

**Minutes of the Meeting of
LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL
held on Monday 18th November 2019**

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

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

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

3. Election of Vice-Chair

AT proposed SC as Vice-Chair, seconded by RN – unanimous.

4. There was no discussion in public forum
5. It was agreed to postpone the co-option of three new councillors until the January meeting, allowing more time for people in the parish to come forward.

6. Planning

The circulated planning report was received with thanks. There was considerable discussion around the two planning applications on the agenda:

P1563/19/FUL Holly Bush Farm, Ross Road - buildings change of use to holiday lets

The owners of the premises as well as local residents were invited to share their views. MP summarised councillors' views to say that while the parish council could support the application in principle, the council would like to see the resolution of any outstanding issues involving enforcement officers, which the clerk was asked to confirm.

ACTION: AM

P1637/19/DISCON Land at Church Road, Longhope - discharge planning conditions

The parish council had some concerns about this application, and in their response wished to make sure the application complied with policies in the Longhope neighbourhood plan:

- Policy PE1b - enhancing the immediate and wider surroundings in terms of quality of materials, with particular reference to the choice of roof tiles
- Policy H1e - respect the landscape character of the locality
- Policy If2 - ascertain whether the proposed development will lead to overloading of existing waste water and water infrastructure, with particular reference to drainage

It was agreed that the parish council would also like to see trees being reinstated, which was not clear from the application as presented.

7. Minutes of the meetings on October 16th and 21st

This agenda item was moved to the confidential section of the meeting.

8. Members' Reports

SC asked whether there was a plan for dealing with issues around the regularly-blocked brook culvert near Rectory Meadow. The clerk advised that a purchase order had been issued to the council's call-off contractors to clear the current logjam, with care due to the danger from high water levels, but he was not aware of any long-term plans from other agencies. He added a proposal to issue another purchase order to deal with the build-up of mud and leaves at the top of Station Lane due to recent rainfall, which was agreed.

RN noted that the vehicle-activated sign provided a route for gathering information about vehicle speeds to feed back to the road safety group, and it was then for the police to decide whether to bring in a surveillance van with a speed camera. He added that the Men's Shed project were in the process of fixing the damaged village welcome sign.

BR reported he had attended a meeting with Stagecoach, who had shared the same survey information as previously advised to the council. Average bus speeds between Huntley and Gloucester were reported as 10 mph, and BR was on the case about road speeds with Highways England and County Highways. MP observed that bad potholes were appearing in village roads due to one-lane driving during recent works by Gigaclear installing optical fibre links, and BR agreed to look into a solution.

9. Committee Reports

(a) Latchen Room Management Committee

RN reported that the committee had started the process of testing and certifying the electrical system in the Latchen Room. There was a cost involved, but the subsequent certificate would last for five years.

(b) Recreation Ground Management Committee

RN reported that the vacancies in the committee had been filled, and there would be a further committee meeting on November 25th to deal with the outstanding administrative details. On operational matters, the committee were checking out new regulations on septic tanks with particular reference to the risk of any overflow into the water course, and AT advised that a new licence would be needed if a new septic tank was required.

GN raised the question of whether the committee was still legally a sub-committee of the parish council, or rather a separate entity – in which case, a separate lease agreement would be appropriate, similar to the one in place for the Latchen Room, and any funding from the parish council would be in the form of a Section 137 grant rather than direct payment of bills. After further discussion, including around the issue of committee members' liabilities and insurance cover, it was agreed to look into drafting a new lease for consideration.

ACTION: GN/AM

Turning to the pavilion improvements, RN reported that the new heater and new lights were in place. The pavilion roof was now leak-proof, but secondary repairs were not yet completed.

10. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The circulated revisions to the council's standing orders and financial regulations were approved with minor changes.

Correspondence included:

- A request from the North Dean Rights of Way Association for help with their running costs, for which a grant of £50 was unanimously approved
- Information from Age UK about a new home sharing scheme
- Email exchanges with county highways over the drains alongside Yartleton Lane – it was agreed to ask for a further site visit to review the problem
- A request for access to May Hill to make repairs to one of the benches

11. Finance

The following invoices were approved for payment:

PKF Littlejohn	240.00	External audit
Longhope RBL Poppy Appeal	24.00	Remembrance wreath
Merlin Waste	90.00	Dog waste collection
GPFA	50.00	Annual subscription
Utilita Energy Ltd	113.29	Pavilion electricity
Merlin Waste	112.50	Dog waste collection
Andrew Maliphant	564.63	Salary - October
Andrew Maliphant	37.33	Expenses – October
North Dean ROW Association	50.00	Grant towards running costs
Latchen Room Mgt. Committee	549.26	Latchen Room insurance

The monthly financial report was received with thanks. The clerk spoke to the circulated draft budget for 2020/21, advising that it would come back to the council in January for approval when the revised taxbase for the parish would be known.

The clerk presented two different approaches from contractors to the issue of roadway improvements to Hobbs Lane. It was agreed to forward the details to BR to help determine whether 50% funding would be available from the county council as previously discussed.

12. Community Land Trust

MP reported that the CLT was beginning the process of official incorporation as a community benefit society. The clerk added that Gloucestershire Rural Community Council would be managing a housing needs survey, as they had done in 2014, and he would circulate the draft questionnaire for comments. **ACTION: AM**

13. Next Meeting - Monday 20th January 2020 at 7 pm

The press and public were excluded from the last two agenda items due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

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