

LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12th January 2015

A meeting of **LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL** was held on Monday 12th January 2015.

PRESENT:

Cllr. Godwin (RG)
Cllr. Harvie (JH)
Cllr. Wingrove (GW)
Cllr. Russell (AR)
Cllr. Christian (BC)
District Cllr Russell Miles/Stroud District Council (RM)
Clerk Nikki Leach (NL)
Four residents

APOLOGIES:

County Cllr. Blackburn
Cllr. Mossman
Cllr. Harvie
PC Jenny Fraser

DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA:

As with the previous meeting, Cllr. Wingrove and Cllr Godwin declared an interest in the agenda item Area of Prime Responsibility due to their position as School Governors. Neither Councillor will gain financial benefit from the discussion so it was deemed acceptable for them to remain present during the agenda item.

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

MATTERS ARISING:

The school car park is still in need of resurfacing following the work conducted earlier this year. The school have not yet heard back from the contractors. Cllr. Godwin advised that he would be able to arrange for the scalplings to be levelled if the contractors could supply and deliver them. Cllr. Godwin also suggested that he would be able to obtain a roller. Cllr. Wingrove will inform the school that this is available.

Action: Cllr. Wingrove to contact the school regarding the car park

Cllr. Godwin confirmed that he had responded regarding Hardwicke Post Office. Cllr. Miles advised that the post office will be a local service and is due to open on 22nd January 2015. The planned opening hours are 7am to 10pm.

Cllr. Godwin reported that both he and Cllr. Harvie attended a training course before Christmas which was very worthwhile. There were several action items required in follow up to the meeting which Cllr. Godwin will discuss with the clerk. Cllr. Wingrove expressed an interest in attending the next course in February.

Action: Cllr. Godwin to meet with the clerk and advise on the actions required

The footpath has now been cleared.

POLICE REPORT: PC Jenny Fraser sent her apologies for the meeting and advised that they had received one report of criminal damage.

Clerk suggested the possibility of planning the meeting dates for the year following a request from the District Cllr's. This may help to ensure attendance from the police. It was agreed that the clerk could circulate the dates for the year based on the second Monday of every other month. The dates could be subject to change.

Action: Clerk to circulate dates for the meetings for the year.

PLANNING: Planning consent has been provided at Epney Villa. Cllr. Christian asked if there had been any feedback from Cllr. Mossman regarding what action should be taken regarding enforcement of people who are exploiting the conditions of their planning applications. There has not yet been any advice regarding this.

Action: Clerk to contact Cllr. Mossman regarding the above.

SEVERN ESTUARY FLOOD RISK STRATEGY: Cllr. Godwin said that there are no updates regarding this. He also expressed that it is important to keep the river bank well maintained and to avoid deterioration. A gate has been put in on Lynch lane to stop people driving onto the river bank.

Parishioner Dave Buckle asked if there are any updates regarding the gate on Allotments Lane. Cllr. Godwin advised that there has been some delay whilst they located the services to the pumping station but now this has been completed they are able to go ahead with putting the gate in.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB): In the past Longney and Epney Parish Council have donated £30 to the CAB. Cllr. Godwin stated that in general, the Parish Council do not contribute to other charities that request donations as they do not believe it is in their remit to raise money from the parishioners to donate to other causes. The CAB are considered to be slightly different as their services are utilized within the village. The Council were asked if they would agree to donate £30 this year. All were in favour. This was proposed by Cllr. Wingrove and seconded by Cllr. Christian.

Action: Clerk to arrange signatories for the cheque to be sent to the CAB

Dog fouling is continuing to be a problem in the parish. The clerk shared two proposed notices that had been prepared in draft. Some amendments were suggested and it was agreed that 6 of each notice should be laminated and placed on posts through the villages. The placement of bins was discussed and it was agreed that there were concerns on the frequency of emptying and the potential for them overflowing. For the time being it was decided that bins would not be made available.

Action: Clerk to arrange for amended signs to be laminated and passed to Cllr. Godwin for placement around the villages.

The clerk reported that she had received a request from the clerk from another 2 Severn Vale parishes who was studying for a degree at the University of Gloucester, for the PC to complete a survey aimed at assessing whether 20mph speed limits were effective in UK communities as part of her studies.

Action: Cllr Wingrove agreed to complete the 20mph traffic survey on

the PC's behalf.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Report sent by Cllr. Blackburn was circulated and discussed.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr. Miles updated the Council on the boundary review. The suggestion is that the district will remain 51 wards. Hardwicke will be a three council ward.

The emerging town plan is being put to the government inspectorate. The current proposal is for 11,500 houses to be built between now and 2031. There is plan for a development west of Stonehouse in the Nastend area which will comprise of 1,500 houses, shops, schools and supermarkets. Feedback is expected in June this year.

The new waste contract is still expected to commence at the start of the new financial year next year. This will mean fortnightly waste and environmental recycling waste collection. Green waste collection will be available at an additional annual cost. Another significant change will be the introduction of a charge for bulk collection. The cost will be £15 for up to 3 items. There will also be a new law meaning that if vehicles are left or abandoned councils will have the power to seize vehicles and get the owners fined and or imprisoned.

Cllr. Miles also reminded the council that the annual precept is due by the end of January.

He also confirmed that the plans for the incineration plant have been improved and building will begin late this year.

