

LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th November 2015

A meeting of **LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL** was held on Monday 9th November 2015.

PRESENT:

Cllr. Godwin (RG)
Cllr. Harvie (JH)
Cllr. Wingrove (GW)
Cllr. Russel (AR)
District Cllr Dave Mossman/Stroud District Council (DM)
Clerk Nikki Leach (NL)
One residents

APOLOGIES:

PC Jenny Fraser
Cllr. Blackburn

DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA:

Cllr. Wingrove and Cllr. Godwin both declared their position as school governor.

THE MINUTES of the meeting of Monday 14th September 2015 were taken as read. An addendum to the minutes will be created and added to the minute book detailing the discussion at the meeting relating to the amount and payment of the Clerks fees which was not recorded in the minutes in error. The addendum will be signed at the next meeting in January 2016.

Action: Clerk to create addendum and add to minute book. Chairman to sign at next meeting.

MATTERS ARISING:

Cllr. Harvie commented that he had heard back from CART regarding the freedom of information request and would provide a full update under the appropriate section of the meeting.

CANAL AND RIVERS TRUST: Cllr. Harvie and Cllr. Godwin attended the Severn Voice meeting in October. Nick Worthington from CART presented at the meeting. A subsequent meeting of the Advisory Committee at Sandford Bridge took place. A number of changes have been outlined in response to these meetings:

- It is likely that the control station will be at Frampton not Gloucester, the existing control room at Frampton is new and has sufficient facilities to take 2 engineers.
- Some of the costs associated with the bridge updates are being passed to Highways, for example the cost of the double yellow lines each side of the road on either side of the bridge (a cost of approx. £10,000 for 100 meters). Highways are proposing that some of this cost should be paid for by the local council. All Councillors were in agreement that this would not be acceptable.
- There will be some form of CCTV on the bridges which will

work through 180°. There is some suggestion that the cost of this will also be passed to the local parish councils and again all Councillors agreed that this was not acceptable.

- No provision is being made for additional parking at the bridges. At Sandfield bridge the option of another parking area around to the car park by the Stables café was discussed.

Severn Voice have asked for a meeting with Will Windsor, Mark Hawthorn and Stan XXXXX. Cllr. Mossman requested to attend this meeting.

Cllr. Wingrove asked if Nick Worthington or CART had addressed the concerns from the resident at Parkend Bridge regarding the sirens on opening and closing of the bridge. Cllr. Godwin suggested that this will be a local issue discussed at the Parkend bridge meeting.

Cllr. Harvie updated the meeting regarding the Freedom of Information request that he submitted. He asked for a breakdown of the cost savings expected by CART. A response has been provided but does not highlight the anticipated savings quoted by CART and so another FOI has been submitted for additional information. Cllr. Mossman has asked for a copy of the response.

Action: Cllr. Harvie to provide copies of the correspondence to Cllr. Mossman.

POLICE REPORT: PC Fraser sent an update in advance of the meeting to say that there had not been any crimes in the area since the last meeting, and one report of a suspicious vehicle.

Parishioner Dave Buckle commented that this report was not entirely accurate as there was a report of a burglary in Longney at the end of September, and also a burnt out moped was reported on Castle Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow up with PC Fraser to discuss this.

Action: Clerk to contact PC Fraser regarding the updates for the meetings – actioned.

PLANNING: A meeting has been held with Jamie Cooper, Enforcement Officer at Stroud regarding breaches of planning conditions in the parish. A planning contravention will be served at the stables in Epney. Cllr. Wingrove asked for clarification regarding the public right of way through the property. Cllr. Mossman stated that this was not the responsibility of the Stroud DC planning department and if there were concerns about the footpaths they should have been raised at the time of the initial application. The obstruction of the footpath has already been reported to Amey as it is a breach of a public right of way. Cllr. Mossman suggested that footpath location should be considered when reviewing all future planning applications so that any concerns can be registered at the time of the application.

A planning application has been invited as a result of the review of Manor Farm regarding the mobile home which is currently occupied on site. The use of the gym is considered to be incidental use by friends and family and so does not currently require an additional planning application.

New applications have been received for:

Manor Farm – Use of previously approved mobile unit as a changing room and common room and as accommodation when required.

Doris Cottage – Retrospective application relating to glazing bars to windows

Sevenside Park Epney – Free standing steel building for light/ industrial use

These applications will be discussed at the planning Sub-Committee meetings and a response uploaded to the SDC planning portal.

NEW SEVERN ESTUARY FLOOD RISK STRATEGY: Cllr. Godwin has attended several Environment Committee meetings and has been advised that the new lower Severn risk management strategy document would be available early next Spring. The intent is that the management of river banks will continue as before, providing funds allow.

FOOTPATHS: There are no updates at present.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Updates are needed to the emergency plan document on the website. This will be discussed with Nathan Mills.

The draft Local Transport Plan Consultation was shared with the Councillors.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Please see attached email.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr Mossman provide an update on current issues:

The inspector has now passed the SDC plan.

Devolution is going ahead and has been agreed by all major councils/ districts in the area. Once the teams are agreed it will come back to all districts for full approval.

There has been an update regarding empty homes. If they are empty and substantially unfurnished for 2 years, council taxes will be 150%. This move is to try and encourage people to have empty homes occupied.

The council tax support scheme is continuing as it is.

Garden waste collection has started. Councils are being encouraged to get their parishioners to register and information should be shared on the website and in the newsletter.

VILLAGE PLAN:

- Garden Group/Equipment: No update
- Highway Maintenance: Cllr. Wingrove commented that he contacted Daniel Tiffney regarding Downend Barn and Castle Lane. These matters are being followed up.

- Oil Purchase Scheme: No update at present.
- Website: Bekki Christian and Nathan Mills have kindly agreed to continue supporting the website. The Council expressed their thanks for this. The use of the website to advertise local businesses was discussed. A suggested donation of £10 to the parish was discussed.
- Newsletter: No further comments.

AREA OF PRIME RESPONSIBILITY: Jon Shaw presented on this at the latest Severn Voice meeting. There are now plans to present to GCC.

BROADBAND UPDATE: There are still plans for Longney to access high speed broadband at the end of November and for Epney the 31st December (from the Saul exchange). After this there will be a testing and commissioning period.

LONGNEY SCHOOL ACADEMY STATUS: The conversion to Academy status is now complete, effective from 01-Nov-2015. Further information on this should be available on the Longney School website in due course.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: The current financial status was shared. Balance of accounts at present:

Current Account: £11,166.31
Deposit Account: £2404.32

Cllr. Harvie has offered to format the spreadsheet – Clerk to send it through for review.

A payment of £30 for GAPTC training has been approved for payment.

Action – Clerk to send budget spreadsheet to Cllr. Harvie for update (action completed).

ELECTORS' FORUM:

OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION: The transparency code was discussed during the meeting along with the proposed grants available. There are a number of documents that need to be made available in order to conform to the regulations. Cllr. Harvie and Cllr. Wingrove agreed to take this as an action to review the regulations and the updates required by Longney and Epney PC.

Cllr. Godwin provided an insight into littering. After a local incident where he contacted the council, he was advised that if you witness litter being thrown from a car you can complete a witness statement online including the registration details and time, location of the incident and a fixed penalty fine of £75 will be issued to the owner of that vehicle.

The damage to the maze following the Bonfire night was discussed, it was agreed that this should not cause a problem.

Action: Cllr. Harvie and Cllr. Wingrove to review the transparency regulations and provide an update on the actions required by Longney and Epney PC.

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 11th January 2016 at Longney School

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05 pm.

