

# LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016

A meeting of **LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL** was held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

### **PRESENT:**

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

### **APOLOGIES:**

None

### **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 in relation to Item 11. 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 January 11<sup>th</sup> 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

### **MATTERS ARISING:**

CART – the trial at Sandford Bridge is due to start on Good Friday and will run for a couple of months. Cllr. Harvie offered to write a further letter to CART regarding the freedom of information request.

Response received regarding the cyclists. No action is being taken but the police may support an awareness campaign towards the summer as the number of cyclists increase

Cllr. Wingrove raised the matter of police attendance at PC meetings. As other councils are experiencing the same issues it was agreed that this would be raised through Severn Voice in order to co-ordinate a response.

Cllr. Wingrove contacted highways regarding Downend Barn. Tony Bartholemew has agreed to fund some of the work and it will be completed by the end of April if not earlier.

The precept request was submitted before the deadline.

**Action:** Cllr. Godwin to discuss police attendance at Parish Council meetings at the next Severn Voice meeting.

**POLICE REPORT:** None received. As previously mentioned this will be raised via Severn Voice.

**PLANNING:** One new application received at Daisy Cottages in Epney. Planning consent has been provided at Ellis Farm. The application at Severnside Park, Epney has been approved.

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

## CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from the Friends of Longney School requesting use of the maze. In principle the council are happy for the events to go ahead, it was suggested that the caveat weather permitting. The Friends should contact a member of the PC if in doubt. Regarding the fete, Les Hall and Tony Bartholemew need to be given notice. NL to liaise. NL to draft response to the Friends and send for approval. The car park surface was discussed, the end nearest the church is very difficult to drive on.

GAPTC fees £79.32 approved – proposed Cllr. Wingrove seconded Cllr Harvie

Savills £50 rent of the playing field – proposed Cllr. Wingrove seconded Cllr. Harvie

Ecotricity development will affect all of the parishes – will be discussed at the Severn Voice meeting. Cllr. Godwin will feed back after the Severn Voice meeting. The planning permission is in but has not been discussed yet. It will go before the DCC committee in June time. It is not in the Stroud District Plan.

Stroud District Local Plan – a hard copy is available with the Clerk should anyone wish to view it. It is also available on the SDC website.

Action: NL to reply to the Friends of Longney School on behalf of the Parish Council.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** None received.

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Council tax increases are as mentioned before. 3.99% increase due to government cuts to the subsidies to the councils. Cllr. Mossman will check

People claiming job seekers allowance in Stroud has reduced and shows that the employment situation in Stroud is good.

The incinerator is going ahead.

There are rumors in the press about SDC selling off certain assets, these are unfounded.

Funding of schools – our funding in the Gloucestershire area is not as good as it should be. Neil Carmichael is fighting this.

## VILLAGE PLAN:

- Garden Group/Equipment: Update from Al Fenn. There is a small group of local users that still make use of the equipment on a regular basis. It was agreed that a notice would be added to the next newsletter and also to the website to advertise the equipment and remind parishioners that it is there.
- Highway Maintenance: Subsidence at the top of Castle Lane has been there for some time. In 2017/2018 the whole of Castle Lane is going to be re-surfaced. Cllr. Wingrove asked if

Highway Maintenance should be featured as a stand alone item – Clerk to amend the agenda for future meetings. Cllr. Godwin noted that the drains were sucked out a few days ago but they did not effectively clear them out. Cllr. Godwin asked if this could be followed up with Higways. Cllr. Wingrove will raise this.

- Oil Purchase Scheme: No further updates.
- Website: We will discuss with RC. Cllr. Harvie has some suggestions for changes, these will be discussed and then taken to Nathan for update. Cllr. Godwin and Cllr. Harvie to arrange a meeting to discuss the updates required.
- Newsletter: Geoff Smith is still editing and circulating the newsletter. The council are still looking for someone to take on this role. The Clerk will arrange for a notice to be added to the website.

Action: Cllr Godwin and Cllr. Harvie to meet to discuss the website updates. Clerk to arrange for a notice for an administrative assistant to be posted on the website for help with the newsletter. Clerk to arrange for a notice to be added to the newsletter and the website reminding them of the garden equipment.