VILLAGE PLAN:

- Garden Group/Equipment: No further updates
- Highway Maintenance: The signs at Castle Lane still need to be relocated.
- Oil Purchase Scheme: Cllr. Godwin now has the names and addresses required and can meet Cllr. Russell to discuss
- Website: The new website is up and running. The changes that were requested have been incorporated. The minutes from the September and November meetings are missing – clerk to forward these to Cllr. Christian. Cllr. Christian asked how far afield the website should cover in terms of advertising events from other local villages. Cllr. Godwin advised that permission should be sought from the organisers of any local event before adding it to our website. Clarification was asked on the bus timetable and whether this was a link to the online timetable or a version that was downloaded. Cllr. Christian advised that it had been downloaded and it will be kept up to date. The Chairman and all Cllr's expressed their thanks to Cllr. Christian and Nathan for the work that they have put in to creating the website. All agreed that it looks fantastic.
- Newsletter: The database merge is now finalized. Cllr. Godwin will now email all on the distribution list to ask parishioners to opt in to receiving the newsletter electronically. A text message was sent to all contacts asking them to forward their email addresses if they would like to be included in the distribution. It was agreed that a notice regarding this should be posted on the website so that parishioners not previously contacted can forward their details and opt in.

Action: Cllr Godwin and Cllr. Russell to meet regarding Oil Purchase Scheme. Cllr. Christian to add notice to the website regarding the newsletter distribution. Clerk to send missing minutes to Cllr. Christian for the website.

AREA OF PRIME RESPONSIBILITY (APR): Cllr Godwin provided an overview of the discussion from the previous meeting regarding APR. Currently Longney School does not support APR as the School was so dependent upon children from Hardwicke and Quedgley filling pupil places and any move to deprioritise the allocation of places to such children in favour of children covered by APR policy, could deter parents from choosing Longney as their first choice of school. This could then jeopardise the long term viability of the School through lack of pupil numbers, and thus adversely the provision of local education to children, including those resident in Longney and Epney. Severn Voice would like to know if Longney and Epney Parish Council support the proposal for APR. Cllr. Godwin and Cllr. Wingrove are in a difficult position as they both stand as members of the Governing Body governors for Longney School and are both also Parish Cllrs. Cllr. Godwin reminded the council that our responsibility is to support our 2 parishes and ensure that children from our parishes get into the local school and that the chances of children from the Parish being admitted to the Longney School under normal circumstances would be the same on proximity grounds, whether the current GCC admissions policy was maintained or the APR policy was introduced. The Council discussed that they would like to stand in line with Severn Voice and they would also like to stand in line with the Parish School's governing body. Cllr Godwin The question posed the following question to the council "Does Longney and Epney Parish Council support APR". Cllr Wingrove suggested that the Council should consider a variation to this proposal that Longney and Epney Parish Council support APR but Longney School should not be covered under the APR proposal; this amendment would allow Longney and Epney PC to both support Longney School's position and the APR proposal sought by Severn Voice. Cllr Godwin suggested that the initial proposal should be considered first and, if need be, the variation to the proposal should be considered. The initial proposal elicited the following response:
In favour: Cllr. Godwin, Cllr. Christian, Cllr. Russell
Not in favour: Cllr. Wingrove
and was duly carried.

Cllr. Wingrove stated that he had been asked to be part of the APR subgroup within Severn Voice. He no longer feels that it is appropriate for him to be part of this and would like to step down. Cllr. Christian agreed to stand in his place.

ELECTORS' FORUM: Parishioner Wendy Gower asked if there was any progress regarding the life buoy on the wall at The Anchor in advance of the expected high tides over the coming months. Cllr. Godwin explained that the provision of this would not be the responsibility of the Parish Council but should be looked in to by the environment agency and or SARA. Cllr. Godwin agreed to speak with them and also to contact Arlingham Parish Council to seek advice on this.

Action: Cllr. Godwin to contact SARA/Environment Agency regarding life buoy

Parishioner Tony Bartholemew asked if there had been an update on the ditch opposite the barn at Down End. The Parish Council had agreed to follow up to ensure that action was taken following the flooding last year. Cllr. Wingrove and Cllr. Godwin agreed that they would contact Daniel Tiffany from Gloucestershire Highways again to hasten update the matter but they were aware that Gloucestershire Highways had discussed the matter with affected residents directly.

Action: Cllr. Godwin and Cllr. Wingrove to contact Gloucestershire Highways regarding Down End Barn

OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

The risk register has been sent through – this will be discussed at the next meeting when all Cllr’s have reviewed it.

Precept: The Chairman stated that this should have been a main agenda item. £3950.00 was put forward last year. It was discussed that the same amount should be put forward this year. The Chairman proposed this amount and all were in agreement.

Action: Clerk to send off the precept request prior to 31st January.

At present it is not possible to write cheques as the signatories have not yet been updated at the bank. Cllr. Wingrove has been following up on this.

Cllr. Harvie has been planning the next litter pick. It had potentially been suggested for 17th/18th Jan but it was discussed that this may be a bit too soon to arrange for local support. Cllr. Wingrove will discuss this with Cllr. Harvie.

Action: Cllr. Wingrove to contact Cllr. Harvie regarding the litter pick.

THE CHAIRMAN thanked all Councilors and residents for attending the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of Longney and Epney Parish Council will take place at 8.00pm on Monday 9th March 2015 at Longney School. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Action

GW

RG/NL

NL

NL

NL

NL/ RG

GW

RG/AR

NL

RC

RG

RG/GW

NL

GW

