

LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10th July 2017

A meeting of **LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL** was held on Monday 10th July 2017.

PRESENT:

Cllr. Godwin (RG)
Cllr. Russell (AR)
Cllr. Wingrove (GW)
Cllr. Harvie (JH)
Cllr. Dave Mossman
Cllr. Gill Oxley (GO)
Clerk Nikki Leach (NL)
Six residents

APOLOGIES:

District Cllr Stephen Davies/Stroud District Council (DM)
Cllr. Christian (BC)
Mike Farmer

DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA:

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

THE MINUTES of the meeting of Monday May 8th 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING: None.

POLICE REPORT: PCSO Mike Trebble reported that there were no incidents in Epney. Cllr. Russel said that he had a stolen car dumped in his drive in the early hours of the morning in June. He called the police and was advised that police officers would attend and they never did.

Resident Suzie Wingrove called the police earlier today regarding suspicious white vans in the area.

It was noted that the PCSO has perhaps not picked up the full number of incidents in the area.

Disappointment was again noted that there is no representation for Longney.

Cllr. Godwin advised that residents should be vigilant

Action: Letter to be drafted to Martin Searle by Cllr. Wingrove regarding the lack of attendance at meetings or correct updates.

PLANNING:

A new application has been submitted for commercial use of the arena at Hill Farm in Longney. A retrospective application has been submitted for a barn extension at Downend Barn, Longney. Both of these applications are still pending consideration.

Cllr. Mossman advised that the planning application for the glamping

orchard has been submitted. There are issues with the website at the moment and this is why the alert has not yet come through.

Cllr. Wingrove has received a response today from Stroud regarding potential planning transgressions. He will review this and circulate it to everyone after the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Friends of Longney School wrote to the Parish Council asking for permission to use the maze for the school fete and the pet show. This was circulated to the Councillors by email and a response was agreed and sent back. Cllr. Wingrove asked if this should be a blanket approval to remove the need for asking each year. It was agreed that as the events could potentially change each year it is good practice to still ask each year.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr. Stephen Davies sent his apologies for this evenings meeting and sent the following update by email:

The key issue at Gloucester County Council has been the very disappointing Children Services Ofsted Report which found the service "inadequate." As a result 3 senior managers have left the organisation and at an extraordinary County Council meeting a cross party plan was agreed. This will not be a quick fix as it involves improvements in both process and culture. I am on the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee so will be closely involved in this.

As you know as County Councillor I have a small amount of money to spend on road schemes and am looking for suggestions. Please let me know your priorities.

I also have some of the "Lengthsmans" time to allocate. They are available to do cleaning up tasks and footpath clearing etc. Again please let me have your thoughts.

Cllr. Wingrove has received a quote for putting a footpath in around the bend by Manor Farm, (£25,000) it was suggested that this could be requested from Cllr. Davies rather than local funding.

Action: Councillors to consider areas within the Parish that may benefit from some of the funding suggested and provide these ideas to the Chairman.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Cllr. Oxley discussed a couple of new grants for young people that have just become available. These can be used for young people in the parish. Details are on the website. Applications need to be in by September. All the taxi and private hire drivers are having training relating to vulnerable young people. The new waste and recycling system is working really well. There is a big demand for extra containers for recycling.

Cllr. Mossman noted that due to a recent ruling if SDC lose their 5 year land supply all other policies would be maintained. There is also protection if you have a neighbourhood plan only a 3 year land supply is needed not a 5 year one. This is important if it is ever needed to be used against possible developers. Cllr. Mossman has also been concerned for some time about "call ins" where a parishioner wants to object to a planning application – it has to go to the DCC if the objection is on planning grounds rather than emotional ones, and if the DCC manager and planning manager agree. There has been a reduction in the number of applications going to the DCC. There are concerns regarding transparency. Now on the 1st of each month a list will be circulated detailing all call in requests over the last month. Anyone who

has logged a call in will be provided with a written update of their request and the outcome.

Cllr. Wingrove asked about training in relation to the planning process. Cllr. Mossman mentioned that he could potentially arrange something for a number of parishes to meet one evening with the planning team.

VILLAGE PLAN:

- Garden Group/Equipment: This is now housed with Cllr. Godwin.
- Website: It was suggested that a note could be added to the website regarding the current increase in criminal activity.
- Newsletter: Also add a note about crime

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE:

Cllr. Wingrove has spoken to one of the owners of the land concerned around Manor Farm and the pond and has been advised that it is maintained on a regular basis. To make a more urban footpath around the bend Highways quoted in the region of £25,000. It is an unsafe bend to walk around. Cllr. Wingrove will continue to pursue this. If a curb could be secured and filled and grassed over, it could end up being spoilt by the horse traffic around the bend. It would be important to discuss this with the tenants.

