

LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8th May 2017

The Annual meeting of **LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL** was held on Monday 8th May 2017.

PRESENT:

Cllr. Godwin (RG)
Cllr. Russell (AR)
Cllr. Wingrove (GW)
Cllr. Harvie (JH)
Cllr. Christian (BC)
District Cllr Stephen Davies/Stroud District Council (DM)
Clerk Nikki Leach (NL)
Nine residents

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Dave Mossman
Keith Rog

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Chairman: Cllr Godwin, proposed by Cllr. Christian, seconded by Cllr. Harvie.
Vice Chairman: Cllr Wingrove, proposed by Cllr. Harvie , seconded by Cllr. Christian
Highways officer: Cllr. Wingrove proposed by Cllr. Godwin, seconded by Cllr. Harvie
Footpaths officer(s): Cllr's. Russell and Harvie proposed by Cllr. Godwin , seconded by Cllr. Christian
Snow Warden/Snow Plough Operator: Cllr. Godwin proposed by Cllr. Wingrove, seconded by Cllr. Christian
Deputy Snow Warden: Cllr. Harvie proposed by Cllr. Wingrove, seconded by Cllr. Godwin
Responsible Finance Officer and Clerk: Nikki Leach, proposed by Cllr. Godwin, seconded by Cllr. Harvie
Litter Representative: Cllr. Harvie proposed by Cllr. Wingrove, seconded by Cllr. Godwin
Oil Purchase Scheme Coordinator: Cllr. Russell proposed by Cllr. Godwin, seconded by Cllr. Harvie
Website Manager: Cllr. Christian, proposed by Cllr. Godwin, seconded by Cllr. Harvie.
Planning Co-ordinator: Cllr. Wingrove, proposed by Cllr. Christian, seconded by Cllr. Harvie

Thanks were given to the Clerk.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA:

Cllr. Wingrove and Cllr Christian declared an interest in the agenda items Area of Prime Responsibility and School Developments due to their position as School Governors.

THE MINUTES of the meeting of Monday March 13th 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING: None.

POLICE REPORT: No update received. PCSO Mike Trebble sends regular updates about activity within the area, these are sent through the neighborhood watch email alert which anyone can sign up to. Cllr.

Godwin reported a scam that had taken place recently at his property regarding a purchase made through his credit card on a fraudulent transaction with a driver in a white van. This was called in to the police. Cllr. Godwin advised everyone to call in to the police if they see suspicious vehicles in the parish.

It was agreed that we will add the details of how to register with neighbourhood watch alert emails to the website so that parishioners can register as well.

Cllr. Wingrove reported that the litter has reduced in the school car park since the hedges were cut.

PLANNING: The two applications at Waterend have been rejected.

A new application has been submitted for Isabella Villas, Epney and also one at Astmans Farm.

Responses will be co-ordinated from the councilors and sent to the Clerk for submission on the website.

There are several planning matters within the village that have been written about to the council. Properties that require retrospective planning approval will be asked to obtain it.

Geoff Smith commented that it would be useful for the parishioners to understand the planning process and appreciate the role of the parish council in this. Over the last years the clarity over the requirements has been lost and it would be useful to help the parishioners understand what is needed. This could be an agenda item for a future meeting. Cllr. Wingrove reminded the meeting that all parishioners have the right to respond to planning applications as an individual to Stroud DC.

Action: Cllr. Wingrove to co-ordinate the responses from the council and send them to the Clerk for submission to the website.

CORRESPONDENCE: None to report

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Councillor Stephen Davies attended the meeting, he was newly elected last Thursday. Cllr. Davies lives in Saul and is District Councillor for Severn and Eastington, working closely with Cllr. Dave Mossman. He was elected comfortably. GCC previously run by the Conservatives on a minority, now have overall majority with 31 seats. His contact details will be on the GCC website very soon, and can be sent out in the minutes. He is very happy to help and get into the detail, although he can't always guarantee that things can be fixed. Speed and budget are the limiting factors. He will not be able to attend all PC meetings as he also has a full time job but he promises to try and make it to as many meetings as possible. He works in cyber security and is generally in the area.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: None for this meeting.

VILLAGE PLAN:

- Garden Group/Equipment: Discussed previously
- Website: March's minutes will be uploaded this week.
- Newsletter: New one to come out at the end of this week.

