

LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2013

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

PRESENT: Cllrs. Finzi, Godwin, Harvie, Williams, and Wingrove; County Cllr. Blackburn; District Cllr. Littleton; PCSO Garcia-Cote; and five residents

APOLOGIES: PCFaye Jones

DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA: None

THE MINUTES of the meeting of Tuesday 16 July 2013 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting

MATTERS ARISING:

PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE: A Sub-committee of two Councillors, Cllrs Finzi and Godwin, has been formed to deal with planning applications received from Stroud District Council. Applications are circulated by the Clerk and Councillors submit their opinions to the sub-committee, who produce the reply to be sent by the Clerk to SDC

POLICE REPORT: PCSO Tracy Garcia-Cote informed the meeting about an incident involving noise, music, refuse and drug use at Allotments Lane Longney which had been reported and had been responded to by Officers. Training with a speed gun is now available to check on speeding motorists within the Parish. Three people are required at any one time if a speed gun is to be used: a look out, a gun user, and a note taker. Registrations can be passed to the Police and a letter will be sent to the offending driver. A community approach to traffic speed is needed, and the matter will be publicised through the newsletter and Longney School. A burglary had taken place involving expensive saddles being stolen after a hunt, which is known to be followed by travellers who are thought to be responsible for this incident. PCSO Garcia-Cote was thanked for attending the meeting and giving her report

PLANNING: Planning permission had been granted for: i) a first floor extension to Willow Cottage, Epney; and ii) the erection of a timber portal frame building for storage of agricultural and horticultural equipment for maintaining the land at Daneway House, Longney. New planning applications had been received for: i) change of use of existing cow cubicles to offices (research/clinical records) on land adjacent to Scotch Firs House, Longney; and ii) the erection of a single storey extension at Forest View, Longney

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr. Blackburn gave thanks for the confidence expressed in him by those who had re-elected him in the May elections. His ward has changed and is now Hardwicke and Severn. There is no overall control in the County Council but minority control by the Conservatives. £6.9 million has been allocated to road repairs since the beginning of the year, with £20,000 being allocated to each parish. Anything specific which is required on roads in the Parish should be notified to Cllr. Blackburn. It was reported that the road at Lapperditch is subsiding. A list of matters requiring attention will be sent to Daniel Tiffany, and copied to Cllr. Blackburn. On the matter of flood defence, Cllr. Blackburn reported that an EA representative had attended a meeting at GCC. The new strategy is not properly thought out and remains unsatisfactory. No proper value is given to agricultural land. Owen Patterson, the Government Minister, is expecting a "partnership" - the County Council and parishes - to fund future flood defences rather than an EA budget. The Chairman thanked Cllr Blackburn for keeping flooding high on the GCC agenda

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr. Littleton reported that the latest housing predictions are available for consideration. With flood defence maintenance funding coming to an end, there is a possibility of the IDB taking on maintenance, but funding will be needed. Landowners and the Parish Councils cannot be expected to take on flood defence maintenance

NEW SEVERN ESTUARY FLOOD RISK STRATEGY: The consultation period has now ended and the EA proposals are awaited. A meeting has been arranged with SDC to discuss the situation. If the EA does not have funding an alternative is needed. The IDB could do the work more cheaply than the EA. A meeting will be arranged with the landowners along the flood defence in the Parish

CORRESPONDENCE:

GCC PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL SURVEY: This was completed by Cllr. Finzi, giving an average score

GAPTC - SDC WORKING TOGETHER: SDC is asking parishes to sign-up to this Charter. An agenda item for the next meeting

STROUD AND DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU - GRANT REQUEST: Discussed and agreed to donate £30 to this resource which gives helpful advice to all residents who request it. A cheque was signed for this amount

RISK ASSESSMENT: A risk assessment document had been prepared by Cllr. Harvie. One of the main risks is keeping up to date with legal requirements, which responsibility can affect Councillors committing to the Parish Council. The risk assessment needs updating twice a year. It was suggested that residents should be asked again what the Parish Council should be doing for them. The Parish Plan Action Plan could be circulated to Councillors, then via the website and newsletter to residents. On the subject of Broadband the provision of which came about through the Action Plan, and is proving unsatisfactory, Severn Voice is asking BT to attend a future meeting to find out what they will offer to improve their service in the area

EPNEY PHONE BOX: This was awaiting a decision at this meeting before making the purchase for £1. Objections to the proposal to move the box to Longney School had been received from Epney residents, who consider it a landmark, a heritage feature of the village. Residents are willing to put work in to repair and maintain the telephone box. Names of the proposed caretakers will be given to the Parish Council and the cheque will be sent for the purchase. It is proposed that the door will be mended and secured and repainting will take place. Longney School will be informed that the box is staying in Epney

LITTER PICKING: No reply had been received from the local MacDonalDs re litter bearing their name frequently being found in the Parish. A letter will be written to the Head Office. Anti-litter posters have been ordered from "Keep Britain Tidy". Posters have also been requested from Radio Suffolk

VILLAGE PLAN:

a) **GARDEN GROUP/EQUIPMENT:** A further £15 had been received from those hiring the equipment.

b) **HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE:** Many of the bollards/road-edge markers throughout the Parish are missing/broken/lying down and are creating a safety issue. Councillors propose to remove those which are littering the Parish and suggest to the County Council that the Parish Council will put new markers in their place, which it is hoped the CC will provide, as this has been previously reported and nothing has been done

c) **OIL PURCHASE SCHEME:** Cllr. Godwin will progress this

d) **WEBSITE CONTENT INCLUDING:** No further information

e) **NEWSLETTER:** References to newsletter items given elsewhere in these minutes

OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

HM REVENUE AND CUSTOMS: HMRC has been asking for details of real time payments made to employees, with threats of penalties if not complied with, although previously notified that the Clerk only receives one payment at the end of each financial year. Cllr. Godwin will investigate

MAINS SEWERAGE FOR EPNEY: A resident enquired whether mains sewerage will ever be available in Epney, since the sewerage works for Longney has been built on the boundary of Epney village. The Chairman gave the reply that this is unlikely since the sewerage works were only created because the community system in use previously in Longney became overloaded

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of Longney and Epney Parish Council will take place at 8.00pm on Monday 18 November 2013 at Longney School

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.00p.m.