The issue of planning and running businesses from home needs to be discussed – the inconsistencies of this were raised. A parishioner suggested that it would be very helpful to understand this on a more general basis to make sure that it is not seen as an unfair process where some businesses are running without any approval and others are required to gain approval. Cllr. Mossman reminded the meeting that running a business from home is a tricky territory now as if the business is not causing undue harm (increased traffic in the area) it would be difficult to prevent.

It was suggested that Geraldine Lequant, planning manager could be asked to come along to one of the next meetings (potentially the November meeting) and this could be well advertised to ensure that parishioners are able to attend and understand the process. Cllr. Mossman suggested that we also ask Highways to attend the same meeting.

Action: Clerk to arrange for Geraldine to attend the November meeting

FOOTPATHS: There are a couple of issues regarding footpaths in the village. The maps have been reviewed again and still no-one is wanting to pay for either extinguishing or removal of the footpath. Another meeting will probably need to be arranged.

A parishioner raised concerns about a footpath across their land where ramblers are becoming abusive because they do not know where the exit is. The exit has not been opened up. Cllr. Godwin volunteered to go and speak with the landowner to arrange for this to be opened up.

FIBRE OPTIC BROADBAND UPDATE: Cllr. Wingrove attended a Fastershire information evening in Cheltenham in June. The phase 2 contract has been let to another company. By the end of December 2018 anyone will low connection speeds will be added to the new network, a connection fee will be charged. A new fibreoptic cable will be put through the village. This will be a different network and the cable will be brought under the canal.

FINANCIAL UPDATE/ANNUAL RETURN:

Annual Return

There have been 2 queries on the annual return this year both of which have been responded to by the Clerk.

Invoices to approve:

David Davies – Verge Cutting - £392.69 – already paid

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENTS: Nothing to report

VILLAGE TELEPHONE KIOSK: Feedback from surrounding local councils has been received in relation to the costs of installing a defibrillator. There is an annual maintenance fee of around £750. Cllr. Godwin and Cllr. Russell have been on a recent first aid course where defibrillators were supported. The local GP surgery is also in support of defibrillators in the community. Following some discussion it was agreed that the installation of a defibrillator in the Longney telephone kiosk should be explored.

Action: Clerk to investigate the defibrillator.

VILLAGE WALK / PARTY: Meeting to be arranged.

USE OF THE CHAPEL / CHURCH: A recent meeting has been held in the chapel. They can potentially run the chapel for another 6 months. After that if there is no demand from the village then it will no longer be used as a chapel.

An architect is visiting the church this week to discuss the potential for updating the amenities. There is little point spending money on the church if it will not then be used by the village. There need to be some real expressions of interest for use by the school and the village.

The chapel is in reasonable repair. Its size, nature and orientation mean that it has a number of advantages, for example it is easier to heat in the winter months. There would need to be a committed group of people who would be prepared to maintain and run the chapel to make it viable. It does not appear that there is a likely group of people who would look to take on the chapel and its responsibilities. It is difficult to consider supporting both the church and the chapel and there were discussions about the potential use of the chapel. It could be added to the newsletter for more potential suggestions.

Geoff Smith will keep the Parish Council up to date with the outcome of the church meetings.

Action: Clerk to draft a note for the newsletter to be reviewed with Geoff Smith

ELECTORS FORUM: Parking and traffic is becoming a problem in Epney and Longney. Residents are parking outside their houses and not leaving enough room for traffic to get through. An emergency vehicle would not be able to get through.

Set up of a village Facebook group was suggested and discussed as a way of keeping up with news.

There are going to be a number of events at the pub in the marquee over the summer. Anyone with any concerns about

Action: Note about the parking to be added to the newsletter. Clerk to set up a Facebook group.

ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

A parishioner raised a concern that KB Coaches are no longer going to come to Longney from September. They will only come as far as Epney. The cover Stroud High, Marling and Rednock. There are concerns that people from Longney now need to go to Epney. There are concerns leaving children early in the morning. Currently it is safe to load and unload children in the school car park in Longney. This has come from County level, rather than District council level. Parents from Longney pay an increased rate. Cllr Mossman asked for an email to be sent to him and he agreed to follow up with County. At the same time the Parish Council will also write. It is not clear if KB coaches are driving this move. This will be a significant risk to the children.

Action: Cllr. Mossman to contact the County Council regarding the change of bus route. Clerk to write to County Cllr. Stephen Davies expressing concern for the change in bus route.

THE CHAIRMAN thanked all Councilors and residents for attending the meeting. The meeting was closed at 9.22pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of Longney and Epney Parish Council will take place at Longney Primary Academy on Monday 11th September at 7.30.