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE:

Path to school. Cllr. Christian mentioned that on the corner opposite

Manor Farm there is a small pond and she asked if the area can be mown and a path made for the children so that they don't have to come in to the road on the bend. The matter of ownership is contentious. The first meter is public highway. Cllr. Godwin suggested that if there was funding available from Glos. highways with the school in mind they may agree to complete the works. Children, teachers, churchgoers and parishioners use that bend on a regular basis. Cllr. Wingrove agreed to take this forward. It was discussed that this path would need to be curbed to protect it from further erosion and to prevent large vehicles driving across it.

Several parishioners have mentioned about potholes which are causing concern. One down by Castle Lane and one outside the Vicarage and one in Longney. Highways have responded to say that because of the size and depth there will not be funding to complete the work.

Action: Cllr. Wingrove to discuss the footpath with highways.

FOOTPATHS: There are a couple of issues regarding footpaths in the village. A meeting with Amey has been planned to discuss one of the footpaths. Ramblers have reported the footpath as blocked and the landowners did not know that the footpath goes across their land. There is an option for the footpath to be moved or extinguished, both of which are considered to be a gross misuse of public funds. The Parish Council do not see that they should contribute to this as it is not an appropriate use of public money. Sarah Macauley-Lowe has suggested the 17th or 18th May 2017 for the meeting, Cllr. Harvie asked if it was appropriate for a member of the PC to be present, Cllr. Godwin stated that as the complaint came into the PC then it would be fair to attend the meeting. The PC have responded to public rights of way with their views.

FIBRE OPTIC BROADBAND UPDATE: No further matters to report

FINANCIAL UPDATE/ANNUAL RETURN:

- A) **Annual Governance Statement** - this was reviewed, approved and signed
- B) **Accounting Statements** –following the review and approval of the Annual Governance Statement, this was reviewed, approved and signed

Invoices to approve:

AON Insurance - £219.55 proposed by Cllr. Wingrove, seconded by Cllr. Godwin

Clerks Fees - £386.94 proposed by Cllr. Christian, seconded by Cllr. Wingrove

Income Tax - £96.60 proposed by Cllr. Christian, seconded by Cllr. Wingrove

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENTS: Nothing to report

VILLAGE TELEPHONE KIOSK: The parish have purchased the telephone kiosk in Longney. The defibrillator is so far the most popular suggestion. Elmore have 2 defibrillators in the village. They have had access issues with the code so now each parishioner has a key fob with a code. The initial training is free, then there is a cost with replacing the batteries. It was suggested that we hold a St John's ambulance course once a year that parishioners come to for general first aid training, it could be held within the school. This may be more beneficial than hosting a defibrillator. If it is possible to look at the statistics nationally to work out how many times they have been used within the parishes that have got them then it may help to inform the decision. If one life is

saved then it could be argued that it is a good idea.

It was agreed that a first aid course would be a useful starting point to investigate.

A book exchange has also been suggested.

Action: Cllr. Godwin to put an application in for funding for a first aid course

VILLAGE WALK / PARTY: Discussed during previous meeting.

ELECTORS FORUM: No comments

ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Use of the church – the school have been discussing the use of the church. Geoff Smith, Church Warden provided a brief update of the current use of the church. There are still a small number of loyal people who use the church for Sunday worship and support its use. It is blessed with natural light and is essentially a long rectangle. There have been a number of village events held over the years including a regular Christmas coffee morning which raises some of the funds to keep the church running. The church are about to employ an architect who specializes in church buildings, firstly to look into the possibility of installing a toilet, and secondly to change the west wing of the church into better social facilities. Having discussed this with the architect, it will not be sensible to proceed if there is not sufficient feeling within the village that the church will be used. It is possible that the school will utilize the church more often if the facilities were better and more suited. Also if a more efficient heating system were installed it would be a warm building that could be used easily. Father Andrew and the PCC have an open mind about potential uses of the church.

Action: Cllr. Christian will write an article for the newsletter and send it to Geoff for review before adding it to the newsletter

THE CHAIRMAN thanked all Councilors and residents for attending the meeting. The meeting was closed at 9.15pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of Longney and Epney Parish Council will take place at Longney Primary School on Monday 10th July at 7.30.

