

LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21 JULY 2014

A meeting of **LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL** was held on Monday 21st July 2014.

PRESENT:

Cllr. Godwin (RG)
Cllr. Harvie (JH)
Cllr. Wingrove (GW)
Cllr. Russell (AR)
District Cllr Russell Miles/Stroud District Council (RM)
PC Kevin Lee (KL)
Clerk Nikki Leach (NL)
Three residents

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Christian
County Cllr. Blackburn

DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA: NL declared an interest in the planning application at Churchend Barn, Longney

THE MINUTES of the meeting of Monday 9th June 2014 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING:

Cllr. Wingrove discussed the anti-social behavior at the end of allotments lane. There have been further disturbances with cars being parked in there. Cllr. Godwin advised that he is in discussion regarding the possibility of putting gates across the end of the lane. Cllr. Godwin also advised that people should continue reporting it to the police and/or to him.

PLANNING: There has been one application in the Parish since the last meeting relating to Churchend Barn, Longney. As this property is owned by NL, Clerk to the Council, Cllr. Wingrove agreed to upload the response on behalf of the Council. Cllr. Godwin clarified the process for Cllr's commenting on proposed applications – all Cllr's should forward their responses to Cllr. Godwin, confirming that they have read the application and stating whether or not there **Action: GW to comment online regarding the application**

HIGH TIDES AND FLOOD PREVENTION: Cllr. Godwin presented the latest update from the Flood Risk Asset Management Committee regarding the advance notice of upcoming tides and their potential impact. It is extremely difficult to predict the impact of the upcoming tides based on the previous figures given that there are so many variables influencing the final height of the water in Epney and Longney. There are high risk tides expected in August, September and October. Cllr. Godwin has a number to contact the Environment Agency at any time. 72 hours notice of a potential flood will be provided. Cllr. Harvie commented on the damage to the bank at the Crib. Cllr. Godwin advised that the Environment Agency would not be able to change this at present as they need to plant and have an established bank which takes time. The current focus has been the bank at Minsterworth due to the damage caused by badger sets. Cllr. Godwin confirmed that he will send out an email on our email warning system with 72 hours notice, this should allow people sufficient time to arrange sandbags and other precautions.

SEVERN ESTUARY FLOOD RISK STRATEGY: Cllr. Godwin confirmed that the document will not be out until next year at the earliest. They are

readdressing several issues at present and local Councils will need to communicate with the new environment minister now that Owen Pattison has moved on. Cllr. Harvie asked how many houses were flooded during the last floods – Cllr. Godwin suggested that it was 3 houses. Cllr. Wingrove also spoke about the possibility for an alternative route for the flow of water at Downend Barn.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- ☒ Frampton Country Fair: Cllr. Godwin stated that the Country Fair is being held on Sunday 14th September and there will be increased traffic in the area as a result of this
- ☒ Local Transport Plan Review – Questionnaire completed during meeting, Clerk to forward results as appropriate
- ☒ Lights Out Campaign – to commemorate the centenary of Britain's entry into WWI it is proposed that lights should be put out between 10 and 11pm on the 4th August and a single candle be lit in memory. Cllr. Miles was not aware of this initiative and it had not been well publicized. If it had not been mentioned at the meeting then the rest of the parish would not have been aware of it. Cllr. Godwin suggested that SDC could consider this when sending communications regarding upcoming events.
- ☒ Active Together – grants of up to £40,000 are available per electoral division to provide fitness and sports equipment in the local community. Cllr. Christian forwarded a suggestion that some of this grant could be applied for to provide equipment in Longney, or perhaps a swimming pool. Cllr. Miles confirmed that Hardwicke PC have had a grant approved for fitness equipment around the village green so a large proportion of the local grant may have already been allocated. Cllr. Godwin suggested speaking to the school about this
- ☒ Hardwicke Post Office – the Post Office has now re-opened and there were some concerns about Frampton Post Office shutting from the 1st August. This has not yet been confirmed
- ☒ Cycle route through Longney – there is some concern that this will increase the number of cyclists through the village. Cllr. Harvie has already expressed concerns about the increased number of cyclists through the village and the hazard that this causes on the narrow lane.
- ☒ Temporary closure of the footpaths – it was not clear what the direct impact of this temporary closure will have on the Parish, further information will be required.

