

LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21st November 2016

A meeting of **LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL** was held on Monday 21st November 2016.

PRESENT:

Cllr. Godwin (RG)
Cllr. Russell (AR)
Cllr. Wingrove (GW)
Cllr. Harvie (JH)
Cllr. Christian (BC)
District Cllr (Dave Mossman)
County Cllr (Tony Blackburn)
Clerk Nikki Leach (NL)
2 residents

APOLOGIES:

PCSO Michael Trebble

DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA:

As with the previous meeting, Cllr. Wingrove and Cllr Godwin declared an interest in agenda items 12 and 16 due to their position as School Governors. Neither Councillor will gain financial benefit from the discussion so it was deemed acceptable for them to remain present during the agenda item. Cllr Godwin may have an interest in the footpath discussion.

THE MINUTES of the meeting of Monday 12th September 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING: Disappointment was noted that the police are not able to be in attendance at our meeting again.

POLICE REPORT: Clerk to send list of 2017 dates to PCSO Trebble to give him advance notice of the meetings. If possible we would like an email update if he is not able to attend the meeting.

Action: Clerk to email everyone a list of the 2017 meeting dates.

PLANNING:

Update - discharge of conditions at Astmans Farm – permission for discharge of conditions has been granted along with other conditions. The flood evacuation condition is that a flood evacuation plan must be submitted.

Action: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

Epney telephone box – we adopted in October 2013. Cllr. Wingrove asked if it would be worth thinking of applying for a defibrillator to go in the Epney phone box. This was discussed. A query was raised as to whether they still work in damp conditions. It was agreed that this would not be pursued for the time being.

Action: None

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Report from Cllr.

Blackburn:

A meeting on the 14th Sep took place, not much has changed. One of the UKIP councilors has joined the Conservative group but they are still in the minority. The council will start rate fixing procedure very shortly, approval for this is expected in the spring.

Canal – Cllr. Blackburn is still very unhappy with the way that CART are proceeding with the scheme. The Sandford bridge trial is not going very well, there was not enough barge traffic at the time of the trial. The lasers under the road were not working properly. The technology used at the moment is not deemed to be fit for purpose. The issue of parking at the bridges has not yet been resolved. Highways are going ahead and putting in the yellow lines but have been advised not to do this without consulting the parishes. The priority of traffic should be for people coming off the island. Cllr. Blackburn will put this forward to highways. The rate payer should not be paying for this when it is for the benefit of the canal users, and there will be resistance for any payments from the parishes.

Broadband – this is still not happening the way it should be. Another round of contracts are being negotiated. An IT expert in Hunts Grove has been in touch with Cllr. Blackburn and they in Hunts Grove do not really have full use of the system.

Rights of Way – Cllr. Blackburn has forwarded a communication from John Lane regarding the discussions surrounding footpath EMV1. John Lane is continuing the discussions with Sarah Macaulay Lowe and they will produce an options report outlining the facts and the likely costs of the various options.

Roads – Longney and Epney's roads have not received any funding this year but may be considered for next year. County Council money is available to support with vegetation overgrowth. Cllr. Godwin commented that opposite Ellis Farm there is an area with post and rails and the vegetation has been allowed to grow creating a hazard. Cllr. Godwin advised that Longney and Epney Parish Council are applying to do the verge cutting in conjunction with other parishes.

Bus services – Cllr. Blackburn has had correspondence with Alan Bently. GCC has offered to come to Fretherne and to us if needed to explain that they are doing their best but they have had to reduce the services. Cllr. Blackburn will keep on complaining on behalf of the parishes and if there are any specific questions please feel free to pass them on.

Action: Clerk to email Cllr. Blackburn regarding areas for cutting

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

New waste collection service is well underway and very few problems have been reported.

CLG Incinerator – Cllr. Mossman is chair of the CLG meeting (around 30 people). At the last meeting it was reported that UBB have approved the full cost of independent monitoring, not under the control of UBB, at a cost of £26k for 6 years. In addition, there is a £15k fund for trees for screening the incinerator for parishes in line of sight. £625k fund used by the local parishes for good works within the parishes affected by the incinerator. Every 2 months an update is provided on the planned works for the next 2 months.

Planning – the number of large applications has increased recently.

Enforcement – the enforcement officers are working better than they were previously. The car wash at Moreton Valence has been under

discussion for 2 years. This has now been closed down completely now. A new application has been put in but will be going through the formal process.

Action: None

VILLAGE PLAN:

- Garden Group/Equipment: 2 residents have requested the details of the contact person so it appears that it is still in use.
- Website: No updates
- Newsletter: No updates

Action: Clerk to review Elmore website to see if the signed minutes are posted.

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE: Castle lane will be closed for 2 weeks in February 2017. It was noted that ideally this would have been co-ordinated with the recent Castle Lane closure.

