

LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10th November 2014

A meeting of **LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL** was held on Monday 10th November 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)
One residents

APOLOGIES:

County Cllr. Blackburn

DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA:

Cllr. Wingrove declared an interest in the agenda item Area of Prime Responsibility due to his position as a School Governor. Cllr. Godwin also declared the same interest. Neither Councillor will gain financial benefit from the discussion so it was deemed acceptable for them to remain present during the agenda item.

THE MINUTES of the meetings of Monday July 21st 2014 and Monday September 15th 2014 were agreed and signed as true records of the meetings.

MATTERS ARISING:

The Council discussed the ongoing issue of dog fouling. The council are in agreement that they do not want bins to be provided as this may cause problems when it comes to emptying them. It was agreed that the Clerk will obtain suitable wording to create notices which will be placed strategically throughout the village. It was mentioned that the Parish Council are in a position to issue fines for dog fouling if required.

Action: Clerk to create and laminate notices to provide to Cllr. Godwin

Cllr Harvie asked for clarification on the figures mentioned regarding the flood defenses expenditure in the September minutes. It was confirmed that the amount recorded of £380,000 was correct.

An update on the school drainage was provided by Cllr. Wingrove. A full road closure was required in accordance with the legislation despite the initial proposal suggesting that this would not be necessary. There is still some repatriation work to be completed in the car park and also with the lane down to the side of the school. The fencing down the lane is very dilapidated and is not very secure so there are plans to rectify this.

Cllr. Wingrove also noted that the works for the broadband link appear to have started by Hardwicke Farm.

Cllr. Harvie commented that the issue regarding the cyclists is still ongoing. Recently he experienced a group of riders stretched out over a distance of approximately ¼ of a mile making it impossible to pass them safely. There was also a group of around 50 riders through the village 2-3 weeks ago. Cllr. Godwin stated that it is important to identify

the groups involved so that specific communications can be sent to the clubs.

POLICE REPORT: No update available at this meeting.

PLANNING: Planning consent has been provided at Vallender.

Cllr. Godwin raised a concern about locals who are “stretching” their planning approvals. There have been reports that someone is living in the agricultural development opposite Lapperditch. There are stables and an arena at the end of the lane but it appears that someone is now living there. Similar concerns have also been raised in relation to Manor Farm. There are concerns that individuals may be living within the outbuildings and there have also been reports of a gym above the buildings. Cllr. Mossman agreed to take this forward to investigate the correct route for reporting these issues.

Action: Cllr. Mossman to provide guidance on how to proceed with concerns relating to planning approvals.

SEVERN ESTUARY FLOOD RISK STRATEGY: Cllr. Godwin mentioned that more information relating to this will be available after the meeting on the 28th November. There are some concerns that a group are lobbying to abandon certain flood defenses. A recent report from Jo Martin outlining a 6 year plan has been presented to the Council.

CORRESPONDENCE: Hardwicke post office is going to re-open. There is a consultation document in Quedgeley library at the moment. The plan currently is that the post office will re-open within the grounds of The Starting Gate pub. The employees from the original post office will be re-employed in the new location. Cllr. Godwin said that as a council this move should be supported.

Action: Cllr. Godwin to respond regarding the proposal for the new post office in Hardwicke.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: No report available for this meeting.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Please see attached report from Cllr. Mossman.

VILLAGE PLAN:

- Garden Group/Equipment: No further updates
- Highway Maintenance: The work to clear the footpath in Longney started on Friday and will be completed this week.
- Oil Purchase Scheme: Cllr. Godwin and Cllr. Russell to meet and discuss
- Website: Cllr. Christian commented that they are awaiting a key from Terry Cripps to unlock the website so that the new site can go live. A list of potential village businesses was discussed. It was agreed that these businesses could be approached to advertise on the website for an introductory fee of £10 per year for the first year and then £20 per year thereafter. All proceeds from this advertising will be used to put towards maintenance

and upkeep of the website and donations to the Longney Poors Fund. It will be made clear on the website where the proceeds from the advertising will be spent.

- ☒ **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. Cllr. Christian to proceed with the website.

AREA OF PRIME RESPONSIBILITY: Cllr. Wingrove provided an overview of the current admissions policy at the local schools. During the recent Severn Voice meeting, Jon Shaw presented the case for moving towards an Area of Prime Responsibility. Currently the admissions process does not have a specific impact on the residents of Longney and Epney as local children (within 5 mile radius) tend to be allocated to Longney or Lakefield in line with their first choices. In Arlingham the case is different as children from closer villages, for example Hardwicke and Eastington, get allocated a place at Lakefield, Whitminster or Longney and this means that the children from Arlingham do not always get allocated their closest school. If the Area of Prime Responsibility (APR) is to be adopted, it will mean that children will be guaranteed a place at one of the cluster schools prior to those applicants from Hardwicke, Eastington etc.

The Longney School Governors view is that there is no need to change the current admission process and so therefore they do not support the APR. Severn Voice are in favor of supporting APR. Cllr. Godwin reminded the council that as a Parish Council they have a responsibility towards the residents of the parish. He also stated that the councilors should decide if they believe the council should support APR.

Jon Shaw from Severn Voice has asked for someone from Longney and Epney Parish Council to stand on the sub-committee that has been created in relation to this topic. Currently Cllr. Wingrove is participating in this group and has agreed to continue in the interim. Cllr Wingrove agreed to send around the slides from the Severn Voice meeting which provide the overview of APR.

Action: Cllr. Wingrove to send councillors APR slides. Each councillor to reply to the clerk prior to the end of November stating whether or not they are in favour of the Parish Council supporting APR. Subsequent request post meeting that responses are delayed – replies now required by 15th December.

ELECTORS' FORUM: No comments.

OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION: There are several training courses coming up, one of which would be beneficial for new councillors. Cllr. Wingrove suggested that the windfall payment from Lloyds bank could be used to fund part or all of this training if required. Councillors were asked to register with the clerk if they were able to attend the course on the 12th December. The cost will be £60 per councillor if there are more than 2 attendees from the parish.

Cllr. Harvie will be circulating the annual risk appraisals for the parish council.

The clerk asked for approval for the £25 administrative fees from the Severn Voice meeting. This was approved.

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 12th January 2015 at Longney School

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Action

NL

DM

RG

RG/AR/BC

**GW/RG/JH/
RC/AR**

**GW/RG/JH/
RC/AR**

