

# LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Action

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> March 2015

A meeting of **LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL** was held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

### **PRESENT:**

Cllr. Godwin (RG)  
Cllr. Harvie (JH)  
Cllr. Wingrove (GW)  
Cllr. Christian (BC)  
County Cllr Anthony Blackburn (AB)  
District Cllr Dave Mossman/Stroud District Council (DM)  
Clerk Nikki Leach (NL)

### **APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. Russell (AR)

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA:** As with the previous meeting, Cllr. Wingrove and Cllr Godwin declared a personal interest in the agenda items Area of Prime Responsibility, and Longney School Academy Status 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 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

The Chairman reminded the Councillors that one week before the meeting the Clerk should be informed of all items for the agenda so that the agenda can be presented to and agreed with the Chairman.

### **MATTERS ARISING:**

RG met with the contractors responsible for the school car park. The contractors refused the offer of help from RG and would not negotiate on the number of loads of scalping that they would deliver. GW asked if there was scope for LEA to fund the improvements to the car park. RG stated that it was very difficult to state who was guilty of any damage or deterioration to the carpark as the Church and the School used the car park. In future it was suggested that the process should be formalized. If the use of the car park is requested then a financial agreement should be put in place to ensure that any damage will be repaired and accounted for. GW agreed that he would ask Richard Harding for a copy of the contract to verify the wording used and if the contractors were liable to repair the car park.

**Action: Cllr. Wingrove to contact Richard Harding regarding the wording of the contract**

**GW**

Cllr. Godwin mentioned that he had been approached by a parishioner for an update regarding the gates on allotments lane. The Environment Agency are working with RG to get the kissing gates installed. As soon as they have arrived RG will work to get them installed.

Cllr. Godwin reported that the dog fouling signs have been provided to him and are waiting for him to create the boards and stakes. This will be completed in the coming weeks. GW offered to help if required.

**Action: Cllr. Godwin to update the Council on the status of the kissing gates and also**

**RG**

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the dog fouling notices.

GW circulated the results of the environment survey that he completed on behalf of the Parish Council.

RG stated that he had spoken to Jon Shaw in Arlingham regarding the life ring that was installed at The Passage. It was confirmed that the Environment Agency had placed the ring at The Passage. RG will contact the Environment Agency in relation to providing one at The Anchor.

**Action: Cllr. Godwin to speak with the Environment Agency regarding the life ring at The Anchor**

**RG**

GW mentioned that highways had been contacted regarding Downend Barn and the trench that is needed. It was confirmed that highways have contacted Tony Bartholemew directly and would keep him copied in on any communication and that works are scheduled for the next financial year.

**POLICE REPORT:** No updates for this meeting. It was noted that the police presence at the Parish Council meetings is greatly missed. The Clerk agreed to contact them to provide the dates of the remaining meetings for 2015 and request attendance where possible.

**Action: Clerk to contact the police and provide dates of the meetings for 2015 requesting attendance if possible.**

**NL**

**PLANNING:** Cllr. Mossman provided feedback in relation to the enforcement of planning conditions. Cllr. Mossman requested detail of the situations where it is believed that the conditions are being breached, in particular in cases where a business is being run and there is no permission for this to occur. Clerk to send this information through.

There has been a new application at the Grain Store in Epney. There are no comments from the Parish Council in relation to this application.

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

**NL**

**SEVERN ESTUARY FLOOD RISK STRATEGY:** Cllr. Godwin said that there are no updates regarding this. He did however provide an update in relation to the Tidal Flaps in the Severn Estuary. There is an EU Directive stating that fish passes should be put in to all tidal flaps within 3 years. One of the first flaps to be addressed is in Framilode and this could have implications for The Frome with regard to potential flooding. The Environment Agency have stated that a full flood risk assessment has been completed in relation to this work. There is a potential risk of flooding to Epney and Longney if the passes are installed in all flaps. At present the work at Framilode by the Environment Agency has been postponed pending further consideration.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- (i) Invoice for £11.16 relating to SMS responder. Proposed by GW, Seconded by JH
- (ii) Friends of Longney School have written asking permission for use of the maze for the school fete and the bonfire night. Clerk to respond granting permission including a statement about ensuring that any damage is repaired. It was suggested that a sign could be placed in the car park regarding risk and it was agreed that this should be checked to ensure that it would be in line with the insurance conditions. This will be checked with JH at the time of the next renewal.
- (iii) Invoice for £95 for the training attended in February. GW contested this amount and agreed to investigate with GAPTC to ensure that the correct amount has been invoiced.
- (iv) GAPTC Membership invoice for £74.59. Proposed by GW, Seconded by

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- BC.
- (v) Communication regarding Oil Buying Club – the Parish Council are interested in hearing further information about this scheme and would like to invite Gerry Johnson to come and talk at the next Parish Council Meeting. Clerk to invite him
  - (vi) Insight Gloucestershire – to be added to the website
  - (vii) Waterside Living Leaflet – to be added to the website
  - (viii) Training on Audits and Annual Returns – it was agreed that this would not be required.

Action: Clerk to arrange signatories for the cheques. Clerk to contact Friends of Longney School. Clerk to contact Gerry Johnson regarding Oil Buying Club. GW to contact GAPTC regarding recent invoice.

