

# LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017

A meeting of **LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL** was held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017

### **PRESENT:**

Cllr. Godwin (RG)  
Cllr. Russell (AR)  
Cllr. Wingrove (GW)  
Cllr. Harvie (JH)  
Cllr. Bekki Christian  
Clerk Nikki Leach (NL)  
District Cllr Stephen Davies/Stroud District Council (SD)  
Eight residents

### **APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. Dave Mossman (DM)  
Cllr. Gill Oxley (GO)  
Geoff Smith

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA:** Cllr. Wingrove and Cllr. Christian declared a potential interest in the agenda item School Developments due to their positions as School Governors.

**THE MINUTES** of the meeting of Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

### **MATTERS ARISING:**

A letter has been sent to KB Coaches regarding the drop off and collection of children from Epney as discussed in the last meeting. Cllr. Christian commented that she had spoken to the school who confirmed that only 3 new children will be needing this bus service in September 2018.

**POLICE REPORT:** PCSO Kevin Lee and PCSO Ben Rollins attended the meeting. It was mentioned that there has been some confusion over boundaries which explains why there has been no police presence at recent meetings. PCSO Lee confirmed that the parishes are covered by Glos South so there will now be regular attendance. The community presence was moved out of Quedgeley and back to Barton Street, this has restricted the control time for this area. All resources have now been pooled at Barton Street, covering all areas. They have now decided that it will go back to the old way of working and a neighbourhood policing team will be put back at Quedgeley. Ben Rollin and another PCSO will be working Elmore, Epney and Quedgeley. The crime statistics from August to today were presented: burglaries non dwelling = 1 (0 last year), burglary dwelling = 2 (2 last year), criminal damage = 1 (1 last year), fraud, forgery and deception 0 (1 last year) theft = 1 (1 last year), theft property animals 0 (1 last year) false alarm = 1 (1 last year), suspicious circumstances = 4 (3 last year), missing persons = 1 (0 last year), damage traffic collisions = 1 (0 last year). Vulnerability is the biggest concern, particularly around house buildings, outbuildings, stables and sheds. The advice is that if you have expensive machinery or equipment to consider industrial smartwater. Or you can buy smartwater off the internet. This helps police identify property and offenders. CCTV is also very helpful, it acts as a deterrent, and helps to identify vehicles, cars etc. Elmore are using an email communication with the PCSOs to share information on suspicious vehicles and this could also be utilised for our parish. The PCSOs have also have developed good links with the bridge keepers. Restrictions on CCTV were discussed, out of courtesy you should put signage up to alert

neighbours and anyone entering the property. There are no other restrictions regarding location of cameras in relation to highways / neighbouring properties. The only time the police would have concerns regarding CCTV use would be for example in circumstances with a known sex offender if the CCTV were to be directed at schools etc. CCTV is highly recommended and it is advised to make the cameras obvious and put signs up. If anyone would like crime reduction advice, the PCSOs are happy to make a visit to residents property to offer guidance. Kevin can be contacted at [Kevin.lee@gloucestershire.police.uk](mailto:Kevin.lee@gloucestershire.police.uk). There is lots of information that could be shared with parishioners and this will be passed to the clerk to disseminate. It would be useful if the police knew which properties have CCTV particularly highway facing. It is possible that the police could view the parish Facebook site to review recent information that has been posted and gain intelligence, however there are strict regulations on what the police can view. The possibility of installing CCTV cameras on the bridges was discussed again and senior management within CART did not appear to be interested. Residents are advised to use the online 101 service to report non emergencies - on the Gloucester police website, go to the top right hand side, select contact us, then send notification in of any updates or concerns, and this is the email equivalent of 101. If a vehicle is reported then the police can search and check vehicles. There is almost an immediate response to this service. One person within the parish should take responsibility for alerting the police if there is a reportable issue captured on the village Facebook page.

Action: None

#### **PLANNING:**

Two new applications have been received since the last meeting:

1 New Buildings . awaiting a decision

Opposite Highgate Epney . awaiting a decision

Previous applications:

Patterills Farm . awaiting a decision

Peglass Cottage . rejected

GAPTC training courses are available with regard to planning. It is possible that group training could be arranged with Severn Voice. Cllr. Mossman offered to meet with some of the councilors to review some of the key documents in an informal meeting if this was felt to be helpful. Cllr. Godwin also advised the councilors to refer to the village design statement as a lot of time went into the creation of this document.

Information evening for parishioners. Cllr. Oxley advised that the planning officers are under resourced at the moment and would struggle to find time to come along to a parish council meeting. Cllr. Oxley suggested that we try to arrange a cluster meeting for several parishes, arranged by the district council. Cllr. Christian also suggested that a lecturer from Gloucestershire college may come out and advise on the fundamentals of planning which may be helpful. It was suggested that the Annual Parish Meeting may be a good forum for this kind of discussion.

Action: Cllr. Wingrove to meet with Cllr. Dave Mossman.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Cllr. Stephen Davies advised of the latest updates within the county. The children and family services had a bad audit from OFSTED so there is a lot of ongoing activity in the improvement work. Phase 2 of the Gloucestershire faster fibre broadband roll out is underway and should be completed across the county by December 2018, there is now a phase 3. If householders are unable to put a postcode into the website and get a date for the service they should let Cllr. Davies now. Cllr. Davies commented that no deadlines have been missed so far. One resident raised concerns regarding current faster broadband access from certain properties within Longney. Cllr Wingrove reported

that there were 4 properties that appeared not to have been connected to the new cabinet, Cab 35, which appeared illogical from the geographic point of view as all surrounding properties to these 4 had been. Cllr Wingrove added that he had been chasing this problem with Fastershire and would be highlighting the problem again to BT Openreach. Cllr Davies asked to be copied any correspondence on this matter. There is an upcoming meeting with Daniel Tiffney to discuss highways and footpath maintenance issues.

