

LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 10th September 2018

A meeting of **LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL** was held on Monday 10th
September 2018 at Longney Primary Academy

PRESENT:

Cllr. Godwin (RG)
Cllr. Harvie (JH)
Cllr. Wingrove (GW)
Cllr. Everett (LE)
Cllr Stephen Davies/Stroud District Council (SD)
District Cllr Gill Oxley (GO)
District Cllr Dave Mossman (DM)
Clerk Nikki Leach (NL)
PC Kevin Lee plus colleague
5 residents

1. APOLOGIES:

Geoff Smith
Hena Rahman
Tom Whittaker
Cllr. Andy Russell

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 an interest in relation to potential planning matters.

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

4. MATTERS ARISING: None

5. POLICE REPORT: Crime statistics from May 1st to 9th September – 21 recorded incidents this time last year, this time there is only 5. Quite a drop in the number of reported incidents. This could be due to the introduction of the neighborhood policing team at St James'. Since March the local team have relocated back to Quedgeley, one sergeant, 6 PCSOs designated for Glos South. The police are able to be more proactive out and about. Kingsway / Quedgeley / Hardwicke normally see an increase in the amount of anti social behavior due to the schools being off but it has been surprisingly low. The force has a very proactive sergeant who runs a tight ship. The amount of burglaries has dropped as well which is very positive. Epney and Longney figures are now integrated. There is an increased police presence around the villages, driving around, parking up and being visible. They were not able to do this before when based further away. The statistics also incorporate part of Saul due to the way the parish boundaries are split. One residential burglary, one theft of a motor vehicle x 2, one commercial burglary. You can now look at crime statistics for your area, anyone can log in.

Police also promoting the community alert scheme. We rely on the neighborhood watch scheme. But if you sign up to the community alert scheme you will get information directly to you by alert. Crime statistics, notices of events. This will be posted on the website and on the noticeboards. Incidents that are reported through 101 will be picked up and certain incidents can be picked up and distributed through the alert.

The issue of cyclists riding in groups was raised. There have been recent incidents with cyclists ignoring red lights. Kevin Lee asked for the information to be emailed through to him and including details of the cycling clubs involved. Kingsway cycling club. This has been raised with the road safety hub. There is a huge concern that there will be an accident in the near future. Kevin Lee agreed to look into the cycling clubs in the area and potentially visit them to raise awareness. It was also raised that some members of the Kingsway running club were running on the wrong side of the road. They had signs out warning road users about the running but there was no consistency with the side of the road that they were using which was dangerous. They tend to run on a Friday night.

Ben Rollins our local PCSO is a reserve RAF member and has been called up for active service. Kevin Lee and his colleague Rachel will be looking after this in his absence.

Action: Community Alert Scheme details to be added to the website and provided in the newsletter, and also on the noticeboards.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN:

Carol Novoth kindly came to speak at the meeting. She has been our neighbourhood warden for a while. As a neighbourhood warden her job includes a bit of everything. She deals with fly tipping, abandoned vehicles, anti social behaviour, neighbourhood disputes, security at elections etc. The wardens operate on an 8-4 shift at the moment, there is also a later shift 1-9. They are also doing Careline – some jobs can be quicker than others and back up is needed. Some of their work relates to travellers and gypsies. Carol now covers Longney and Epney, Arlingham, Frampton and Haresfield. 13 parishes in total. Lots of work is reactive. People don't know they are out there until they need her. It is normally through the district council and parish council that awareness is raised of the role and what they do. They deal with hoarders, to try and support them. It was raised that the 2 items that we have huge problems with in the parish are dog fouling and fly tipping. If Carol is provided with information she can help. The litter tipping is relentless. Macdonalds wrappers, syringes, gas cansisters, beer cans. Carol can put a request in and Ubico, the contractors will come in and clean within 7 days. 24 hours for fly tipping. Carol is able to issue litter fines and dog fouling fines. It is difficult as a description of the person is needed and that is not always possible.

