

LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018

A meeting of **LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL** was held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July  
2018 at Longney Primary Academy

**PRESENT:**

Cllr. Godwin (RG)  
Cllr. Russell (AR)  
Cllr. Harvie (JH)  
Cllr. Wingrove (GW)  
Cllr. Everett (LE)  
District Cllr Stephen Davies/Stroud District Council (SD)  
Clerk Nikki Leach (NL)  
4 residents

**1. APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. Gill Oxley (GO)  
Cllr. Dave Mossman  
Geoff Smith  
Judy Smith  
Hena Rahman  
Mahb Rahman

**2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA:** Cllr. Harvie stated that the solar farm development will be at the bottom of his drive and therefore he declared an interest (item 17). Cllr. Wingrove declared a potential interest in the agenda item School Related issues due to his position as a School Governor and also in relation to potential planning matters.

**3. MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING:** The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

**4. MATTERS ARISING:** The path to the school is being addressed by Amey, they will work to clear this to make it more accessible.  
The issue of increased cyclists in the village and the danger associated with this has been raised with the road safety hub part of the Waterwells organisation. The response received suggested that the issue is with drivers rather than cyclists and that there were no road safety issues as far as they were concerned. Cllr. Wingrove will respond to this and raise further concerns.

Action: Cllr. Wingrove to respond regarding the cyclists

**5. POLICE REPORT:** None received this time. A councilor reported that during a recent discussion with our local PCSO he was advised that they do not have sufficient resources to support attendance at local PC meetings.

Action: None

**6. PLANNING:**

Two new application has been received since the last parish council meeting:

Land adjacent to Peglass Cottage, Longney. Retrospective permission for change of use for the siting of a mobile caravan, seasonal bell tent and sheds hosting facilities (shower, WC, kitchen) which are used for "glamping". This application is awaiting comments from the parish council. Having taken advice from GAPTC, The Chairman advised that it is evident that Cllr

Wingrove does not have a material interest in the planning application and therefore he does not have to “declare an interest” in the application. There are a number of conditions that need to be satisfied, including waste, environmental, highways, flooding, etc. If these are satisfied it was suggested that the development also needs to be prevented from expanding. There are issues reported in terms of smoke and noise. It was also suggested that the business should be limited in terms of seasons of trading. Several commented that the application should have the widest hearing from the planners, the feeling was that it should have the hearing of more than one planner and that a wider decision making process would seem fair. Public rights of way need to be involved to review the new access on the track that crosses the footpath. It was discussed that the parish council can ask for the application to be called in to the planning committee (DCC). The chairman of the DCC will decide if it will be accepted to the meeting. Even with significant public interest it does not always mean that applications will go through to DCC. It was suggested that there would need to be significant planning issues to get this through to DCC as significant public interest may not be enough. GCC Highways and Environment Agency have retracted their comments from last time and passed the responsibility to SDC. Cllr. Davies clarified that the Environment review has set out a number of conditions that need to be met and this is passed back to SDC for the ultimate decision. The new access of the track was discussed and it is believed that there was an access on that track historically but this is in a different place. There has been some concern regarding the number of contentious applications in the village of late. Some of the comments that have been made in the objection letters have been personal. It was asked if there can be any form of policing of the comments that are put onto the website. Cllr. Davies agreed to take this back and ask if there is any way of reviewing comments that are abusive/illegal. The date for comments to be submitted is one week today. There may also be an extension of one month due to the Highways comments but this has not been confirmed.

A vote was taken as to whether this should be asked to be called in to DCC. All councilors voted in favor of calling the application in. It was asked if councilors support or oppose the application. It was agreed that the wording of the application would need to include the conditions that would need to be met in order for the application to be supported. The Parish Council will need to ask our district councilor to support the request and a letter needs to be written to Tom Williams to ask for this to be called in. Cllr. Harvie agreed to draft the document but requested support and input from all councilors. It was noted that the majority of the neighbours have not objected and the Parish Council need to be aware of this. A comment was added to this to say that the neighbours that have not objected are screened from the development by trees and may not therefore be subjected to the same noise. A question was raised as to the weight that certain comments will be given in the application given that comments have been added from people who don't live in the parish. It was agreed that this is a difficult path to tread.

