

# LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017

A meeting of **LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL** was held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

### **PRESENT:**

Cllr. Godwin (RG)  
Cllr. Russell (AR)  
Cllr. Wingrove (GW)  
Cllr. Harvie (JH)  
Cllr. Christian (BC)  
Clerk Nikki Leach (NL)  
PCSO Michael Trebble  
District Cllr Dave Mossman (DM)  
3 residents

### **APOLOGIES:**

County Cllr (Tony Blackburn)  
Geoff Smith

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA:** As with the previous meeting, Cllr. Wingrove declared an interest in agenda item 15 due to his position as a School Governor. Cllr. Wingrove will not gain financial benefit from the discussion so it was deemed acceptable for him to remain present during the agenda item.

**THE MINUTES** of the meeting of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

**MATTERS ARISING:** The marathon went without too many problems. There were a few cases of people running more than 2 abreast. Only 220 people attended whereas in the past it has been up to 600. Next year it will be run in Haresfield.

Severn Voice – there was a recent meeting with Amey to discuss dissatisfaction with the way the contract is being run. Daniel Tiffney was not able to attend the meeting but Cllr. Godwin met with Martin Midgeley who is Daniel Tiffney's boss.

**POLICE REPORT:** PCSO Michael Trebble kindly attended the meeting to give an update on local crime in the area. PC Mel Campbell and MC Mike Trebble cover the area from Stone up to Moreton Valence, everything south of the A38. Epney comes under Dursley control, Longney is covered under Gloucester. He will try to cover Gloucester but it is under a separate radio channel. A meeting is held twice a year with residents – the recent one was held in Berkeley. The focus for the coming months is going to be anti - social behaviour, speeding and drugs. Quite a few school visits are also planned, covering e-safety for years 4-6. He will get in touch with the head to discuss. Cllr. Christian confirmed that e-safety was covered recently at Longney Primary Academy but by Gloucester constabulary.

Longney – 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 16 to 11-Mar-17 – one crime, blackmail

11<sup>th</sup> Oct -15 – 11 Mar 16 – two crimes

Epney (also included with Moreton Valence)

Criminal damage x3 between 11-Oct16 and 11-Mar-17 and one theft from Severnside Business Park

Very low crime area which is good

Cllr. Wingrove asked about the school car park, there was a litter problem, and lots of nitrogen dioxide canisters (legal highs). Also had problem with cars driving on the maze. Other incidents surrounding nitrogen dioxide canisters in the parish. Car on Hardwick Road recently but this comes under Hardwick PC.

Cllr. Godwin commented that this is the first time we have had somebody attend who covers Epney, normally a representative from Gloucester attends and covers Longney. We will have a representative from Gloucester who we can contact for issues occurring in Longney.

PCSO Trebble advised the PC to report any vehicles that are acting suspiciously in the area, and to supply registration details if possible.

Cllr. Mossman commented that they had a similar problem in Hardwicke with nitrogen oxide canisters.

Cllr. Godwin commented that it is useful for people to drive by the car park in the evenings and note down any suspicious vehicles. Since the hedge has been cut it is felt that the number of vehicles parked there in the evening has reduced.

**Action: None**

**Planning:** It was reported to the meeting that a number of parishioners had raised their concerns over recent months regarding potential planning permission breaches.

Councillors were mindful of their responsibilities and duties in the light of receiving such complaints and also their duty to be fair and consistent to all.

Since the last Parish Council meeting, Councillors had met with the Head of Planning at SDC to take advice as to the correct course of action they must take in response to parishioners' complaints.

The Head of Planning advised that any known development contrary to any planning permission or conditions should be reported to the Planning Department of SDC. In addition the Head of Planning made it clear that SDC should also be advised of any development without the necessary planning permission.

It was acknowledged that living in such a small community, reporting non-compliance with planning regulations could prove to be uncomfortable but a necessity. It was confirmed that retrospective planning permission could be sought for any development undertaken without appropriate planning permission.

A parishioner asked to raise a planning concern. A new glamping business was being developed in the village with kitchens, toilet and shower facilities provided and according to the website, bookings were being taken from April. The business is being advertised all around the country. This had been developed without the submission of any planning permission application as far as the parishioner knew; similarly the PC were unaware of any such application. Cllr. Mossman advised that this should be reported if planning permission has not been granted and asked for the resident to provide him details so he could forward them to SDC.

No new planning applications have been received in the parish. Three applications are pending within the parish, 2 at Waterend and 1 at Grain Store, Castle Lane.

**Action: Cllr. Mossman to advise John Longmuire about the glamping business.**

**Action: Cllr. Godwin to circulate draft comments on the planning application at Waterend Farm to the rest of the Council for comment.**

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#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Dog fouling and dogs barking during the day have been raised as a concern within the parish. The dog warden has been out recently and did not see any concerns. A comment will be added to the next newsletter.

It was also noted that some of the school mums are coming early to school and walking their dogs.

There are also many people coming to the area to walk their dogs in the village.

Letter from Rachel Williams acknowledged.

Communication is difficult when meetings are bi-monthly as it can lead to a delay in responding. At the least, a communication should be sent back to the sender advising that this will be discussed at the next meeting and advising the date of the next meeting.

**Action: Notice to be added to the website regarding responsible dog ownership**

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Report from Cllr. Blackburn was circulated for review.

**Action: None**

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**

Council tax has increased. GCC increased by 3.99%. Police by 1.99%. SCC by 2.62% (this is allowed and does not need to go to a referendum). The average village tax band has gone up by 4.6%.

