

LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2015

A meeting of **LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL** was held on Monday 14th September 2015.

PRESENT:

Cllr. Godwin (RG)
Cllr. Harvie (JH)
Cllr. Wingrove (GW)
District Cllr Dave Mossman/Stroud District Council (DM)
Clerk Nikki Leach (NL)
Five residents

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Russel (AR)
PC Jenny Fraser

DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA:

Cllr. Wingrove and Cllr. Godwin both declared their position as school governor.

THE MINUTES of the meeting of Monday 20th July 2015 were taken as read and accurate.

MATTERS ARISING:

The outstanding GAPTC invoice was discussed and it was agreed that no further action would be taken at present.

The council commented on the high standard of roadside trimming completed by Inland Drainage Board recently.

POLICE REPORT: PC Fraser was unable to attend the meeting but sent a memo to state that no crimes have been reported in either parish since the last meeting.

The Chairman discussed the recent move of the police driver training to Quedgeley. A recent high speed chase was witnessed through the village and into the car park. Despite being told that this was a training exercise it still raised concerns for the potential safety issues that this could bring. Cllr. Wingrove commented that he had witnessed stinger training in the area. All agreed that this should be raised as a concern. Cllr Mossman agreed to write to Martin Searle to outline the concerns raised during the meeting.

PLANNING: There have been no new applications or approvals since the last meeting.

Cllr. Mossman arranged a meeting with the local enforcement officer, this was attended by Cllr. Godwin and Cllr. Wingrove. The local breaches of planning were discussed and if the business from home does not "cause harm" in the form of undue noise etc then the enforcement officer would not support an appeal. As most businesses from home are internet based no enforcement would be needed. 2

specific cases have been discussed with the enforcement officer and are subject to ongoing investigations.

NEW SEVERN ESTUARY FLOOD RISK STRATEGY: There are no updates to report at present.

FOOTPATHS: Correspondence has been sent to the council regarding a few concerns about the footpaths in the parish. Cllr. Harvie investigated these concerns and contacted Jacqui Harris, PROWS representative. Jacqui replied to state that the parish falls outside of the area of natural beauty and there is currently no budget available to deal with these matters. Cllr. Harvie also contacted AMEY about some of the paths and is still awaiting a response. Cllr. Harvie agreed to draft a response to the enquiry which the clerk can then send.

Action: Cllr. Harvie to draft response for clerk to send. This has been completed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Collection of bulky waste: A memo from Stroud District Council outlined the proposals to charge for bulky waste collection. This will be added to the website.

NALC Funding for local councils: As the council had not had time to review this prior to the meeting it was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: Councillors to read correspondence relating to funding for local councils for transparency regulations in preparation for the next meeting.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Not available for this meeting.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr Mossman provide an update on current issues:

The County has now applied for devolution, the majority of councils voted in favor of this.

Javelin Park is going ahead.

Housing numbers – there is currently no movement from the inspector.

Waste – as outlined previously, there will be a charge of £15 from September 2015 for the collection of up to 3 items of bulky waste. From February 2016 there will be an optional garden waste collection. This will cost £36 per year with a one off charge of £20 for the bin.

Hunts Grove – there are plans for a new doctors surgery which will help to take some of the workload off Severn Vale Surgery. A section 73 has been put in on Hunts Grove. The first 1750 houses are planned at a rate of approximately 140 houses a year. The new A38 junction is proposed for the 750th house so is approximately 3 years away. The plans for the school have been put back until September 2017, this will not have any adverse effects as the academy is able to take all pupils until the new school is ready.

VILLAGE PLAN:

- Garden Group/Equipment: No update
- Highway Maintenance: Cllr. Wingrove commented that he contacted Daniel Tiffney regarding the barriers at the top of Castle Lane at the entrance to the A38. The signs have now been placed correctly regarding the ice hazard on castle lane. There is still no update on the drainage issue at Downend Barn, Cllr. Wingrove chased for an update on this again today.
- Oil Purchase Scheme: No update
- Website: It was agreed that NL would reach out to Bekki Christian to confirm that Nathan is still happy to continue looking after the website remotely. If he is not then the council will consider looking for some local support.
- Newsletter: One parishioner commented that she had not received the electronic newsletter. Geoff Smith collected her email address and agreed to arrange for the recent one to be sent to her and for her to be included in the distribution list. An offer was also made to help with the distribution of the remaining paper newsletters if required. Geoff Smith reiterated that the newsletter email is a good source of sharing local information. The Parish would be keen to hear from anyone who would be happy to volunteer to collate and edit the newsletter.

Action: Clerk to contact Bekki regarding the management of the website (action now completed).

AREA OF PRIME RESPONSIBILITY: No updates have been received recently. NL agreed to follow up with Jon Shaw to confirm that he is aware that Cllr. Harvie is the local representative for Longney and Epney now that Bekki has left.

Action: Clerk to contact Jon Shaw regarding subgroup representation (action now completed).

FINANCIAL UPDATE: The current financial status was shared. Balance of accounts at present:

Current Account: £9896.31

Deposit Account: £2404.12

Cllr. Harvie asked if it would be appropriate to transfer some funds from the current account into the deposit account. The Chairman commented that the amount in the current account will reduce as the Clerks fees have not yet been withdrawn and so it may be best to leave the accounts as they are for the time being. The other half of the precept is expected imminently.

The Clerk commented that the financial audit had been returned with no major findings.

ELECTORS' FORUM: A member of the parish asked for advice regarding barking dogs. He has attempted to speak with his neighbors regarding the constant noise but unfortunately this has not

resolved the issue. There has been a noticeable increase within the villages of dog owners who keep their dogs in for large periods during the day and this does increase the noise if the dogs are barking or howling. It was agreed that a comment would be added to the next newsletter regarding this to try and encourage dog owners to be considerate to their neighbors. Cllr. Mossman also agreed to check with the dog warden regarding the potential for enforcement in these cases.

A question was raised regarding the Neighborhood Plan. Cllr. Mossman confirmed that if there is no Neighbourhood Plan in place, the Village Plan is still in operation, however it is for guidance only and it is not a statutory document which the Neighbourhood Plan is.

Cllr. Harvie commented that he had not yet heard back from CART following his freedom of information request. He has chased for a response.

Cllr. Wingrove suggested that it would be a good idea to discuss the need for a communications officer within the council.

Cllr. Godwin updated the council on the outcome of the GCC scrutiny meeting that he attended that morning. Nick Worthington presented to GCC and reported on the surveys and meetings. Four local parish councilors were given a 2 minute window to comment. Cllr. Godwin has suggested that Severn Voice should also be allowed to go and present to the scrutiny meeting to present the other opinions. Cllr. Tony Blackburn was present at the meeting and spoke well on the subject. Three County Councillors picked up on some of the points. It was mentioned that Sandford bridge is still under trial, the radars have gone for upgrade and they need to see this bridge working properly before rolling it out to other bridges. Cllr. Mossman said that he would write to Cllr. Blackburn about it today to reinforce the feelings of the local parishes. Cllr. Mossman also suggested that Severn Voice should write to GCC and express their concerns.

The statistics of the recent traffic surveys were reviewed.

Cllr. Godwin also discussed the current situation with Fastershire as this had been the previous topic in the scrutiny meeting. In some counties there were long delays between the installation of the green boxes and the subsequent connection. Cllr. Wingrove confirmed that he had spoken with a contact at Fastershire that afternoon and they are still planning for the village to be operational by mid October, and Epney by December.

OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION: None

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 9th November 2015 at Longney School

There being no further business the meeting closed at 09.38 pm.

