

**Minutes of the Meeting of
LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL
held online on Monday 21st September 2020**

PRESENT: Cllrs. S Collins (Chair), G Nicholas, and A Toomey

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr I Barrett (Clerk), Mr A Maliphant (Outgoing clerk) County Cllr. B Robinson and 12 local residents

1. There were no apologies for absence.

At the beginning of the meeting the Chair stated that there would be no discussion of the Recreation Ground committee rules and that these would be deferred to an Extra Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council to be held on line on 28 September 2020.

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Nicholas noted that an item on the agenda was the to consider support for Longhope youth activities. Cllr Nicholas declared that he was involved with the youth groups but that this was limited to support and that he had no financial participation.

3. There was no discussion in Public Forum

4. Planning

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

- P1421/20 FUL Coglan Cottage, Old Monmouth Road, Erection of a garden shed and veranda, installation of an external wood burner flue and a solar panel to pitched roof
- P0916/20/FUL Dick Whittington Farm Park, Amended change of use of agricultural barn to flexible commercial use within classes A1, A2, A3, N8, C1 and D2
- P1412/20/FUL Belmont Cottage, Old Hill, Increase to parking area at Belmont Cottage, Old Hill
- P0471/17/FUL Land Off Longhope School, School Lane/ Church Road, Discharge of condition 17 (lighting Scheme) of planning permission P0471/17/FUL

There was further discussion about the following proposals:

- P009/20/DISCON Richard Read Transport, Monmouth Road, Discharge of condition 08 (Pedestrian crossing)
- P1012/20FUL Dick Whittington Farm Park, Creation of Natural Burial Site

Notwithstanding the consultancy report which concluded that no pedestrian crossing was required and that a dropped kerb with associated tactile paving would be sufficient as a crossing measure, there was still considerable disquiet. It was considered that without some form of crossing a serious road safety hazard would exist.

Although there had been a response to objections from the Council concerning the natural burial site, further time was requested to further consider the submission.

5. The minutes of the meetings on 20 July, 04 August and 28 August 2020 were agreed as true records, to be signed when conditions permit.

6. Members' Reports

There were no members' reports

7. Committee Reports

(a) Latchen Room Management Committee

There was no Latchen Room Management Committee report. The Chair stated that all three Councillors were members of the committee, one of whom who attend at a time.

(b) Longhope Emergency Fund

There was nothing to report concerning the Longhope Emergency Fund.

(c) Recreation Ground Management Committee

In accordance with the direction from the Chair this item would be deferred to the Extra Ordinary Meeting to be held on 28 September 2020.

8. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk presented a draft web accessibility statement for the Longhope Parish Council website. It was noted that in accordance with the Accessibility Regulations of 2018 there was a requirement for councils, as a public sector body, to have a plan of action and accessibility statement in place by 23 September 2020. Certain accessibility tools had already been placed on the website. The clerk noted that there were certain technical matters to be clarified with the website designer currently in hand, however it was considered that the accessibility statement was robust enough for publishing. The draft was approved unanimously.

A draft communications plan was presented to the council. This was approved unanimously.

The appointment of a snow warden and the associated duties was discussed. Amongst these were checking the grit bins. It was decided to defer this item to the next meeting.

The clerk reported that only two quotations for the Parish Insurance policy had been received and as such a further quotation was required. An insurance broker had been asked for a third quotation but, at the time of the meeting this had not been provided. This item was deferred to the meeting on 28 September 2020, with the clerk required to pursue the third quotation.

ACTION: IB

GN outlined the proposal for a Youth Parish Council. This initiative has support from the British Youth Council, which is a national network, and has a number of aims designed to

involve young people in local issues. Although the Chair expressed some concern in that there were a limited number of councillors it was agreed that there was merit in the suggestion and there was general approval for the development of a plan. GN stated that he had a good rapport with the young persons in the village and that he wished to see the momentum maintained, particularly in the area of fund raising. The basket swing was provided as an example of the success in this area. GN was asked to provide a report at the next meeting.

ACTION: GN

It was reported that a letter from the Longhope Youth Fund had been received. The Council allocates the Youth Fund £2000 each year. The Fund did not claim the 2019/2020 allowance and in their letter asked for this to be added to the £2000 for 2020/2021, making a total of £4000. The rationale for this being an attempt to raise sufficient funds to upgrade the damaged basketball hoops with a more substantial pair to allow multi sports use. This request was unanimously approved with the caveat that a report on the work was to be delivered to the council.

9. Finance

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Merlin Waste	Dog waste collection, Sept.	124.80
Glebe Contractors	Parish grass cutting	121.07
GAPTC	Councillor training	50.00
GAPTC	Clerk's training	20.00
Andrew Maliphant	Salary - August	789.32
Andrew Maliphant	Expenses - August	37.33

The monthly financial report was received and approved.

The budget for tree planting behind the Latchen Room was deferred to the next meeting.

There was some discussion concerning the expenditure on equipment for the Longhope Parish handyman. It was considered that a budget of £1000 for tools and sundry items was not unreasonable. A suitable storage would be required for these with a suggestion that this could be a container at the rear of the Latchen Room. It was noted that the tasks could include the trimming of hedges and the picking up of litter. Further to this it was suggested that the handyman could include the role of snow warden within his tasks. In addition, the handyman could report any health and safety issues. The length of Longhope village was noted and it was agreed that some form of vehicle would be required. The employee would be subject to a probationary period and an annual appraisal.

There was considerable discussion about the practicalities of planting fruit trees on land behind the Latchen Room, as previously approved in principle. It was agreed that the clerk would circulate quotes received so far from plant nurseries for discussion at the next meeting.

ACTION: IB

10. Next Meeting – Extra Ordinary Meeting Monday 28 September 2020 at 7 pm.
Council Meeting Monday 19 October 2020 at 7pm.

Standing Orders were suspended at the end of the meeting in order that the Council could continue in “closed session” under the provisions of The Public (Admissions to Meetings Act 1960) as the business to be discussed was considered to be of a confidential nature.

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