NL/GW

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Cllr. Blackburn reported on the recent rate and council tax setting meeting – for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in succession there will be no rise in council tax. Cllr. Blackburn also provided an update on the recent meeting regarding the incinerator. On the 7<sup>th</sup> January the decision was given to go ahead with the building of the incinerator. Cllr. Blackburn stated his opposition to the decision. The County Council have now accepted the motion to proceed but Stroud District Council do not share the same opinion.

Cllr. Blackburn also mentioned the planned introduction of a 50mph speed limit from the Cross Keys roundabout to Claypits. The road needs to be repaired as the recent resurfacing has not been completed to a satisfactory standard. The whole thing will need to be done again. Highways are aware of this and will arrange for this to be completed at cost to the contractors once the weather is appropriate.

Cllr. Blackburn discussed the consultation regarding the eel traps in the Severn river basin. The responses included a statement that the environment agency need a sustainable plan that is clearly costed and includes a list of works, who will do them and when.

Cllr. Christian noted that there is currently a notice on the Epney noticeboard with a “stop the incinerator” slogan. This was not placed here by any members of the council and it was agreed that this should be removed.

Action: Clerk to remove notice regarding the incinerator from the Epney noticeboard. (Done by Cllr. Godwin)

NL

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Cllr. Mossman reported on the incinerator and the passing of the vote in Gloucester. He stated that Stroud remain very concerned about the proposal. The inspector who reviewed the site in 2004 stated that it would be difficult to run an incinerator of that size on that site, the same inspector has now approved the development. A judicial review has been called against this inspector and this is now going to court. The incinerator is now on hold until further notice.

There has been no change on the housing update.

Boundary review – Cllr. Mossman encouraged members to visit the website to review the proposals including the plan, the website is [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk). The proposal is to take the boundary south and incorporate Standish. By 2020 there will be a 7% plus increase in houses. Cllr Mossman encouraged comments and recommendations.

#### VILLAGE PLAN:

- Garden Group/Equipment: No further updates
- Highway Maintenance: The potholes have been filled in around the bend at Manor Farm. The road is subsiding at the entrance to Castle Lane from the A38. Even though this is out of the parish it affects all of the residents of

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Longney and Epney with Daniel Tiffany, Cllr. Wingrove agreed that he would do this. The signs at Castle Lane regarding the ice still need to be relocated, apparently this cannot be completed until the next financial year.

- Oil Purchase Scheme: No updates following previous discussion
- Website: The litter pick photos have been added to the website. The council expressed their thanks to Cllr. Harvie for coordinating the litter pick and also to Macdonalds for their fantastic efforts. It was agreed that the next one will be arranged with a little more notice in order to get support from within the community
- Newsletter: This will now be electronic for those who opt in to receive it.
- Neighborhood Plan: Cllr. Mossman asked the Chair if the council had considered a Neighborhood Plan. There is funding available if a decision is made to proceed. At present it is felt that this may be more relevant for bigger councils with a greater risk of development.

**Action: Cllr Wingrove to speak to Daniel Tiffany regarding the road at Castle Lane.**

**GW**

**LONGNEY SCHOOL ACADEMY STATUS:** The Chairman provided an update on the proposed plan for the school to convert to Academy status. The Headmistress, Penny Cartwright had emailed the Parish Council to say that they would not be holding a meeting for the wider community. The Chairman expressed a concern that the wider community should be engaged in discussions relating to this. Cllr. Wingrove mentioned that he and Cllr Godwin had recently attended a consultation meeting for the parents. The timelines were discussed and it was agreed that Cllr. Wingrove and Cllr. Godwin would discuss the thoughts of the council at the next Governors meeting. It was suggested that the Q&A document could be posted on the website and possibly a letter could be prepared to send to the community.

**AREA OF PRIME RESPONSIBILITY:** The draft terms of reference were discussed and agreed. Clerk to respond to Jon Shaw to say that the council have no objections.

**Action: Clerk to email Jon Shaw regarding the terms of reference. Clerk to contact the Head Mistress and Chair of Governors with date of Annual Parish Meeting so that they can make a presentation to the meeting.**

**NL**

**RISK REGISTER:** It was agreed that this would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

**BUDGET 2015/2016:** This item will also be discussed at the next meeting.

**DOG FOULING:** The notices have been created and will be placed throughout the village soon.

**ELECTORS' FORUM:** None

#### **OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:**

The road congestion during the Severn Bore was discussed. In Epney it was very difficult for cars to get through due to the spectators at the recent high tide. Further high tides are expected on the weekend on the 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> March. There is also a running race on the same weekend. It was suggested that the police should be contacted to make them aware of the concerns.

**NL**

**Action: Clerk to email the police regarding the bore traffic.**

Cllr. Christian raised a concern regarding the running water from Marion House. When it freezes this creates a sheet of ice across the road. There is also a similar issue on the road outside Cannymead Cottage. Cllr. Wingrove will speak to Highways about Draft minutes to be finalised at the meeting on Monday 11th May 2015

both.

**GW**

**Action:** GW to contact Highways regarding running water.

Cllr. Wingrove raised the matter of the contract for the Clerk. This is currently under review by the Councillors and will be signed in due course.

**THE CHAIRMAN** thanked all Councillors 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 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at Longney School. There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.

DRAFT