**AREA OF PRIME RESPONSIBILITY (APR):** Cllr Harvie was asked to write 3 questions to the County Council under the freedom of information act. This was sent and initially the response said that they did not have to provide this information. Cllr. Harvie pushed back and has now been told that they will make the information available by the 25<sup>th</sup> April after the allocation data has been published.

Proposal for the new school on Clearwater Drive. From Longney schools perspective, the new school will have around 200 pupils compared to 106 at Longney. DGAT are working with the proposal for the new school but the funding is allocated separately and so there will not be a negative impact on the proposed extension at Longney. The demand for school places is increasing hugely in the Quedgeley area, DGAT are convinced that there will not be a negative impact on the uptake of places in Longney. The school at Waterwells is currently filling up and so the new school is under pressure to be completed by 2017.

**SEVERN ESTUARY FLOOD RISK STRATEGY:** There are no further updates at this stage. No updates are expected until next year.

**FOOTPATHS:** 2 footpaths were reported to Amey. A representative from Amey came to inspect them. One of the footpaths is blocked by a patio – the Amey representative stated that she will see if she can do anything about it. The other footpath stretches towards Oakey Farm and is blocked in several places. Amey have said that they have no budget to support this. She needs more complainants. At the very least it was suggested that she should write to the people in breach to inform them that they are breaking the rules. Walkers are trespassing on Cllr. Godwins land because the footpaths are blocked. Cllr. Godwin stated that as a farmer he will be fined by DEFRA if he has blocked any footpaths. If a household blocks a footpath then there is no method of enforcement. GCC have delegated the task to Amey and they have no funds or resource to back this up. Cllr. Mossman suggested that the PC write to Cllr. Tony Blackburn and also to Mark Hawthorn to ask for support. Cllr. Mossman asked to be copied in on this correspondence. At the moment the householders are not aware that there has been a complaint about the footpaths.

Action: Cllr. Harvie to write to Cllr. Blackburn and Mark Hawthorn regarding the lack of support from Amey.

Action

**TRANSPARENCY CODE AND FUNDING:** £540 funding has been provided to support with the website to assist with administrative costs regarding publicizing the minutes. Thank you to Cllr. Wingrove for obtaining this.

Letter to the editor shared with the council regarding compliance with the code for small councils.

**FIBRE OPTIC BROADBAND UPDATE:** Some households are getting broadband speeds of around 50-60MB. Since the changeover date there has been very little drop out, if any, and even at peak times there is no difference in speed. Positive feedback has been received from households in the village.

Some households are unable to set up their contracts with BT due to poor customer service. There is a name suggested to email to support with this, Libby Barr. Geoff Smith has noted that the cabinet has been left open in the past and has reported this to BT. Cllr Wingrove has had problems and has reported this through the Investors line. Epney are not yet on fibreoptic delivery. Geoff Smith suggested adding an update to the newsletter later this year.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** There is an error in closing balances as these have not been updated since the previous meeting. Clerk to circulate updated budget. Clerk to send spreadsheet back to Cllr. Harvie for update to the formulas.

**ELECTORS' FORUM:** There are still complaints within the parish regarding dog fouling. A notice has been added to the recent newsletter to try and encourage people to challenge dog walkers who are not collecting. There is also an issue regarding a dog who is constantly loose in the village during the day. This has been reported to the dog warden before. There is also an increase in the amount of barking.

There is also a report of a mobile home at the back of Bellamy House near the building site. The council were asked if a planning application had been put in regarding this. It was asked if there are people living in there, in which case it will need planning permission. This will be looked in to by the Council.

**OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:** The election is coming up on 5<sup>th</sup> May. It was suggested that a one off newsletter be produced to advise people on the election process and the voting requirements. Cllr. Godwin also suggested that the notice should include a statement advising that if there are any other parishioners who would like to support the parish council that they

Clerks Fees. £300 plus £75 income tax. Proposed and seconded. Need to register with the Pensions Regulator.

**THE CHAIRMAN** thanked all Councilors and residents for attending the meeting. The meeting was closed at 9.32pm.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of Longney and Epney Parish Council will take place at Longney Primary School on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30. The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on the same night. David Lesser, Stroud District Council Water Engineer, will be attending the meeting to discuss flood resilience in the home.

**NL**

**NL/ RG**