A quote has been received for the entrance and exit to the school car park at a sum of approximately £3,000. This is to stop the debris being passed on to the highway. Cllr. Godwin has asked for other quotes. The decision on who will be paying for it also needs to be considered.

Cllr. Wingrove attended a highways briefing last month. They have now come and cleared our footpath from the Church, North through the village but there is a lack of funding for this type of work and it took a lot of pushing to arrange for this to be completed. This path is used by school children walking to school.

Cllr. Wingrove commented that the flood relief ditch had been put in opposite Downend Barn.

Cllr. Godwin discussed verge cutting. For the last 2 years this has been discussed within Severn Voice and we have now been offered a sum of money by Gloucester CC to cut our own verges (rather than have this completed by Amey). A meeting has been held with the other Severn Voice Parishes. Each representative is taking it back to their Parish Council to discuss and will take it back to a meeting with Jon Shaw and

Cllr. Godwin on the 5th December. There is a specification that needs to be met with regard to the verge cutting regarding distances and times of year. Gloucester CC have offered a sum of money to complete these activities. The verges could be cut by a local contractor on a more regular basis and to a higher standard for the same money, if not less, than the money available from Gloucester CC. Highways would like us to complete a one year trial. Each Parish Council will speak to the contractor to get a price for the specification that they want. The Parish Council were in agreement that this should be actioned.

Action: Clerk to respond to Daniel Tiffany in GCC.

AREA OF PRIME RESPONSIBILITY (APR): Cllr. Harvie commented that Lakefield have updated their policy since the academy conversion.

FOOTPATHS: There has been additional correspondence regarding the footpath at Lapperditch. There are a number of questions that still need to be discussed. MV1 is listed on the Ramblers Association maps and the Gloucester County Council Maps. Parishioner Geoff Smith suggested that the 1977 and 1980 minute books may have additional information. In 1981/1982 representatives from the County Council and the Ramblers Association met and there should be a minuted item discussing this.

It was agreed that the Public Rights of Way officers need to action this.

Action: Cllr. Harvie to go back to Sarah and cc Cllr. Blackburn

FIBRE OPTIC BROADBAND UPDATE: Cllr. Wingrove updated to say that the school have now got fibre optic broadband. There are still some people who cannot be connected. Cllr. Russel commented that the service had deteriorated.

Cllr. Wingrove researched the contractual issue as to whether parishioners had to be with BT. He was advised that this was not the case.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Clerks Fees

£375 x 2 (Jun-Aug 2016) (Sep-Nov 2016)

£69.99 expenses for printer cartridges

Approved by Cllr. Wingrove and seconded by Cllr. Harvie.

Audit update. This has now been approved. There were 2 comments: The order of approval of the sections of the audit needs to be adhered to and documented correctly next year. In addition, there are large reserves held at the moment and the Council were reminded that any planned spending should be within budget.

Action: None

SCHOOL UPDATE:

Removal of the septic tank has been completed.

Cllr. Wingrove also raised that when the school get the funding for the new classroom block, temporary classrooms will need to be put in. The council were asked if they would have any objections to the temporary classrooms being put on the maze. Cllr. Wingrove advised that this is not being asked at present but we may be asked to consider this in the future. This would mean that the 3 portacabins would be on the maze instead of around the back. Cllr. Godwin confirmed that this would need to go through our landlords if it ever needed to be considered.

The draft school admissions policy for 2017 has been made available and is open for comments. This will be added to the website.

ELECTORS' FORUM:

Mrs Gower asked if anyone would like Bees on their land as there are some available that will be looked after by the owners, they just need the space and in return they could have some honey. This will be added to the newsletter and the website. Gloucester Orchard Trust may also be interested.

Geoff Smith mentioned the newsletter. There are still many parishioners who have not supplied an email address and are not receiving the newsletter. Cllr. Christian suggested that the school parents should also be included on the distribution. This will be discussed with the school secretary.

The verges around Castle Bridge have not been repaired correctly following the installation of a water pipe under the road. The debris is washing into the road. Highways will be contacted to discuss the repair work required and ask when this will be completed.

Action: Cllr. Wingrove to speak to Daniel Tiffany regarding this.

OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

The planned road race for 2017. Query road closure needed to alleviate the dangers – pedestrians, horse riders, businesses etc.

Further detail is needed as to whether it will be once around or four times around.

Any further correspondence sent from the Parish Council should be sent to everyone for approval before it is sent. And should be copied on everyone.

Fly tipping has become a problem in the parish. There are various mattresses and litter abandoned. These need to be reported to Stroud District Council and someone will then come out and remove them.

Agenda for next time should include a village event.

THE CHAIRMAN thanked all Councilors and residents for attending the meeting. The meeting was closed at 9.45pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of Longney and Epney Parish Council will take place at Longney Primary School on Monday 9th January 2017 at 7.30pm.

Action