The issue of the Gigaclear contractors was raised as they have left litter through the village. Dog fouling on the riverbank is a real issue at the moment. 7-9am and 5-7pm are the busiest times for dog walkers on the bank. Carol will feed this back and book in to come back and assess the situation. Dog barking was also discussed. Evidence is needed which is why the situation needs to be logged and reported so that the information can be used. The neighbourhood warden or dog warden does not have enough time to visit and review a property for such regular periods to gather that evidence.

Action: Details on the services available to be added to the website and in the newsletter.

7. PLANNING:

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

Revised application for the solar farm. The amended application was received this week. On behalf of the council the Chairman said that this would not yet satisfy the requirements of the parish council. This does not appear to be a substantial reduction in the size. On the website it mentions that representation needs to be made quite quickly. A question was asked regarding the comments that will be put in and whether the previous comments can be referred to. Cllr. Mossman advised that the comments should be with respect to the revised application and take the updates into account. The previous comments can be referred to but should be in light of the revisions made. The application is going from 10 fields to 9 and a half fields. Cllr. Mossman advised again that there needs to be planning grounds on which to object to the application. Looking at the degree of harm, which is subjective, from a planning point of view it is difficult to find reasons to object. The aim is to put it through the October planning meeting. A parishioner asked if they reduce the acreage to put the

application in, could they increase it again in the future? Cllr. Mossman advised that they would need full planning permission to change the application in future.

Updates since last meeting:

Land adjacent to Peglass Cottage, Longney. – Awaiting decision. There is a noise plan being put forward. There is a grey water situation which has not yet been resolved. Dave Lesser was working on this but he has now left. Dave Jackson is now handling this. There is supposed to be a meeting at Peglass cottage this Thursday to discuss the situation. This leaves the highways situation which has not moved in the last 3 months. There is an added complication, there is legislation that says there has to be a disabled access. They are awaiting guidance. It was asked when the decision will be taken about whether it is going to DCC. Cllr. Mossman advised that they have not yet heard. The determination date has changed to October, and can be changed again if needed.

Beamlow, Wicks Green, Longney (actually falls under Elmore PC) – single storey extension. Permission granted

The question around planning transgressions and a meeting with John Longmuire was raised again. Councillors suggested that this would be helpful to have a refresher to discuss the issues in the parish.

Action: None

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

None

Action: None

9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Cllr. Davies advised that there has not yet been a full council meeting since the last parish council meeting. There is going to be a reduction in hours at Horsley tip. Full council meeting on Thursday to discuss climate change, the peoples vote and diabetes. More locally, delay in the rollout on broadband. There was a meeting last Friday and there has not yet been an official update.

Action: None

10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Community governance review - Cllr. Mossman mentioned that all parish councils have been asked to put this on their agenda. Every 10 – 15 years this review is taken. Stroud as the primary council has to undertake a community governance review to check that it is fit for purpose. This is to question whether the citizens are happy with the way the parish is run, and whether the councillors are happy with the way that things are run.

The Hunts Grove development is huge. There is an opportunity for Hardwicke to consider requesting a change in the boundaries.

Last DCC meeting was on the 4th September. Cllr Mossman is no longer on the DCC.

Kathy O'Leary is the new Chief Exec. She has a planning background and senior management experience also.

The 5 year district plan review. There was previously no set formula for calculating how many houses per area were needed. Developers were always able to alter it. There is now a government formula put in place to determine the numbers. It will mean that there will be substantially more houses in Stroud following the next review.

Update on CLG incinerator. The monitoring system now has all of the equipment available. The implementation in the 2 parishes involved is ongoing. The monitors have been fitted and are in

operation. Technical meetings will be held regularly to review this information and the reports generated. The first firing is expected in March 2019 with go live in June 2019. The funding group currently includes only the local parishes. The first applications will go in in January next year for consideration for September next year. £25,000 per year fund. Kevin Lee is chairing the fund group. Predominantly organized for adjacent parishes taking into account the path of the plume. Community groups within these parishes will also be able to apply. Cllr. Oxley also added SDC has a new facebook page. Church lane in Hardwicke will be closed from 12th November to 7th December.

