident raised the issue of Stagecoach sending bus consultation responses to the District Council, and asked whether the local survey organised by the parish council had also been forwarded in the same way. BR replied that the local survey had originally been sent to the lead County Council officer and also to Stagecoach, who later said they had taken all the consultation replies into account when planning the new timetables. Stagecoach's aim was to transport the maximum number of people across the Forest of Dean, which would inevitably mean some compromises. The County Council does subsidise some routes that can't cover their costs, but only up to a limited amount.

AT noted that all the bus drivers had now learnt the new routes, which meant they were unlikely to change now, and MP added that he felt the parish council had done all it could to support the residents' campaign for improved services along the A40.

Another resident asked about plans for speed cameras, as the current cameras did not seem to be reducing speeding. RN replied that the current vehicle-activated signs were being moved around the village to collect figures about speeding, which would then be used to encourage the police to get involved with spot checks at key times. Unless the police award appropriate speeding tickets and fines, the current approach would be less effective.

### **4. Planning**

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

- P1352/19/FUL Replacement of front porch at the Pound House (Retrospective)
- P1437/19/LBC Listed Building Consent for the front porch at the Pound House

There was considerable discussion around application P0386/19/FUL to enable an additional 45 lodge-style static caravans at Swallow Lakes, Little London. The parish council had objected consistently in the past to developments on this site, noting the potential impact on the environment, on highways, and also on village services should occupants of the lodges decide to make them their permanent home, and it was agreed these objections remained very much a concern.

It was also noted that the current and proposed developments are outside the settlement boundary, and while past planning approvals had been on the basis of holiday use only, the parish council remained concerned that no records were being kept for inspection to show who is renting each lodge and for how long, and also that lodges are being offered for sale without any mention of holiday use only.

The planning enforcement team had advised the parish council there are already a number of enforcement issues being pursued in relation to this site, and the parish council felt strongly that all such issues including the recording of occupancy should be fully resolved before any further permissions were even considered. There was also a concern that descriptions and maps of the proposed development were not being consistent, and the parish council wished to have confirmation of exactly what is to be placed where, and whether the previously-declared area of high landscape value would now be under threat

## 5. Minutes of the meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup>

The minutes of the meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup> were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly.

## 6. Members' Reports

BR reported considerable County Council focus on reducing carbon emissions. The Council was already claiming significant reductions due to initiatives such as LED street lighting, solar panels on Shire Hall, and using electric vehicles as pool cars.

The District Council had started consultation on the Local Plan 2026-2041, with the aim to have it approved by 2023. The single largest issue was additional homes in response to Government targets, and the early options included increasing the housing in towns and larger settlements, spreading the new homes more widely about the District, or creating a new "garden village" with 2,000 homes – potentially in the north-east of the District. All local Neighbourhood Development Plans would also need to be updated as part of this process.

BR added that the new waste incinerator was now taking all domestic black bin bag waste, none was going to landfill. RN asked what happened to food waste, and BR replied it goes into an aerobic digester that collects methane gas, i.e. the waste is turned into energy.

MP raised the question again of the street light outside the church being turned off because of the local bat colony, but at some risk to the human population, and BR confirmed he had put in a question about that programming. He added there was an item in the highway plans for work to the unimproved pavements in the Latchen, but it hadn't happened yet.

AT reported that an articulated lorry had become stuck in Yartleton Lane and needed two recovery vehicles to get it out. There was a question whether there should be more signs about HGVs or whether the onus should be on those ordering deliveries, and RN suggested a piece in the next Leafletter to air the issue.

AT proposed that the parish council should not consider formally joining the dementia alliance for the time being.

An allotment holder had complained about harassment from a resident at nearby Brook Lodge, and it was agreed that the clerk would contact the Lodge management prior to an official letter of concern from the parish council. **ACTION: AM**

After discussion, the request from another allotment holder to place a greenhouse on their allotment was approved. There followed discussion about site maintenance, particularly along the line of the front fence. It was agreed to ask the County Council to add extending the tarmac pavement to their tasks list, to add management of the verge in question to the parish grass-cutting contract, and to ask the call-off contractor to carry out some immediate site management including dealing with the encroaching brambles. **ACTION: AM**

LI asked for contributions from everyone for the next edition of the Leafletter.

