

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Maliphant (Clerk), County Cllr. B Robinson and twenty-three local residents

1. There were no apologies for absence. MP paid tribute to Lenette Isko, who had recently resigned from the parish council, for all her work with and on behalf of young people and also around improvements to the pavilion and recreation ground.

2. There were no declarations of interest

3. Public Forum

Two residents echoed the tribute to Lenette Isko.

4. Planning

The circulated planning report was received with thanks. After discussion, it was agreed to postpone any decision about planning application P1563/19/FUL for change of use of existing redundant buildings into holiday lets at Holly Bush Farm, Ross Road, pending a check on any outstanding enforcement or licensing issues on site. **ACTION: AM**

There were two applications around prior notification for the erection of an agricultural building at two different sites:

- P1623/19/AG Wild Oak Farm, Little London
- P1486/19/AG Land at Yartleton Lane, May Hill

Councillors were concerned about the exact location of each proposal, and asked the clerk to check whether the buildings could be subsequently used for livestock, which would mean proper attention should be given to drainage for slurry. **ACTION: AM**

The clerk presented the Issues & Options Summary circulated by the District Council for the first stage of consultation on the 2021–41 Local Plan. After discussion a response was agreed reminding the District Council of the findings and recommendations of the Longhope Neighbourhood Development Plan, noting that in terms of the major housing issue in the consultation document, only a limited number of sites are available within the Longhope settlement boundary. This had been confirmed by the parish council's recent exercise looking at further sites to meet the identified need for affordable housing, which couldn't be delivered through a local housing association on an exception site identified a few years previously, despite the site receiving planning permission.

The parish council had found another potential exception site, which a steering group was in the process of investigating as the site for 10 affordable rented homes, to be delivered through a community land trust. As the District Council is leading on enabling community-led housing in the district, the parish council anticipated such initiatives would form part of the Local Plan as it develops.

As far as more market housing in the parish is concerned, the parish council noted they had regularly highlighted issues around bringing in more housing without parallel improvements in the education and health services infrastructure.

It was further noted that a new Local Plan would mean an update to the Longhope Neighbourhood Development Plan, and it was agreed to alert the NDP steering group to the need to reconvene in 2020.

ACTION: AM/MP

5. Minutes of the meeting on September 16th

The minutes of the meeting on September 16th were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly.

6. Members' Reports

BR reported that the District Local Plan would carry significant emphasis on green elements such as reducing carbon emissions, though the use of electric vehicles in the Forest presented different challenges to use in Gloucester or Cheltenham. He had also attended a recent meeting about newts in the Forest of Dean, which might lead to a new habitats plan which would benefit endangered species while also speeding up planning applications.

The District Council was putting £100,000 into Folk2Folk as an investment vehicle to help people borrowing to support new local initiatives.

In reply to questions, BR said he had had no response yet to his query about bats and the lighting on Church Road, but Church Road itself was still on the programme for resurfacing, hopefully within the next twelve months. In terms of the installation of optic fibre networks to improve broadband connections, people could go on the Fastershire website and use their postcode to find out when an upgrade was coming to their area.

AT raised the issue of blocked drainage ditches along Yartleton and Sterry Lanes, and it was agreed to ask when maintenance work would be carried out

ACTION: AM

The village welcome sign at the Latchen / A4136 junction had been damaged, and it was agreed to investigate the cause and check whether the sign could be repaired rather than replaced.

ACTION: AM/RN

7. Committee Reports

(a) Latchen Room Management Committee

RN reported that the electrical testing and certification of the building was being checked, which should also take place for the pavilion.

(b) Recreation Ground Management Committee

RN reported that the contractor had completed all the planned work on the pavilion, including some extra work not included in the initial specification. It was agreed that the bill from the contractor as a small local firm should be paid with the Recreation Ground Committee being invoiced for the extra work. It was noted that some further work was still required on the pavilion roof spaces.

It was unanimously agreed to appoint SC to join RN as the two parish council representatives on the Recreation Ground Committee.

The clerk explained the need for the Committee to agree an extra clause in their rules to allow them to hold an extraordinary general meeting to refill the vacant places and elect new trustees. It was also agreed to draft new meeting and operational rules for the reformed Committee to consider adopting. **ACTION: AM**

8. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk reported a request from Longhope W.I. to plant bulbs in various locations in the village, which was approved.

The clerk read out feedback from Stagecoach about their response to consultation around bus services along the A40. The central point made was that the 33 bus service had been secured financially by carrying more than 100 people each day from the larger communities of Longhope and Mitcheldean, while 2017 ticket machine data had showed fewer than 15 people making daily journeys along the section of the A40 which is no longer served. Stagecoach had advised that any replacement of the A40 service would need subsidy from a third party, noting that the majority of the 33 service does not currently receive any subsidy from the county council.

Following a letter from Two Rivers Housing, it was agreed to accept their gift of a replacement communal bench at Nupend Gardens.

9. Finance

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Came & Company	879.13	Insurance premium
Forest of Dean District Council	147.00	Election costs
Water Plus Ltd	48.41	Allotments water
Merlin Waste	90.00	Dog waste collection
Glebe Contractors	118.69	Grass cutting
PATA (UK)	23.25	Payroll costs
HMRC	319.80	PAYE
Utilita Energy Ltd	85.34	Pavilion electricity
Flying Colours	52.00	CLT leaflet
SLCC Enterprises Ltd	436.00	SLCC conference
Hancock Building Services Ltd	5881.68	Pavilion improvements
Andrew Maliphant	542.52	Salary - September
Andrew Maliphant	37.33	Expenses – September

The monthly financial report was received with thanks. The clerk reported that bids had yet to come in for work on Hobbs Lane, and it was agreed the contractors needed to be chased in advance of discussion at the November meeting. **ACTION: AM/MP**

10. Community Land Trust

MP reported that a public meeting would take place in the Latchen Room on Thursday 24th October to consider the next steps in developing a Longhope community land trust.

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

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