

LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 14th May 2018

The Annual meeting of **LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL** was held on Monday
14th May 2018

PRESENT:

Cllr. Godwin (RG)
Cllr. Russell (AR)
Cllr. Harvie (JH)
Cllr. Wingrove (GW)
Cllr. Everett (LE)
Cllr. Gill Oxley (GO)
District Cllr Stephen Davies/Stroud District Council (SD)
Clerk Nikki Leach (NL)
Sixteen residents

APOLOGIES:

Keith Rog
Hena Rahman
Mahb Rahman

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Chairman: Cllr Godwin, proposed by Cllr. Harvie, seconded by Cllr.Russell.
Vice Chairman: Cllr Wingrove, proposed by Cllr.Harvie, seconded by Cllr. Everett
Highways officer: Cllr. Wingrove, proposed by Cllr.Godwin , seconded by Cllr.Russell
Footpaths officer(s): Cllr's. Russell and Harvie proposed by Cllr.Godwin, seconded by Cllr. Wingrove
Snow Warden/Snow Plough Operator: Cllr. Godwin proposed by Cllr. Harvie, seconded by Cllr.Wingrove
Deputy Snow Warden: Cllr. Harvie proposed by Cllr.Godwin, seconded by Cllr. Everett
Responsible Finance Officer and Clerk: Nikki Leach, proposed by Cllr.Harvie, seconded by Cllr.Wingrove
Litter Representative: Cllr. Harvie proposed by Cllr.Wingrove, seconded by Cllr. Russell
Oil Purchase Scheme Coordinator: Cllr. Russell proposed by Cllr.Godwin, seconded by Cllr. Wingrove
Communications and Website Manager: Cllr. Everett, proposed by Cllr.Godwin, seconded by Cllr.Harvie.
Planning Co-ordinator: Cllr. Wingrove, proposed by Cllr.Harvie, seconded by Cllr.Godwin

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA: Cllr. Harvie stated that the solar farm development will be at the bottom of his drive and therefore he declared an interest. Cllr. Wingrove declared a potential interest in the agenda item School Related issues due to his position as a School Governor and also in relation to potential planning matters

4. MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING: The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING: None.

6. POLICE REPORT:

4 incidents have been reported in the parishes of Longney and Epney over the last year. A parishioner reported a delay when she reported an event recently and was concerned that they do not respond. The Chief Commissioner has advised recently that they do not have the resources to support local crime.
The Facebook page has been useful to share information on suspicious activity in the area.

Draft minutes to be finalised at the meeting on Monday 9th July.

Action: None

7. PLANNING:

One new application has been received since the last parish council meeting:

New Farm Access Track on the Epney Saul Road

This application was discussed at the planning meeting on Wednesday 11th April and the response has been added to the planning portal

Updates since last meeting:

Application for Solar Farm – still pending a decision

Briery Hall Longney, Change of use of paddock to garden – application granted

1 New Buildings – the second application was permitted. In addition the appeal against the first application was granted.

The minutes from the planning meeting held on 11th April have not yet been approved and so are not yet available on the website.

Action: Clerk to upload the minutes of the planning meeting to the website once they have been approved at the next PC meeting

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

None

Action: None

9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Not much to report, there has been a full council meeting, voted to abolish the use of single use plastic in the supply chain by 2025, and within the council by 2020.

The council voted heavily in support of the re-routing of the A417 around the Air Balloon. Money has been allocated to that project. It will not start for a couple of years. There is a preferred route that does not require a tunnel. There is lots of information on the website. The government has committed to spending money. The route has not yet been decided, it is still in consultation. There is strong local support for one of the routes.

Cllr. Davies has been our county councilor for a year now. He will continue to sit on the children and families steering committee. There was a bad OFSTED report for this in Glos CC recently but they are working towards fixing this. It is a very complex subject.

Action: None

10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Cllr. Oxley SDC advised that the council has agreed 1.6 mill of capital funding to be delivered to infrastructure at Brimscombe port. SDC to try to be free of plastics by 2020 and supply chain by 2025.

Mental health, 1 in 4 people experience issues with mental health in a year. Depression is expected to increase, SDC are going to have 2 mental health workers helping provide support within the council.

Parishioners were advised that if they have scaffolding around their building, they should notify their insurance company otherwise in the event of a break in they would not be covered.

David Hagg will be retiring.

Cllr. Oxley will spend some time with Cllr. Mossman and then meet with the Chairman to prepare on the solar farm discussions.

11. VILLAGE PLAN:

Draft minutes to be finalised at the meeting on Monday 9th July.