Waste recycling – since food recycling and green bin scheme, waste going to the tip has reduced by 50%. Food waste 500 tonnes a month is being collected. This is being converted into gas and fertiliser. Enough to heat nearly 200 homes and provides about 450 tonnes of fertiliser for farming.

Grass cutting – Hardwicke PC have now accepted that they are going onto the same scheme and are contacting Daniel Tiffney accordingly.

**Action: None**

**VILLAGE PLAN:**

- Garden Group/Equipment: Al Fenn has run this scheme since its inception and would like to pass this on to someone else now. This involves housing the rotavator and shredder. The council would like to express their thanks to Al as he has worked hard to support this scheme and has even delivered the equipment when it is needed. The person who houses it would need to have a trailer to deliver it. The council agreed that a small gift could be purchased for Al to say thank you. Cllr. Wingrove advised that he could potentially store the equipment and there are trailers available in the village if there are people who cannot transport it themselves. Cllr. Christian will add this to the next newsletter.
- Website: This is up to date apart from the recent minutes
- Newsletter: The latest newsletter was very well received. Cllr. Christian was thanked again for her work with this. We still do not have all residents in the village, a notice will be added asking people to encourage friends and neighbours to provide their email address if they are not already

**Action: Thanks to be given to Al Fenn for managing the garden equipment**

**HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE:** Since the meeting with Mark Hawthorn, there appears to be progress with issues now being addressed. The County Council have been made aware that Amey were not performing.

Verge cutting in the Severnside parishes – the parishes have now been delegated the verge cutting. GCC will pay the money directly to us. Each parish within Severn Voice (with the exception of Whitminster) will have an agreement with GCC to have the verge cutting delegated to them. A local recommended contractor has been recommended for the verge cutting work. Each parish will have a contract with David Davis. The contracts have been reviewed by a solicitor.

Documents reviewed:

Map of the village boundary and roads.

Schedule of distances of each section of road. 7,937 metres of road – becomes 15, 874 as there are 2 sides

Maps of visibility splays in village (increased to 19). The first cut will be in May, additional splays can be added if required.

Draft contract between Longney and Epney PC and GCC Highways  
Draft contract between Longney and Epney PC and David Davis

Cllr. Wingrove asked if it is possible to go back into the County Council contract if required. Cllr. Godwin advised that the contract will run for 12 months. This will then be reviewed and can be amended if required.

Cllr. Harvie had a few comments regarding the draft contracts. VAT has not been clearly stated. Insurance was questioned, the PC will have a copy of the insurance documents. Cllr. Harvie will send through his marked up copy of the contract for review.

Cllr. Christian asked about the visibility splay on the corner of grass opposite Manor Farm. There is currently an extra strip of grass from the cross past the pond on the corner which makes it safer for children to walk to school.

The visibility splays were discussed, there is a fine line between visibility and aesthetics and environmental conservation purposes.

The first cut is planned for May and the second cut will be in August.

The details of the contracts were shared and were asked to be kept in confidence.

**Action:** Cllr. Wingrove and Cllr. Harvie to send additional comments through to Cllr. Godwin

**FOOTPATHS:** GCC have been investigating the footpaths. There has also been an increase in numbers of ramblers in the parish.

**FIBRE OPTIC BROADBAND UPDATE:** Epney is not yet on the faster broadband. This is being considered under phase 2.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:**

Current budget circulated for review.

Invoices to be approved:

GAPTC subscriptions – £79.95 Approved Cll. Wingrove, seconded Cllr. Christian  
Savills Playing Field Rent - £50.00 Approved Cllr. Wingrove, seconded Cllr. Christian  
David Davis – car park – £324.00 Approved Cllr. Wingrove, seconded Cllr. Christian

**Action:** None

**AREA OF PRIME RESPONSIBILITY (APR):** No updates this month.

**Action:** None

**TELEPHONE KIOSK:** The process is in place with BT. Several suggestions have come back to the clerk regarding the proposed use of the phone box. A number of people have suggested a defibrillator would be useful.

**Action:** Clerk to explore the option of the defibrillator. Cllr. Wingrove to discuss with other councils

**VILLAGE WALK AND PARTY:** Meeting to be re-scheduled

**Action:** Clerk to arrange another meeting date

**REQUEST FOR USE OF MAZE:** A parishioner has approached the parish council regarding the use of the maze for fitness sessions once a week. Insurance and child protection were discussed. Inclement weather was also mentioned. It was proposed that we agree on a two month trial basis for the sessions to be run on a Sunday morning. She will need to liaise with the school and the PC and the church to co-ordinate this. For the trial period there will be no charge.

**Action:** Clerk to draft response to Karen Harding to be reviewed by the PC.

**LITTER PICK:** Cllr. Christian did a great job arranging the last litter pick, thanks were given to Cllr. Christian. Cllr. Harvie commented that the amount of litter has increased. Alcohol

bottles, McDonalds wrappers, Milk bottles are among the rubbish. Can the school do some posters to be put up around the parish? Combining the litter pick with tea and cake may also be an option.

**Action:** Date of next litter pick to be added to the website / newsletter

**OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:** Cllr. Russell commented about Amey. The tidal flaps are not working correctly. The environment agency need to be contacted about this.

**Action:** Cllr. Godwin to contact the environment agency regarding this.

**THE CHAIRMAN** thanked all Councillors and residents for attending the meeting. The meeting was closed at 9.44pm.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of Longney and Epney Parish Council will take place at Longney Primary School on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7.00pm.