GN reported back on his research into electric vehicle charge points. Grants were available for 75% of the purchase and installation cost up to £7,500, which would mean if £8,000 were spent on two charging points, the parish council would have to contribute £2,000. GN added that the parish council would need to demonstrate current need and the potential for future use, and it was agreed to ask a local landowner whether they would be interested in providing the necessary space. **ACTION: MP**

RN reported there were no current issues as snow warden, nor under IT and data protection, though he would be reviewing the latter item with the clerk. TW would be helping him to install the new dog waste bin, and TW added he had reported some issues to County Highways including a bent bollard by the shop.

AG reported she had attended GAPTC's councillor training session which she recommended was worthwhile.

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **(a) Latchen Room Management Committee**

RN reported that the Latchen Room boiler had been serviced that day, and he had been told it had had a lot of years of use. He had primed the committee about getting a greener replacement, and the committee might also replace the noisy upstairs radiators.

### **(b) Recreation Ground Management Committee**

LI reported there would be a Fund the Teens meeting the following night to discuss the proposed basket swing. She asked for a copy of the current public liability certificate to display in the Pavilion.

She reported that the committee had changed the rental for long term users from a set fee to a discounted hourly rate. This means in future these users only need to pay for the actual hours they use. In reality the Brownies will be paying less, but the footballers more. However, the committee had introduced a scheme whereby long term users can buy back hours by donating their time and carrying out labour for work needed, allowing the footballers to keep their fees down if they help.

Over the summer several immediate repairs had been carried out by a band of volunteers, including the children's climbing frame, the plumbing in the ladies and gent's toilets and at long last the railings. An outside tap had been fitted, a new lock on the inner store room door and the new camera system was almost complete. Plans for the coming months included work by the parish council's contractor to make the building damp proof, and it was agreed that RN would send a revised schedule for the parish council to approve. Long term plans include the provision of a referee's room, painting and decorating the toilets and looking at moving the kitchen facilities. In addition, the committee are beginning plans for a path around the recreation ground, and will be sending out a survey in order to find out what the villagers think, which will help with the grants they intend applying for.

LI had a concern regarding the hire and use of the bar facilities and asked for the parish council's opinion. The football club had been given permission to run a bar for a couple of hours after home games for the players and supporters to help raise funds for their kit, but this was developing into a proposal to run the bar at other times as well, with all proceeds going to the football club. There was considerable discussion about the many implications

of this, and it was agreed that the clerk would summarise the points made in a letter suggesting the committee reconsider their decision, with the draft to be circulated to parish councillors for approval before sending.

**ACTION: AM**

## 8. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk reported that revised model financial regulations and standing orders would need to be reviewed at a future meeting.

There needed to be a second phase of tree surgery in line with the recent survey report, with the addition of some tree works on the allotments and the recreation ground, for which approval would be sought from the District Council. RN offered to speak to the primary school about management of the hedges along their side of the recreation ground.

The council formally approved the revised terms of reference for the planning committee as agreed at the previous meeting.

The clerk reported there would need to be a review of the website's accessibility by September 2020, following recent new guidance. Other correspondence included:

- A request to consider placing a textile bank in the village
- Resident concern about no white line down the centre of Old Monmouth Road
- Regular "Councils Connected" newsletter from the County Council

## 9. Finance

The following invoices paid in August were formally approved:

Earth Anchors Ltd	249.54	Dog waste bin
Merlin Waste	90.00	Dog waste collection
Glebe Contractors	118.69	Grass cutting
Utilita Energy Ltd	158.42	Pavilion electricity
Microshade Business Consultants	418.80	IT hosting service
Andrew Maliphant	558.61	Salary - July
Andrew Maliphant	37.33	Expenses – July

The following new invoices were approved for payment:

Utilita Energy Ltd	24.48	Pavilion electricity
Flying Colours	79.00	Leafletter
Glebe Contractors	118.69	Grass cutting
N A Thomas	1890.00	Grass cutting
Merlin Waste	112.50	Dog waste collection
GAPTC	95.00	Councillor training
Utilita Energy Ltd	103.93	Pavilion electricity
Andrew Maliphant	530.43	Salary - August
Andrew Maliphant	37.33	Expenses – August

The monthly financial report was received with thanks. The clerk reported a recent site visit to Hobbs Lane by a second group of contractors, bids for the work were awaited.

As trustees of the Rose Barton & Margaret Skelton Trust, it was agreed to pay the bill of £794.76 for this year's annual party for older residents.

**10. Community Land Trust**

MP reported that arrangements were in hand for a public meeting on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October, when residents would be invited to join in the creation of a Longhope community land trust.

**11. Next Meeting - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 7 pm**

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