- Garden Group/Equipment: This has been used by several people already this year. There is a small charge of £5 per day and fuel costs. The equipment is housed with Cllr. Godwin.
- Website: Currently the website is hosted with a provider that Nathan set up for the council. Cllr. Everett has spoken with her advisors and they have suggested moving it to a different platform where they can host it and provide regular support. With the move towards GDPR compliance this is of paramount importance. The move to a new host would also mean that each Councillor and the Clerk could have individual email addresses. Cllr. Everett has received a competitive quote from the company that she works with. There is an initial cost for working on the changes (around £1,000) and then an annual maintenance fee (around £200). This will be discussed at a separate sub committee parish council meeting in the next couple of weeks.
- Newsletter: Thank you to Louise for the newsletters that she has created.

Action: Councillors to meet and agree on the website

12. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE: Sellars Bridge will be shut from 28th April to 13th May. This will cause some inconvenience to parishioners.

Path to school. A parent has asked about the path to the school as it has got overgrown again.

There has been lots of repair to potholes in the parish recently. Thanks were given to Amey for the repairs to the exit to the car park. The school have received a lot of negative criticism about the state of the car park. Sophie Round has offered to provide the planings to get this completed. There are some funds in the parish if we need to get some more permanent work done.

Action: Cllr. Wingrove to discuss the path to the school with Highways

13: FOOTPATHS:

Nothing to report. The decision has been made for the Lapperditch footpath to be closed, this has been supported by GCC. The Parish Council have been asked to take a position on this. Cllr. Godwin offered an alternative solution which was rejected. A new track has been opened up on the track at the side of Peglass Cottage. Apparently PROW commented that the Parish Council were aware of this and had supported this. The Parish Council will need to discuss this with PROW as this was absolutely not the case.

Action: Cllr. Harvie will discuss the new access by Peglass Cottage with the PROW officer

14: FIBRE OPTIC BROADBAND:

Gigaclear have commissioned a survey for the roll out of the new broadband. The supply will now come under the Severn rather than under the canal. For every property that currently gets under 30mg they will get a pot outside their house which they can connect into. The timescale on this sounded favourable. By Christmas there should be a faster supply. The rates still need to be negotiated.

15: FINANCIAL UPDATE – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN

(a) Internal Audit Outcome

The internal audit has been completed.

(b) Exemption Certificate

Councillors agreed that the Parish Council meet the criteria for the exemption certificate. This was completed and signed during the meeting.

(c) Annual Governance Statement (Section 1)

The annual governance statement was reviewed, agreed and signed during the meeting.

(d) Accounting Statements (Section 2)

Draft minutes to be finalised at the meeting on Monday 9th July.

The accounting statements were reviewed, agreed and signed during the meeting.

The current accounts were circulated for review.

Account balances:

Current Account: £15,819.69

Deposit Account: £2,407.34

Invoices to be approved for:

Parish Party – cheque to be made for cash to be given to the village party committee £150.00 agreed

Clerk Expenses for the solar farm referendum: £420.68 This was agreed

Insurance – BHIB - £195.89. This was agreed.

16: SCHOOL RELATED ISSUES

Car park – this has been covered

OFSTED – at the end of March there was a one day OFSTED inspection and the previous grading of good was given

Action: None

17. VERGE MOWING: No updates.

Action: None

18. SOLAR FARM DEVELOPMENT:

Previously discussed.

Action: None

19. DEFIBRILATORS:

The details have been circulated on the costs of leasing or purchasing outright.

The cost of leasing will be approximately £4,000 for 4 years. This has to be paid up front. Included in this the ambulance service provide the training and maintenance of the pads and batteries etc. A nominated person has to check them on a weekly basis.

It was raised that the Parish Council made a decision one year ago to go ahead with the installation of 2 defibrilators. It would be a negative step to put it off again. Cllr. Godwin is mindful to put it off for another meeting. It was agreed that this would be put off for one more meeting.

Action: Councillors to agree on the next step regarding the defibrillators

20. GDPR UPDATE:

The updates to GDPR were discussed. It was suggested that the data protection officer would be the Clerk.

The Parish Council need to ensure that their data protection policy is available

All of the people on the parish distribution list will need to be contacted to ask them to opt in under the new guidelines.

The council will work on this and ensure compliance before the 25th May.

Action: Clerk to distribute data protection policy and send a communication to the contacts on the distribution list

21. ELECTORS FORUM:

Draft minutes to be finalised at the meeting on Monday 9th July.

At the last planning meeting there was a discussion around a property that had been given one month to submit a revised application. A revised application has not been received. A separate planning meeting will be held to discuss this.

Cycling within the parish has become a real issue. In the last 12 months the general behaviour of groups of cyclists has deteriorated. A parishioner asked if it would be appropriate for the parish council to write to the police or the cycling organisation of the county council to ask for them to take more care when they cycle. Something needs to be done in order to avoid an accident.

Action: Communication to be sent to the road safety organization in Waterwells. Cllr. Wingrove will do this.

24. ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

Code of Conduct – signed code of conducts were collected from each councillor

Sellars Bridge will be closed again from tomorrow

THE CHAIRMAN thanked all Councilors and residents for attending the meeting. The meeting was closed at 21.46

25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 9th July at 7.30pm