Action: NL to forward results of Local Transport Plan Review.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: A report has been received and communicated. GCC have an extra £3.3 million for potholes and £20,000 to spend on road repairs or signs, Cllr. Blackburn requested to be notified if Longney and Epney PC have any urgent road items not covered by the general Highways budget.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr. Miles provided an update on the town plan.

- ☒ Town Plan: This is currently being resubmitted. The local plan is deemed to be slightly pessimistic with regard to the projected number of houses. One of the main areas for review is the Hunts Grove development. The plan cannot be changed but is open for minor corrections/amendments. Stage 1 review is expected in 2015, Stage 2 in the Spring/Summer of 2015 and adoption at the end of 2015.

Cllr. Godwin asked where this will leave the council with any plans submitted from developers in the interim period. Cllr. Miles agreed that the council may be vulnerable but will still be under the current rulings of the Development Control Committee. Cllr. Miles advised that there will not be any planned meetings during August.

- ☒ Council Houses: Cllr. Miles commented that SDC is investing in building council houses and that they are looking at sheltered housing contracts with tenants
- ☒ Supermarket Applications: There have been 3 major supermarket applications in the center of Stroud. The proposal for an Asda in the old Daniels Industrial estate has been accepted. The proposals for a Morrisons and another unnamed supermarket have not been given the go ahead. Parishioner Wendy Gower asked about the current plans for the site of The Starting Gate in Hardwicke. Cllr. Miles suggested that this may be turned into a Tesco Express and that the current Post Office may relocate there.

POLICE REPORT: P.C Kevin Lee presented the police report for the last quarter for the Parish. There have been a few reports relating to the youths at the lane to the back of Malthouse. The police have increased the number of directed patrols and have served warnings on several occasions. PC Lee visited Mr and Mrs Fenn to discuss the matter. The police are looking to increase the number of patrols in the area. It was also suggested that the police could create a letter to distribute locally advising parishioners to call 101 for non-emergencies and 999 if appropriate. It would also advise people to collect registration numbers if possible if vehicles are involved. PC Lee advised that there are 6 PCSO's and 2 beat officers that cover the area so it could be possible for them to drive through every day. PC Lee clarified that there has been an increase in the numbers of reporting recently – from the 1st June to the 29th July there were 4 incidents reported. There is no trend in the time of the incidents although they are predominantly in the evenings from 8.30 onwards.

Cllr. Wingrove asked if it would be possible to bridge the gap between the reporting for Epney which falls under the Stroud division and Longney which is within the Gloucester division. PC Lee advised that the divisions are completely separate but he could try to liaise with the PCSOs from Stroud to provide a report so that they can then report on both villages within the Parish. Cllr. Wingrove also commented that it had been noticed that there was a noticeable increase in the number of patrols in the area and that we were grateful for this.

Cllr. Harvie raised the issue of the great increase in the number of cyclists in the area, most of which are riding in groups which is very dangerous. It appears that these riders are part of a cycling club and this could be related to the new cycle route that passes through Epney. The number of cyclist riding together through very narrow lanes is extremely dangerous and is causing problems. PC Lee said that he would research the local cycling clubs and send a letter to them. He also asked the council to see if it is possible to record the names of the clubs from the clothing.

