

# **LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

A meeting of **LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL** was held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 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)  
Clerk Nikki Leach (NL)  
Two residents

### **APOLOGIES:**

PC McGoldrick  
County Cllr. Blackburn

### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA:**

None declared

**THE MINUTES** of the meeting of Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

### **MATTERS ARISING:**

Cllr. Godwin reminded the council of the process for approval of the minutes. In future the first draft of the minutes will be sent to the Parish and District Cllr's for review and comment – all amendments will be recorded in tracked changes and returned to the Clerk for collation. This will ensure that any issues are clarified prior to the meeting so the minutes can be approved and signed during the meeting.

Cllr Mossman updated the Parish on Hardwicke Post Office. The Post Office and shop are now closed. Frampton Post Office and shop are still open.

Cllr. Godwin stated that it is still planned to put gates on allotments lane – this will be looked in to over the coming weeks.

Cllr. Godwin provided an update on the recent tides – the tides in early September actually registered as a negative tide which is a very rare event. There are no more predicted tidal problems until April next year. The Environment Agency are meeting with Cllr. Godwin during the coming week to discuss minor work to the river defense prior to the next big series of tides. An update was also provided on the planned spend forecast by Neil Carmichael during this financial year, a potential 380,000 will be spent on maintaining flood defenses, and approximately 2 million on repairing flood defenses. A planned 50 million pounds will be spent in Gloucestershire on this over the next 100 years.

There is nothing new to report on the flood risk strategy.

The issue regarding the cyclists is still ongoing. There are still a number of cases reported of riders cycling several abreast and some riders on their telephones.

Cllr. Wingrove provided an update on the drainage at the school – the planned works to route the drainage from the school to the mains has

been delayed. During October half term it is proposed that the new pipe will be connected and this will involve traffic lights through the village – this will not be a full road closure.

**WEBSITE:** Cllr. Christian provided a live demonstration of the draft website. All Councilors were very impressed with the work done so far and passed their thanks to Nathan Mills (NM) who has been working on the project. There are still a number of areas requiring input:

Clerk to send pdf versions of all previous meeting minutes to NM  
Councilors to send photo and biography to the Clerk to forward to NM  
Councilors to make a list of all local businesses who may like to advertise  
Clerk to obtain a short paragraph relating to the Longhorns Cricket Club  
Clerk to start the first of the short interviews with residents of the village  
Clerk to write and send brief statement relating to the Henry Smiths Coal and Clothing Charity, including the eligibility criteria  
Clerk to obtain electronic copies of the Village Plan, Design Statement and Emergency Plan

It was agreed that the Vicar, Andrew James would be consulted regarding the details for the church, and the headmistress Penny Cartwright should be consulted regarding the school. The medical services page should be created under the guidance of the practice at Frampton on Severn. A brief section will be added regarding the garden machinery that is available locally through Al Fenn. It was also suggested that contact should be made with the village agent Christine Lingard.

**POLICE REPORT:** A short report was provided from PC Lee as he was unable to attend the meeting. There has been one incident relating to anti-social behavior in Longney. There has also been a recent theft in Saul relating to riding equipment. PC Lee is looking into the issue relating to the cyclists.

**PLANNING:** There has been one planning approval at Churchend Barn, Longney. The approval was granted with conditions – the development should not be used for business purposes and there is to be no burning of stable waste or other materials on site. The question was raised as to who was responsible for enforcing the conditions of planning and it was stated that this would be the responsibility of the Stroud District Council planning enforcement officer.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Community Energy and Community Energy Co-ops grant funding – next meeting Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September. Currently it is not permitted for Parish Council to sell energy to the National Grid but this will change in the future.

Internal Boundary Review of Stroud District – this review is aimed at equalizing the number of voters per district.

**HIGH TIDES AND FLOOD PREVENTION:** Dealt with under matters arising

**SEVERN ESTUARY FLOOD RISK STRATEGY:** Dealt with under matters arising

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Cllr. Blackburn is away on holiday and passed on his apologies. There have not been any key meetings in August and there is nothing new to report for the meeting that has not already been circulated.