Cllr. Mossman will now be able to attend all of the parish council meetings with Gill.

11. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW: Already discussed.

Action: Information on the review and the questionnaire to be shared on the website and in the newsletter so that parishioners can comment individually. The parish council will review and discuss prior to the next meeting and prepare comments prior to the next meeting.

12. VILLAGE PLAN:

- Garden Group/Equipment: No updates
- Website: The new website looks fantastic. Louise would like to make it go live, this is pending final review from the Councillors.
- Newsletter: The newsletter is also getting better every time. There was a discussion about “promoting” local businesses. If a local business is being promoted then it is fair to ask for a contribution. It was suggested that the newsletter be sent around to the parish council for review and approval prior to the newsletter being distributed. It was asked “can individuals put items on the newsletter without any comment from others”? This is difficult and depends on the item.

Action: None

13. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE:

Cllr. Wingrove has raised with Severn Trent today about inappropriate road closures in the parish. Recently Severn Trent had a sign at Manor Farm saying road closed to both the right and left. The road was actually only closed in a short place.

Action: None

14: FOOTPATHS:

Cllr. Harvie updated the meeting to say that Sarah MacCaulay has now received our objections.

Action: None

15: SEVERN VOICE

Verge mowing was discussed. There are no complaints to date. Longney and Epney PC will now submit their invoice to GCC. The contract between the PC and GCC contained a clause that the payment will be uplifted each year. Slimbridge have submitted their invoice and this has been rejected by GCC. This is being reviewed by Severn Voice.

The next Severn Voice meeting date is to be advised.

Action: None

16. FIBRE OPTIC BROADBAND

Cllr. Wingrove provided a short update regarding Gigaclear which was presented in the last newsletter. The husbandry of the roads following the installation has been poor. There are some inconsistencies in terms of where the cable is being put up to peoples houses. Cuts across the road were left on Friday evening with the bollards left in the wrong place which made it very dangerous for traffic. Cllr. Wingrove will speak to the deployment manager in the morning with any other comments. The intrusive parts of the work are expected to be complete by mid October.

17. FINANCIAL UPDATE

The current accounts were circulated for review.

Account balances:

Current Account: £14,115.43

Deposit Account: £2,407.74

Invoices to be approved for:

Website - £936.00 approved

Verge Cutting – D. Davies – £403.15 approved

Clerk Fees – £386.74 approved

Income Tax – £96.80 approved

Internet banking: Clerk investigated online banking. A full signatory needs to complete this process. The costs of this need to be investigated. Clerk to follow up and check with other local parishes.

The discussion around investment funds was dicussed again. It was agreed that £8000 be moved from the current account.

Action: Clerk to review internet banking charges

18. VERGE MOWING: Discussed previously.

Action: None

19. SOLAR FARM DEVELOPMENT: Discussed previously

Action: None

20. DEFIBRILATORS:

Cllr. Davies has some money. He would give £500 and will send us the application forms. We may also have an electrician who can help with the installation.

Action: Chair to draft a letter to send to local businesses.

21. GDPR UPDATE:

Action: None

22. ELECTORS FORUM:

No comments

Action:

23. ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

Cllr Harvie asked if he should draft the reply to the revised solar application. This was agreed by the council.

Has there been any progress on the additional licenses for Dave Merretts haulage business
This is potentially a retrospective application.

The council expressed their gratitude for all of the help and support given by Bekki Christian over the last few years. The sad news of her passing was shared and it was asked if a letter of condolence should be sent to her husband and family.

THE CHAIRMAN thanked all Councilors and residents for attending the meeting. The meeting was closed at 21.36pm

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 12th November at 7.30pm.