VILLAGE PLAN:

- ☒ Garden Group/Equipment: No further information
- ☒ Highway Maintenance: Cllr. Wingrove has gone back to Highways to comment that the standard of cutting on the verges has not been as good recently. Highways have replaced some manhole covers and are meeting Cllr. Wingrove in the near future to discuss the footpath in Longney
- ☒ Oil Purchase Scheme: Nothing to report at present

☒ Website: The council would like to receive the link to the test site before the website goes live so that they can review the content. Council to forward a photo and a short biography for the website. Clerk to follow up regarding brief information for the Longhorns Cricket Club

☒ Newsletter: Cllr. Godwin to liaise with Geoff Smith to arrange electronic distribution of the newsletter. Geoff Smith confirmed that there are a small number of individuals who help to distribute the paper newsletter.

Action: All Council members to forward a photo and short biography to the Clerk. Clerk to obtain further information regarding the Longhorns CC. Clerk to forward link to the test website. Cllr. Godwin to speak with Geoff Smith regarding the newsletter distribution.

ELECTORS' FORUM: Suzanna Finzey commented that there are a number of maps and documents available in the Parish Plan that may be suitable for the website. Cllr. Godwin to discuss with Susanna where these are located.

Geoff Smith (GS) asked if there are any plans for a Parish skip to be arranged. Cllr. Miles agreed to take this back to SDC to discuss if this could be organized. GS also commented that there is a disproportionate number of dog owners in the village and there has been an increase in dog fouling on the footpaths. The option of signage was discussed – Cllr. Godwin mentioned that there had been some signs a few years ago but this had not been kept updated. Cllr. Miles suggested that the council contact SDC who will involve the neighborhood warden, there could potentially be an increase in patrols from the dog warden and there are various options with signs that could be investigated. Finally GS asked the Council to consider the community event planned for June/July 2015 celebrating skills of people in the community. This event will be added to the newsletter to raise awareness.

Wendy Gower (WG) asked if there was a possibility that the council could be involved with placing lifebelts down by the Anchor. The recent tides and the bores attract a wide audience and WG was wondering if the Parish Council have a responsibility to help with the safety. Cllr. Godwin said that this is not something that the council have been involved with before, he suggested that this may be something that The Anchor would be involved with and agreed to speak with them.

Action: Cllr. Godwin to liaise with Susanna regarding documents for the website. Clerk to contact SDC regarding dog fouling. Clerk to forward information regarding community event to website. Cllr. Godwin to speak with Andy Lyes regarding lifebelts by the wall.

OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

☒ Meet the Councillor's evening: There was a suggestion of holding a village meeting in the local pub sponsored by the Parish Council as a way of publicizing the work of the council and hosting an informal event for parishioners to come and meet with the council as some people may be intimidated by the idea of attending the regular meetings. As there are not many attendees at the regular PC meetings there was a concern that perhaps this would not be a valuable exercise as it may not attract any interest. No decision was made at this time.

☒ Final Payment Retiring Clerk: Clerk and Cllr. Wingrove to meet to arrange HMRC update and final payment. Final amounts approved during meeting, £22.93 expenses and £811.32 fees.

☒ Litter picking: Cllr. Harvie confirmed that a team of people from Macdonalds were coming the following evening to conduct a litter

pick. They are meeting at 6.15 in the car park. Next time there will be a little more notice so that other members of the Parish can assist.

☒ Financial Audit: The final response has been received from Grant Thornton regarding the audit. Clerk to display notice as per request in letter.

☒ Drainage at Longney School: Cllr. Wingrove attended a meeting at the school regarding the drainage and the plans to connect to the main drainage in the village. In order to complete the works the builders need to install a site welfare unit and this will be situated in the car park. Cllr Wingrove asked for the permission of the council for this to go ahead, this was agreed as long as the site is left exactly as it was found.

☒ Severn Voice Meeting: Cllr. Godwin stated that the Parish are hosts to the next Severn Voice Meeting to be held in September. All council members should be present for the meeting and Cllr. Godwin will act as chair. The proposed date is Monday 22nd September.

Action: Cllr. Wingrove and Clerk to meet regarding final payment for retiring Clerk, Clerk to display notice regarding close of audit

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 15th September 2014 at Longney School

There being no further business the meeting closed at 09.54 p.m.

Action

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**All, NL
RG**

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