

LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Action

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 09 JUNE 2014

The Annual meeting of **LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL** was held on Monday 9th June 2014.

PRESENT:

Cllr. Godwin (RG)
Cllr. Harvie (JH)
Cllr. Wingrove (GW)
Cllr. Russell (AR)
Cllr. Christian (BC)
District Cllr David Mossman/Stroud District Council (DM)
3rd Sector Services representative Bev Hemming
Retiring clerk Colin Squire
Clerk Nikki Leach (NL)
Three residents

APOLOGIES:

County Cllr. Blackburn

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Chairman: Cllr Godwin, proposed by Cllr. Wingrove, seconded by Cllr. Harvie
Vice Chairman: Cllr Wingrove, proposed by Cllr. Godwin, seconded by Cllr. Harvie
Co-option of 2 new councilors, Cllr. Christian and Cllr. Russell, proposed by Cllr. Godwin, seconded by Cllr Harvie, all in favor
Highways officer: Cllr. Wingrove proposed by Cllr. Godwin, seconded by Cllr. Harvie
Footpaths officer(s): Cllr's. Russell and Harvie proposed by Cllr. Godwin, seconded by Cllr. Wingrove
Snow Warden/Snow Plough Operator: Cllr. Godwin proposed by Cllr. Wingrove, seconded by Cllr. Harvie
Deputy Snow Warden: Cllr. Harvie proposed by Cllr. Godwin, seconded by Cllr. Wingrove
Planning Sub-committee: Cllr. Wingrove and Cllr Godwin proposed by Cllr. Harvie, seconded by Cllr. Russell
Responsible Finance Officer and Clerk Nikki Leach, proposed by Cllr. Godwin, seconded by Cllr. Wingrove
Litter Representative: Cllr. Harvie
Oil Purchase Scheme Coordinator: Cllr. Russell
Website Manager: Nathan Mills

Declaration of acceptance of office forms completed for all 5 Councilors.

Cllr. Godwin thanked Colin Squire for his work in the role of Clerk for the past 19 years and introduced Nikki Leach who will now take over the role as of 9th June 2014.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA: None

THE MINUTES of the meeting of Monday 10th March 2014 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting. Except that Cllr. Mossman commented that a minor amendment should be made to the previous District Councilors Report section of the minutes regarding the review of ward boundaries – the existing minutes suggest that each ward should have approximately 7000 electors per Councilor, Cllr. Mossman stated that this figure should be 1,800 electors per Councilor

MATTERS ARISING:

- Police: Cllr. Harvie requested that if the police attend the next meeting it would be helpful to discuss the cyclists in the area who are often seen cycling on the

wrong side of the road. Cllr. Wingrove also added that there had been a recent incident involving a cyclist knocked into a ditch by the school bus.

3rd SECTOR SERVICES: Cllr. Godwin introduced Bev Hemming, representative from 3rd Sector Services who came to the meeting to present on the bespoke transport services offered by the company. The company has seen a recent increase in requests from the area and thought that it may be of benefit to increase awareness of the service and what they can offer. There are a range of services available including door to door transport (for example doctors or hospital appointments), bus transport, day care transport and school transport. The service is aimed at people who are rurally isolated and also those with reduced mobility. The charity was founded in 2006 and covers a wide area including Gloucester, Tewkesbury, Cheltenham, Worcestershire and the North Cotswolds. The charity work closely with Gloucester County Council, Cheltenham County Council, City Council and various day centers and schools. They are also working closely with the NHS to combat social isolation. Parishioners would be expected to pay a one off registration fee and then a fee per trip. Bev left a number of registration packs and contact cards with the Clerk, these will be made available to parishioners on request. It was agreed that a link to the company website could be placed on the Longney and Epney Parish Council Website and a small advert or write up could be included in the parish newsletter. **Action: NL to add paragraph to the next newsletter. BC to pass information to Nathan Mills for the website.**

NL/BC

PLANNING: The application for retrospective planning permission has been refused at the grainstore. Permission has been granted for an extension at Riverside Farm, Epney. Observations have been asked for in relation to the application for a rear extension at Lynch Cottage. Cllr. Godwin and Cllr. Wingrove agreed to meet to discuss this as a response is required by the 10th June. There had been no new planning applications. **Action: RG and GW to meet and agree on response regarding Lynch Cottage**

RG/GW

NEW SEVERN ESTUARY FLOOD RISK STRATEGY: The new strategy is not yet available and it sounds unlikely that it will be available this year

CORRESPONDENCE:

- GAPTC Training: Cllr. Godwin suggested that this training day may be useful for existing and new members, he will circulate the information following the meeting
- Through the gate working party – Cllr. Harvie suggested that the services of the prisoners should be considered where possible should the need arise
- Early Years Funded Free Entitlement – it was suggested that a summary paragraph detailing this scheme and the entitlement should be included on the website and in the newsletter
- Three Counties Traditional Orchard Project – this was discussed in detail and it was agreed that a donation to this project would not be the best use of the council's budget however it could be discussed again at the next meeting.