Beamlow, Wicks Green, Longney – single storey extension. This application falls on the boundary between Longney and Elmore. The parish council were in support of this application.

Updates since last meeting:

New Farm Access Track from the Epney Saul public highway. Permission granted.

Application for Solar Farm – still pending a decision.

The minutes from the planning meeting held in April have now been finalized and will be uploaded to the website.

The issue of planning transgressions in the parish was raised again. At the last meeting it was agreed that a meeting would be set up with John Longmuire to discuss these. Some of the properties where there were planning transgressions have now been resolved which is a positive step. The items that have not been addressed will be raised with John Longmuire. All councilors agreed to this.

**Action: Clerk to upload the minutes of the planning meeting to the website now that they have been approved.**

Cllr. Davies to advise as to how to respond to inappropriate or personal comments submitted to the planning portal

Cllr Wingrove to establish the exact date that comments can be added to the application regarding the Glamping Orchard. Cllr. Harvie to draft a response regarding to the application.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

Action: None

## **8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**

Cllr. Davies advised that there was not much to report. The OFSTED report on children care services was inadequate last year. There has been a mini visit and improvements have been made. There will be improvements made to the cross keys roundabout next year. This is in line with the developments at Hunts Grove. This is a committed project and the funds have been agreed. There will be a consultation later this year regarding this. There has also been a meeting about improving Junction 12 they will need to extend and widen the southbound slip road to get the traffic off the motorway. The Quedgeley East business park where the incinerator is could also be expanded to help with the expansion of this junction.

A question was asked regarding the mental health updates. Cllr. Davies advised that support for gambling issues has been improved. It was asked if there is any way of feeding back the comment that there is a growth in advertising for gambling which does not help people who may have problems. Cllr. Davies agreed to feed this back. It was also discussed that there are mental health champions. When decisions are made, mental health champions should be consulted. 2 champions have been appointed and their role should be to monitor the work within the council to check that mental health considerations are being met. The issue of mental health support within schools was raised. Cllr. Davies has been meeting local schools to discuss this. Almost all schools complain that they do not get the financial support that they need for mental health. Cllr. Davies asked for specific details and advised the parishioner to contact him.

Action: None

## **9. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**

Cllr. Oxley was unable to attend the meeting and sent the below report by email:

### Solar Farm

I have had a meeting with the Head of Planning and the case officer involved and Cllr Mossman. They are waiting for a report from an independent landscape architect. There will be a site inspection before DCC. Suggestion that it would go to the September DCC.

### Sub Rooms

#### Final Proposition

1 - Sell to Stroud Town Council for £1

2 - Fund them with £230,000

3 - Repair roof -£125000

No further subsidies after March 2019

An overage clause so that any profit on sale is distributed on following basis

A sliding scale in year 1 of 100% to SDC and then reducing year by year over 40 years.

This will be up for voting shortly by members

### Parking Charges in Nailsworth and elsewhere in SDC

Substantial local and political opposition to this, ongoing campaign. I have had over 30 emails direct from public protesting, which is a record

### Replacement Chief Exec

David Hagg has announced his retirement. Interviews will be completed by end of July with a special council meeting in early August.

Options

- 1 – Replace with new chief exec
- 2 – Share a chief exec with a another local authority
- 3 – Do not have one and share his work amongst senior Directors/Managers at SDC

The green bin scheme is now over subscribed. There is now a waiting list for the brown bins.

I have also written to the Health and Well Being Officer at SDC for a report on what activities are available in this area for residents or any proposals that are not so Stroud focused.

