

# LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16 JULY 2013

A MEETING OF LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL was held on Tuesday 16 July 2013, at 8pm at Longney School

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Finzi, Godwin, Harvie, Williams, and Wingrove; District Cllr. Miles and four residents

**APOLOGIES:** County Cllr. Blackburn, District Cllr. Littleton

**WELCOME:** Cllr. Godwin welcomed Cllr. Graham Wingrove who was attending his first meeting after being co-opted in place of Cllr. Chamberlayne who had resigned at the Annual Parish Council meeting in May

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA:** None

**THE MINUTES** of the meeting of Wednesday 8 May 2013 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting

**MATTERS ARISING:** Matters requiring further discussion were all dealt with as agenda items

**CURRENT PLANNING AND FUTURE PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE:** Planning permission had been granted for: i) a two storey extension and alterations to drive access at Bow Lane Farm, Longney; ii) a security office with welfare and toilet facilities and covered storage for agricultural plant at the Grain Store, Epney; and iii) a single storey extension to rear and side elevations at Willow Brook Cottage, Longney. New planning applications received were: i) a first floor extension to Willow Cottage, Epney; ii) the conversion of granary to residential use and conversion of open fronted cow cubicle to research offices and staff facilities on land adjacent to Scotch Firs House, Longney, which application had since been withdrawn; and iii) a retrospective application for the erection of a timber portal frame building for storage of agricultural and horticultural equipment for maintaining the land at Daneway House, Longney. A proposal was made for a sub-committee of two or three to deal with future planning applications. Discussion took place about possible succession of members, but this was counteracted by the possible issue of continuity. It was proposed that in the case of new planning applications, all Councillors should respond to the sub-committee, who would then report to the Clerk for reply to SDC. This was approved in principle by Councillors, and will be further discussed at the next meeting

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Cllr. Blackburn had e-mailed to report that the Severn Estuary Flood Risk Strategy will be considered at a GCC Environment Committee meeting on 23 July. He requested a copy of the submission from Longney and Epney Parish Council. He also reported on his attempts to get the Highways Department to deal with verges in the Parish, which had since been cut

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Cllr. Miles reported on the SDC Local Plan and supply of building land up to 2031, during which time it is estimated that 2450 new properties will be required. 500 of these will be at Hunts Grove, with the remainder being made up by smaller sites throughout the District including Cam and Sharpness. In the push to continue to improve the volume of recycling, textile banks are now being considered at major sites in the District, for which publicity will be required. The new committee system is now in operation at SDC, all four committees having now met. The four committees are: Community Service, Environment, Housing, and Strategy and Resources

**NEW SEVERN ESTUARY FLOOD RISK STRATEGY INCLUDING PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY:** Hard copies of the new strategy should have been received by the Clerk, but this has not happened. The response from Severn Voice was circulated. An overview of the entire Severn estuary would have been useful but this has not happened. The strategy explains the possible options, but makes no proposals. Each Parish should not be considered in isolation, and each 'local' strategy is short on hard facts or concrete proposals. References to 'working together' are without any practical basis for taking this forward. There is still an emphasis to provide compensating habitats, while factors like food security are sidelined. Funding (or lack of) appears to be the driver, rather than flood defence. The EA's method of calculating cost-benefit ratios takes no account of the value of agricultural land, other business activities, exports, or income and inheritance tax. If funds are not available, maintenance will not be continued. Councillors suggested that the IDB should take responsibility for maintenance/mowing/repairing the flood defence. The question was raised that if a Parish Council becomes responsible for maintenance, does it become

legally responsible if flooding occurs? Smiths Charity will be asked for their response. Cllrs. Godwin and Finzi will collate views received to produce a response from Longney and Epney Parish Council, making the point that the strategy produced is still unsatisfactory

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

**GCC - CLLR. BLACKBURN, £20,000 ROAD REPAIR WAR CHEST:** It was considered important that ruts at road edges created during the wet winter in numerous places throughout the Parish, need to be filled. It will also be reported that several roadside markers have also been knocked down. Cllr. Finzi will contact County Cllr. Blackburn

**GCC - WINTER MAINTENANCE AND ADVERSE WEATHER:** Cllr. Godwin will complete the questionnaire received

**RISK ASSESSMENT:** A risk assessment document had been prepared and circulated by Cllr. Harvie. Councillors were asked to complete a risk score on which topics were needed in a risk assessment relevant to the Parish Council. A new document will then be created and circulated for final agreement

**EPNEY PHONE BOX:** The contract had been prepared for signature for the Parish Council to take responsibility for the phone box, by purchasing it for the sum of £1. The cost of running the box/maintenance etc. and alternative uses must be considered. One possible use would be a book exchange, and a competition for ideas for other uses for the box was considered. It was suggested that the box might be better sited/used if moved to the vicinity of the School, where it would also possibly be better looked after and less vulnerable to vandalism

**LITTER PICKING:** An annual litter picking session including clearing flotsam from the River Severn was considered, possibly using prisoners from Leyhill Prison. Much of the roadside litter generated bears the name 'MacDonalds'. Cllr. Harvie will contact the two local branches of this takeaway to ask for their help in preventing this happening in future

#### **VILLAGE PLAN:**

a) **GARDEN GROUP/EQUIPMENT:** A further £45 had been received from those hiring the equipment. A check on the need for any maintenance will be carried out

b) **HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE:** Dealt with under correspondence

c) **OIL PURCHASE SCHEME:** Cllr. Godwin would like to progress this, which he is willing to set up, but any scheme would require an administrator. Names of those who have registered an interest will be given to Cllr. Godwin

d) **WEBSITE CONTENT INCLUDING COUNCILLORS' CV's:** The website needs more frequent updating, including information about Parish Councillors. A suggestion was made that Councillors contact residents to bring about awareness of the Parish Council and who their Councillors are

e) **NEWSLETTER:** Information for the September newsletter is required by mid-August. Future newsletters will be scanned onto the website

#### **OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**STATIONERY:** Councillors agreed to the signing of a cheque value £27.30 for a replacement ink cartridge, copy paper, envelopes, and new boxfiles for the circulation of correspondence

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of Longney and Epney Parish Council will take place at 8.00pm on Monday 16 September 2013 at Longney School

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.50p.m.**