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Cllr. Mossman provided an update on Hardwicke Post Office. There is a planning application in process for the Post Office to reopen in the building which is currently

known as the Starting Gate pub. It is hoped that this may occur in late November or December. It is not clear what will happen to the old Post Office site.

A new waste contract is currently being discussed. It is likely that this will be in house to save on costs. There may be some changes to the street cleaning and litter collection services, litter picking, dog waste and cigarette bin emptying, garden waste collection and bulky waste collection however the impact of this is not yet known.

Development Control Committee – there is currently control on the freedom of developers until the Town Plan is fully accepted.

#### **VILLAGE PLAN:**

- ☒ Garden Group/Equipment: No further updates
- ☒ Highway Maintenance: The benefit of speed reduction trials was discussed. Cllr. Mossman advised that a similar scheme was conducted in Hardwicke last year and there were questions around the benefit of such a scheme.
- ☒ Oil Purchase Scheme: Cllr. Godwin and Cllr. Russell to meet and discuss
- ☒ Website: Discussed in previous agenda item
- ☒ Newsletter: Cllr. Godwin to liaise with Geoff Smith to arrange electronic distribution of the newsletter.

Action: Cllr Godwin and Cllr. Russell to meet regarding Oil Purchase Scheme. Cllr. Godwin to speak with Geoff Smith regarding the newsletter distribution.

**BROADBAND:** An update was provided by Cllr. Godwin regarding the recent meeting with BT, our local MP, Fastershire representatives from GCC and the PCs/residents of Longney, Epney and Elmore which took place on 28 Aug 14. Keith Rog and Roger Godwin also attended the meeting.

BT were represented by 4 individuals, compared with the one at the Severn Voice Meeting last March. This shows both their seriousness at providing an infrastructure to enable a reliable fast broadband service to be delivered to our villages and also their drive to and confidence to do so. Individuals will not be limited to using BT as their internet service provider (ISP); they will have the option to use any ISP and it is just the infrastructure that is being replaced/upgraded as it is this that has been the cause of the connectivity and speed problems.

The salient points of the meeting are as follows:

BT committed, in accordance with Government initiative, to providing a fast broadband service to the UK including rural areas.

A significant feasibility study has been undertaken to provide a secure wireless broadband signal from the Hardwicke exchange to a receiving station by the T junction by Hardwicke Farm, close to the side of the Pilot Bridge. The transmitter/receiver will be powered electrically with back up battery supplies and will be much more reliable/robust than the power supply to the radio signal distribution experienced with Cotswold Wireless. Work to install the poles and associated technical equipment should commence within the next 4 weeks and the wireless signal should be operational by the end of Dec 14, possibly earlier. This should mean that those people who already use BT or other cable

transmitted Broadband could receive an improved service as there will be a significant reduction in cabling length through the introduction of the wireless signal.

Apparently there are technical and installation difficulties in replacing the cables under the canal which has required the wireless link to be adopted.

Following this, BT will assess the condition of the cabling running in the 2 directions, one to Elmore and the other to Longney and parts of Epney. This might involve them replacing part of the existing cables with fibre cabling and more green boxes will be introduced in the villages. It seems that BT have not carried out an initial audit in this regard prior to the commitment to installing the wireless equipment.

The BT target is to provide properties in the villages with a minimum BT broadband download speed of 2MB/second by Dec 15; this date might come forward.

Longney School has now been using Cotswold Wireless for a number of recent months which must be effecting the capacity and speed of the service provided.

**ELECTORS' FORUM:** A complaint had been received from a parishioner regarding the dog fouling in the village. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the dog warden to discuss this. It was also mentioned that one of the parishioners, Janice Williams, created some posters that were used a while ago to tackle the issue – Clerk to follow up with her to see if it would be possible to obtain the wording so that similar posters can be created for the village. This will also be included on the website.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Janice Williams and the dog warden and create signs for the village.

**OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:** Cllr. Godwin reminded everyone that the Severn Voice Meeting is booked for the 6<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at Longney School

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

**Action**

NL  
AII  
AII  
NL  
NL  
NL

NL

RC

**RG and AR**

**RG**

**NL**



