

LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10 MARCH 2014

A MEETING OF LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL was held on Monday 10 March 2014, at 8pm at Longney School

PRESENT: Cllrs. Godwin, Harvie, Williams, and Wingrove; PCSO Manja Tunney; and one resident

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Finzi, County Cllr. Blackburn, District Cllr. Miles

DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA: None

THE MINUTES of the meeting of Monday 10 March 2014 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting

MATTERS ARISING:

LITTER PICKING: McDonalds sent seventeen litter pickers to assist with clearing the river bank and will be paying for a poster campaign

OIL PURCHASE SCHEME: About twenty possible users of the proposed scheme have been identified, and a meeting of those who have expressed an interest will be called

PARISH COUNCIL LAPTOP: Mark Dempster will be contacted to correct problems with the set up of the new Parish Council laptop

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH: Cllr Wingrove reported that there had been only one volunteer to assist with the proposed project and that the Police had confirmed from their speed patrols that they had not caught anyone speeding in the 30mph zone, which is where the Community Speed Watch would have to operate. In the light of this Councillors collectively decided not to pursue the project at the present time

SEVERN VOICE: Councillors discussed the suggestion that adjacent parishes should contribute to the cost of solving traffic problems at Fretherne Bridge. A decision was reached that Longney and Epney Parish Council does not wish to contribute to funding, due to the site being outside the Parish and not a major access route to/from the Parish

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE: Repairing a water leak and solving ditch problems have eliminated the flooding of the road at Manor Farm entrance

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE: A volunteer is need to manage the website

REPLACEMENT OF CLERK: It was agreed that GAPTC should be asked to advertise the vacancy

POLICE REPORT: PCSO Tunney told the meeting that there had been no reported crimes in the Parish between 8 December 2013 and 8 March 2014. There had been incidents of break-ins to stables in a nearby parish, further details of which were requested. A comment was made that it is reassuring to see police cars more frequently passing through the Parish. The Chairman thanked PCSO Tunney for attending the meeting

PLANNING: Planning permission had been granted for a side and rear extension at 1 Crib Cottages, Longney. There had been no new planning applications

HIGH TIDES AND FLOOD PREVENTION EXPENSES: Councillors approved the signing of a cheque value £32.10 to Moreton C Cullimore for sand for sandbags at the time of the February high tides, and a cheque to Responder Technology value £83.90 for SMS messages to residents

NEW SEVERN ESTUARY FLOOD RISK STRATEGY: The new strategy is not yet available. A proposed Environment Agency Flood Risk Management meeting had been cancelled and is rescheduled for mid-March

CORRESPONDENCE:

SDC – LETTER TO ALL TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS: Councillors agreed that if a National Planning Framework is to automatically take precedence over Local Plans, there seems little purpose in the latter in which SDC must have invested very significant amounts of public funds. It is also another step towards centralisation giving local government (including parish councils) even less power

GAPTC – COUNCILS WITH ELECTIONS IN MAY 2014: The Annual Parish Meeting must be held between 1 March and 1 June, and the Annual Parish Council meeting must be held on or within 14 days after the day on which Councillors elected at an election take office. Both meetings cannot therefore be held on the same day, as Monday 26 May is a Bank Holiday, so it was agreed that the Annual Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 2 June and the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 19 May, to which Richard Bentley EA Regional Manager will be invited to address the meeting re Flood prevention

SDC – LITTER AND SWEEPING: It was agreed that the river bank has been and remains a huge litter challenge and the Parish Council may need to check whether there are other locations within the Parish which need attention, where although the problem is a lot less dramatic, some assistance from SDC may be required

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: None given

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr. Littleton reported on the planning application at Crib Cottages, Longney, for which the first application was not approved by SDC, but a revised application, after a site visit, was passed by six votes to five. There is to be a review of Ward boundaries, coming into effect by the election in 2016. Each ward should have approximately 7000 electors per Councillor. With the current building programme, Hardwicke Ward could change. Cllr. Littleton is retiring this year, and the Chairman thanked him for all his work as District Councillor over many years

VILLAGE PLAN:

- a) **GARDEN GROUP/EQUIPMENT:** No further information
- b) **HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE:** Dealt with under matters arising. Community speedwatch should be discussed at a future meeting
- c) **OIL PURCHASE SCHEME:** An administrator is needed to run this scheme
- d) **WEBSITE:** The website could advertise the need for a new administrator also the vacancy for a Clerk
- e) **NEWSLETTER:** Deliveries of the Church newsletter do not cover all properties in the Parish. The Vicar will be asked whether circulation can be improved. Councillors agreed the signing of a cheque value £66.40 for sponsorship of the Newsletter

CLERKS FEE AND EXPENSES: Councillors accepted the figure of £2901.62 as the Clerk's fee for 2013/2014, which requires the writing of two cheques: one, value £2749.22 to the Clerk; the other, value £152.40 to HMRC for income tax due. Councillors also agreed to the signing of a cheque to the Clerk value £70.95 for postage, telephone and travelling expenses for 2013/2014

ELECTORS' FORUM: No matters were raised by electors

OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

SDC – COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT GRANT: A payment of £123 had been recently received for this, which when introduced in early 2013 had caused much confusion, and resulted in this unexpected addition to Parish Council funds

HENRY SMITH CHARITY: The invoice has been received for rent for the Playing field for 2014/2015. Councillors agreed to the signing of a post dated cheque value £50 for this, to come out of 2014/2015 accounts and to prevent a delay in payment until the next meeting in two months' time

GAPTC SUBSCRIPTION 2014/2015: Councillors agreed to the signing of a post dated cheque value £64.96 for this to prevent delay until the next meeting in making the payment

EPNEY FLOOD WALL: A resident had notified the Parish Council about leakages through the flood wall beside the road in Epney at times of high tides. The EA is aware of this and will fill further joints during the summer of 2014

MISSING MANHOLE COVERS BESIDE THE ROAD IN LONGNEY: These had been brought to the attention of Councillors, and will be reported to Mr Portlock of GCC Highways

STATIONERY: Councillors agreed to the signing of a cheque value £25.49 for cartridges for the Parish Council printer

THE CHAIRMAN informed the Meeting that Cllr Finzi will not be seeking re-election in May, and thanked her for all that she had done for the Council. He also thanked all Councillors, and the Clerk, for their work over the past year

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting, The Annual Parish Council Meeting of Longney and Epney Parish Council will take place at 8.00pm on Monday 2 June 2014 at Longney School

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.40p.m.