

LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Action

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

The Annual Parish 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)
Ten residents

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Dave Mossman
Keith Rogg

THE MINUTES of the meeting of Monday 16th May 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING: There is still an issue with fibreoptic broadband in the village. Not much has changed in a year. Epney are still not on fibreoptic broadband, they will be considered under phase 2. There are 3 properties in the village where surrounding properties have access but neighboring properties do not.

Dog fouling issues have not improved, if anything they have got worse. Cllr. Christian walked by Lynch Farm and noted that it was particularly bad in that area. A resident also reported that there were issues around the area of Crib Cottages. The dog warden has visited the area recently and at the time felt that it was not significant. It is not clear if this is attributable to residents or professional dog walkers, it is not daily which suggests it could perhaps be due to professional dog walkers. If the dog walkers come in vans with advertising we could contact them and remind them of their responsibilities. There is discussion around a new law that prohibits people walking more than 4 dogs at once and in some areas walking without a collection bag.

CHAIRMANS REPORT: This last year a huge amount of time has been spent on planning issues. Further meetings with SDC regarding planning issues have taken place and the councils role has been made clear. There are also still footpath issues within the parish but Amey are now accepting that there is a problem and are working towards a resolution.

The PC have now taken over the verge cutting within the village. Issues were raised over the past year regarding the work that Amey were conducting. Severn Voice have taken this up with Gloucester County Council and have had approval to take on the contract themselves. The verge cutting contract within 8 of the 9 villages has now been signed. This alleviates the use of sub - contractors from areas far outside the parish and the loss of funding through the use of these sub - contractors. The verges in the parish will now be cut twice instead of once and a number of new visibility splays will also be cut to make it safer on the village roads. Cllr. Godwin requested comments from the parish once the first cut has taken place, this feedback will be considered and could be used to potentially amend the plans for the second cut and if necessary amend the contract. Cllr. Godwin spoke with Dan Tiffany from Gloucester Highways and asked for the verge opposite Ellis Farm to be cut as it had not been done for about 5 years. Within several hours the contractors were out completing the work. Cllr. Harvie requested a litter pick after the first

cut has been completed, as this cut will reveal a huge amount of litter within the parish. Cllr. Christian will arrange this and add it to the newsletter. Cllr. Wingrove commented that the amount of litter within the parish has increased significantly. Cllr. Harvie completed a litter pick on a stretch of the parish and within several hours there were cans and other litter back on the verge.

Cllr. Godwin thanked Cllr. Christian for all of the work completed on the newsletter and also the website. Cllr. Godwin also thanked Geoff Smith for his help with the newsletter.

Cllr. Godwin also thanked Al Fenn for looking after the garden equipment for so many years. Cllr. Wingrove will be responsible for managing this moving forward but still needs somewhere to store it. There is a rotavator and a shredder for use within the parish, hired out at a cost of £5 per day. For the time being parishioners can contact Cllr. Godwin for this.

VILLAGE PARTY / EVENT: There was a suggestion last year that we as a parish should arrange a party or a get together. We have several new people in the village and it would be a good opportunity for the village to meet. We are open to suggestions for ideas on what type of event, and also for offers for help in arranging an event.

We can use the maze by the school as this is a central location. Some kind of sporting event, for example rounders or cricket. Food would be provided – a BBQ was suggested, and or tea and cake. It would be nice to have a family event. Hena offered to help, and Suzie Wingrove, and Amanda Spraug. Cllr. Christian will represent the parish council. Cllr Godwin offered the use of his barns but they are not as central to the village. Cllr. Harvie has offered a tent which could seat around 40 people, we also have the offer of a free PA system and a large marquee. Clerk to arrange a meeting of the organizing committee.

It was asked if the PC can subsidise the food with public money and it was agreed that yes it can, but for the benefit of parishioners only.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT/ANNUAL RETURN: To be discussed in the next meeting.

LONGNEY CHARITY REPORT: Henry Smiths charity still provide a grant to the parish of Longney every year. The recipients must be over 70 and have lived within the village for the last 5 consecutive years. Initially the charity used to supply coal and clothing. The committee try to direct the funds towards those residents who are genuinely in need. Last year 7 applicants each received £275. There were less applicants and so a slightly higher amount was able to be given. Residents were advised to encourage any neighbours or friends within the village who meet the criteria to come forward.

OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION: None raised.

THE CHAIRMAN thanked all Councilors and residents for attending the meeting. The meeting was closed at 8.05pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next Annual Parish Meeting will be held in May 2018.