**Action: Cllr. Wingrove to address current specific faster broadband access for certain properties with BT Openreach.**

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Cllr. Oxley had provided the following update:

Garden waste scheme available to renew on line from the 30<sup>th</sup> October to 4<sup>th</sup> December. Price increase from £36-£39. Over 9200 people now subscribe to the scheme. Telephone renewing available for those finding the on line hard to access. (01453 754424)

Stroud subscription room bids now in. Task and Finish group established to look at the bids. Going to Strategy and Resources committee in December for final decision. Ecotricity is one of the options.

SDC have increased car parking charge from the 26<sup>th</sup> October. Now 80p up from 60p per hour and £3 up from £2.50 per day.

Also the Stroud local plan will need an update in about 2 years time. At the local cluster meeting on Thursday there were discussions about distribution of housings within the local plan. The issue of road access was discussed within the villages, and also access across the canal bridges. There is a balance to be met with infrastructure and house numbers.

#### **VILLAGE PLAN:**

- Garden Group/Equipment: Cllr. Godwin reminded the residents that the parish council has a shredder. A £5 contribution is requested for the use. There is also a rotavator. With the increase in garden waste costs this may encourage more use.
- Website: This will be managed by the Clerk in the interim until a permanent administrator is identified.
- Newsletter: This will be managed by the Clerk in the interim until a permanent administrator is identified.

#### **HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE:**

A big pothole has been reported to Cllr. Godwin outside Churchend Barn in Longney. There is also significant water pooling problem following rainfall by Manor Farm; Cllr. Wingrove agreed to report this to GCC Highways again, Cllr Wingrove had reported concerns of excessive road closures during several recent water leak repairs in local villages by Severn Trent. The road closures resulting from this were a concern as they unnecessarily affected school collection times and main arteries in and out of the village. There have been a catalogue of recent issues with Severn Trent. Severn Trent do not have to give notice on road closures. Cllr. Davies will raise it again.

**Action: Cllr. Wingrove to report the pothole by Churchend Barn and the water pooling problem by Manor Farm to GCC Highways.**

**Cllr. Davies to report again to Highways the excessive road closure problems during Severn Trent Water repairs.**

#### **FOOTPATHS:**

Three footpaths currently under debate, 2 since 2015. There is a new one more recently. Cllr. Harvie chased Amey today but there has not yet been any feedback. Cllr. Christian reported the issues to the Ramblers Association and they have agreed to try and investigate it to. Cllr. Wingrove met a group of walkers in the village in October and they expressed their frustrations about the number of footpaths that were blocked. Cllr. Davies asked to be copied in on the correspondence. Cllr. Godwin reiterated that the job of PROW should be to enforce the legislation, not to co-ordinate a dispute between the parties involved.

**Action:** Cllr. Harvie to liaise with Cllr. Davies regarding the recent communications.

**FIBRE OPTIC BROADBAND UPDATE:** Previously discussed.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE/ANNUAL RETURN:**

The current accounts were circulated for review.

Account balances:

Current Account: £14,044.32

Deposit Account: £2,406.73

**Invoices to approve:**

Clerks Fees - £464.14 . proposed Cllr. Godwin, seconded Cllr. Harvie

HMRC Income Tax - £116.00 . proposed Cllr. Godwin, seconded Cllr. Harvie

**SCHOOL DEVELOPMENTS:**

None to discuss. It was proposed that this should be amended to school related issues for future agendas.

**CANAL BRIDGES PARKING:**

Councillors raised the view that it was unsatisfactory that Longney and Epney were not included in the consultation on the parking at the bridges as we do not count as a parish who have a bridge in the parish. Any movement to automate the bridges will result in a local discussion group with CART. The yellow lines are going in regardless of the automation. The enforcement of these lines is going to be limited. It was suggested that people will continue to park on the bend by Castle Bridge even if the yellow lines are put in.

**Action:** Cllr. Wingrove to raise this with Daniel Tiffney and copy in Cllr. Davies.

**VILLAGE TELEPHONE KIOSK:**

**As regards the defibrillator project,** Cllr. Russell had produced a list of businesses in Epney which can be approached. Collection tins could be put in the pub to help with donations. Further information could be added to the website and the newsletter.

**Action:** Cllr. Russell will contact Gemma Wingrove to obtain further information regarding the choice of defibrillator.

**VILLAGE WALK / PARTY:** Meeting to be arranged for the party which will be next Summer. Cllr. Godwin has offered the use of Yew Tree Farm

**Action:** Clerk to arrange a meeting

**USE OF THE CHAPEL / CHURCH:** No further update on the future of the chapel.

**ELECTORS FORUM:**

The bonfire night was a success and raised £600 plus for Frampton football club. There were lots of compliments on the event.

Action: None

#### **ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

Cllr. Christian has tendered her resignation. She is leaving the village on 15th November. Thanks were passed to Bekki for her huge contribution to the village, the school and to parish council. This was also echoed by Cllr. Wingrove on behalf of the school and the governing body. Bekki has also done a fantastic job with the website and the newsletter.

This means that there is now a vacancy on the parish council. Anyone that is interested in joining the parish council should please let Cllr. Godwin know.

**THE CHAIRMAN** thanked all Councilors and residents for attending the meeting. The meeting was closed at 21.02.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Clerk to draft list of meeting dates for 2018 and circulate them for review and approval. The dates will then be shared with the Parish Council.