Action: Cllr. Godwin to circulate details of training days to all members. Nikki Leach to add summary paragraph to the next newsletter, Rebecca Christian to pass details on to Nathan Mills for the website.

RG/NL
/BC

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: None given

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr. Mossman introduced himself and explained that he was newly elected. He thanked everyone who had voted for him in the area and explained that this is a very important area within the district.

- Town Plan: Cllr. Mossman attended the Annual General Meeting at which the

inspector's review of the Town Plan was discussed. It is important to note that it still has not passed but there were two important areas discussed at the meeting. Firstly the inspector agreed that the duty to cooperate has been fulfilled. Secondly the housing numbers are still to be agreed. The inspector has requested that the figures are looked at and presented again. Each borough has used a different method to calculate the figures and so this will now be reviewed. Cllr. Mossman explained that they now have 6 months to review the plan and go back to the inspectors. Cllr. Mossman also reminded the council that the neighborhood plan is a statutory plan and is a powerful document.

- Boundary Commission Review: Ongoing review of internal boundaries within the Stroud District. At present there is an uneven ratio of councilors to districts. The boundary commission report is expected in 2016.
- Council Houses: Stroud District Council are now rebuilding council houses. Around 50 million pounds will be invested into this over the next 5 years. The aim is to build approximately 150 new houses and also to renovate other sites. This will predominantly take place in Cam, Stroud and Minchinhampton. There will be a mixture of affordable housing and council housing.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT/ANNUAL RETURN: The accounts for 2013/2014 were approved by Cllr. Harvie and seconded by Cllr. Wingrove. Questions from the floor were invited in relation to the accounts – clarification on the playing field rent was requested, Cllr. Godwin explained that the Parish Council rent the playing field from Smiths Charities and that the car park next to the school is part of this. The accounts for 2013/2014 were signed by the Chairman.

VILLAGE PLAN:

- Garden Group/Equipment: No further information
- Highway Maintenance: The footpath in Longney was raised for discussion to the amount of overgrowth – the council are aware that this needs addressing, Cllr Wingrove to contact Highways. The footpaths towards the river from Lynch Lane, including a bridge were also discussed and Cllr. Godwin agreed to arrange for this to be cut back
- Oil Purchase Scheme: Cllr. Russell and Cllr. Godwin will meet to discuss this in the near future
- Website: A new administrator for the website has been found – Nathan Mills will take over this responsibility
- Newsletter: Geoff Smith has asked if the newsletter can be sent out electronically. The distribution list currently receiving electronic updates from the council are to be contacted to see if they would be happy to receive the newsletter electronically.

Action: Cllr. Wingrove to contact Highways regarding the overgrown footpaths, Cllr. Godwin to arrange for footpath access around the river to be made accessible. Cllr. Godwin and Cllr. Russell to discuss Oil Purchase Scheme.

GW/RG
/AR

ELECTORS' FORUM: Mr Buckle raised the issue of anti-social behavior at the entrance to the pumping station in Longney. There is a large amount of noise late at night and a huge amount of litter being left. There is also a concern that drug dealing may be taking place. There was an incident last Friday where motorbikes and cars were collecting in the area and a group of youths were making noise and using offensive language. This incident was reported to the police. Cllr. Godwin commented that he had taken a photo of an unattended car parked down the lane and sent this to the police for their records. The police have stated that they will increase their late night patrols through the area. Cllr. Godwin advised that electors should continue to

contact the police if they have concerns. He also suggested the possibility of altering the entrance to the lane/pumping station and agreed to look into this further.

Action: Cllr. Godwin to investigate options regarding access to the entrance of the lane leading to the pumping station in Longney.

RG

OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Clerk Fees: Colin Squire requested payment for £29.08 to cover the cost of ink cartridges and paper, this was approved during the meeting.
- Other Payments: Cheque for insurance, AON UK LTD, £240.61 was requested and approved during the meeting
- Signatories for cheques: Cllr. Harvie took his details to Lloyds Bank today and therefore will be approved to sign cheques in the near future. Cllr. Wingrove has the forms and will follow up on this shortly. Cllr. Wingrove will also arrange for relevant signatories to be removed from the list, and also to bring in Cllr. Russell and Cllr. Christian

Action: Cllr. Wingrove to take action regarding signatories. Cllr. Harvie to follow up with Lloyds Bank.

GW/JH

- Letter from Longney School: Penny Cartwright has written to the Council asking for support with the school firework display. In recent years they have struggled to get the number of volunteers and attendees required to make the event run successfully. She suggested that a collaboration with the Council may increase the number of volunteers and also raise the publicity of the event. This was discussed and it was agreed that the Council did not wish to become involved directly with the event but that they would be happy to advertise the event on the website and in the newsletter.

Action: Nikki Leach to contact Penny Cartwright advising of outcome of discussion

NL

THE CHAIRMAN thanked all Councilors and residents for attending the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of Longney and Epney Parish Council will take place at 8.00pm on Monday 21st July 2014 at Longney School

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.