#### **10. VILLAGE PLAN:**

- Garden Group/Equipment: This has been used by several people already this year. A total of £70 has been raised. A councilor asked if there was an option to add any additional equipment to add to this. The Chairman outlined the history of this equipment and how the group was set up. There were insurance issues with public liability on the equipment at the initial set up. It is not likely that this would be expanded in the near future to add other equipment.
- Website: The new website is under construction. Once it is available for review the link will be shared. Thanks were given to Cllr. Everett for creating the new email addresses. Clerk to confirm what will happen to the Cotswold Wireless account when it expires at the end of this month
- Newsletter: Thanks were expressed to Cllr. Everett for the newsletters that she has created. Many compliments have been received.

Action: Clerk to follow up regarding the Cotswold wireless emails.

#### **11. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE:**

There is a waterleak between Stoneways and Paterills Farm which has been reported,

Action: None

#### **12: FOOTPATHS:**

EMV1 closure has been objected to by the Ramblers Association and Open Spaces Society. PROW are minded to support the closure. The Parish Council discussed this and voted on the closure. It was discussed that opposing it would set a precedent. A vote was cast. All were against the closure, this decision was unanimous.

At the school fete it was noted that the stile on the footpath was missing a step. The landowner will need to be approached to repair this.

Action: Cllr. Harvie to advise PROW on the Councils vote.

#### **13: FIBRE OPTIC BROADBAND:**

Gigaclear are now passing through the parish with the fibreoptic cable. Any property currently receiving less than 30MG will receive a pot outside their property. Gigaclear did not let the parish council know that they were starting works. A councillor has asked Gigaclear for a plan of work to advise on future works as we are entering harvesting season. Those that do connect will have a connection charge and an ongoing charge. The cables are being put in so shallow that they may not last.

#### **14: FINANCIAL UPDATE**

The current accounts were circulated for review.

Account balances:  
Current Account: £14,598.97  
Deposit Account: £2,407.55

It was asked if some of the money could be transferred to a low risk safe investment. Advice will be sought on this. Cllr. Wingrove agreed to look into this.

Clerk will investigate the move to internet banking.

Invoices to be approved for:

Verge Cutting – D. Davies – invoice received and paid between meetings:  
Clerk Fees – approved  
Income Tax – approved

**Action:** Cllr. Wingrove to investigate the possibility of a low risk investment fund

**15. SCHOOL RELATED ISSUES:** The school fete was held this month

**Action:** None

**16. VERGE MOWING:** No updates.

**Action:** None

**17. SOLAR FARM DEVELOPMENT:**

A letter has now been received from Elgin confirming that they will pay £6,000 per megawatt if the application goes ahead.

**Action:** None

**18. DEFIBRILATORS:**

An anonymous donation has been received for the defibrillator fund. This cash will be paid into the parish council bank account. A councilor has approached the school, they would be prepared to put a small contribution in towards this. It was agreed that fundraising could go ahead for this. The lease option covers the defibrillators for four years. It is not clear what will happen after the four year period. Fundraising will start. A poster could be put in the pub and a donation box could be put at the pub. Letters could be sent to local businesses. It was suggested that a letter could be hand delivered to all households also. A number of offers were made to help with this.

**Action:** Cllr. Godwin will create a letter to distribute to the local businesses requesting donations. Cllr. Russell will follow up with South West Ambulance to see what happens to the lease after the four year period.

**19. GDPR UPDATE:**

An email was sent to all members of the parish distribution list containing the data privacy policy document in line with the GDPR requirements.

**Action:** None

**20. ELECTORS FORUM:**

No comments

**Action:**

**21. ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:**

Thanks were expressed to those people who opened the open gardens, it was a super day. Thanks were also expressed to the organisers of the village party.

On behalf of the village party committee thanks were expressed to all those who donated both individuals and businesses. Any concerns or questions from anyone can be passed to the committee.

A marathon is planned for next August / September (2019) potentially involving several thousand runners.

**THE CHAIRMAN** thanked all Councillors and residents for attending the meeting. The meeting was closed at 21.01.

**22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm.