

LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11th September 2017

A meeting of **LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL** was held on Monday 11th September 2017.

PRESENT:

Cllr. Godwin (RG)
Cllr. Russell (AR)
Cllr. Wingrove (GW)
Cllr. Harvie (JH)
Cllr. Dave Mossman
Cllr. Gill Oxley (GO)
Clerk Nikki Leach (NL)
Five residents

APOLOGIES:

District Cllr Stephen Davies/Stroud District Council (DM)
Angela Scrivin
Geoff Smith
Hena

DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA:

Cllr. Wingrove and Cllr. Christian declared an interest in the agenda items Area of Prime Responsibility and School Developments due to their position as School Governor. Cllr. Wingrove declared a potential interest in the planning discussions.

THE MINUTES of the meeting of Monday 10th July 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING:

Letter to the police was written and acknowledgment received from Martin Surl's team.

Clerk to chase the letter that was sent.

The planning application for the Glamping orchard has been referred to the strategy department, there are issues with the environmental agency and they have requested additional information. There are also some potential issues with Highways. Once it has been through the strategy department, if they are happy it will continue through the planning process.

Regarding the bus situation, further information has been received. The bus now goes down through Castle Lane and collects the children at the bottom of the lane and goes through to Arlingham. There are only 4 children getting on the bus from the Longney area and because there are not enough children the bus company will not change the route. There is no safe access from the car onto the road for the bus. The children stand in a driveway currently. Further information will be sent to Cllr. Mossman so that he can engage in discussions with the coach company and the council. The current location of the pick up is not deemed to be safe. It would also be helpful to have information on the numbers of children coming through over the next couple of years in order to set up the arrangements for now forward. Cllr. Mossman will take this up as soon as he has further information. The safety of the children is of paramount importance. A supportive email from the

Parish Council will be sent through to Cllr. Mossman supporting the views of the community. The Parish Council are supportive in providing the car park for continued use for the collection and drop off of children. This issue is affecting children from 11 upwards catching the bus to secondary school.

Action: Clerk to send email to Cllr. Mossman.

POLICE REPORT: PCSO Mike Trebble is currently on leave so there is no update for this meeting.

The local updates that are sent through do not cover all of the Severnside villages. It would be useful to have Elmore, Longney and Epney.

Cllr. Godwin advised that residents should be vigilant. The Longney and Epney facebook group has now been set up and this has been useful for sharing community news.

Action: As previously mentioned, Clerk to chase response to letter

PLANNING:

Four new applications have been received since the last meeting:

Dangerfield Farm – permission now received, with conditions

Manor Farm – permission now received, with conditions

Patterills Farm – no response yet

Peglass Cottage – no response yet

The correspondence from the Parish Council back to the planning team to cover all of the potential planning transgressions has now been sent. There have been 2 meetings with John Longmuire over the last 2 years regarding the potential planning transgressions in the parish and the responsibilities of the parish council in relation to this. There is not yet a resolution in relation to all of these transgressions. Cllr. Mossman reinforced the view that the parish council has a duty to report all potential planning transgressions within the parish to the planning department. The Parish Council raised concerns about some of the responses that have been sent back from the planning department. If the Parish Council are to report all transgressions then they request that the responses from the planning department support the parish council with clear and factual information. Cllr. Mossman also stressed that there have been issues within the planning team recently regarding resource challenges. Cllr. Wingrove was appointed as the Parish Council planning representative last year in order to support the communication between the Parish Council and the planning department regarding all applications. The views of the Parish Council as a whole are taken into account when comments are submitted to planning applications within the parish. The Parish Council expressed their thanks to Cllr. Mossman for their support.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A resident has approached the council with an offer to arrange a parish firework party somewhere in the village. This was passed on to the parish council and the view was that it was not felt to be something that the parish council should sponsor. The cost was discussed and it was agreed that it was not a good use of parish funds. There are issues with animals in the village that need to be considered, however it was agreed that it would be a nice community event to hold. The resident is happy to arrange the event, public funds could be raised for the church or the school etc so it was suggested that it was a good way of making money rather than spending money. Local businesses may sponsor

the event in return for advertising so it could be possible to self fund. There would need to be sufficient warning in order to give residents chance to prepare for the pets. Location and parking need to be considered. The Parish Council will support the event (but not financially), however someone needs to take it on and arrange it. The parishioner is happy to arrange food, bar, fireworks, lighting and toilets and would offer free tickets to all primary school children. There could potentially be several hundred people and it is a concern that Longney may not be able to support this in terms of location, particularly with regard to parking.

A resident has expressed concerns regarding a particular vehicle travelling through the village at dangerous speeds. The police have advised that if a parishioner is concerned about a particular vehicle then they should record the details and report it to the police. This is not an isolated incident. Another parishioner expressed similar concerns and stated that he had reported several cases recently. An offer has been given to record speeds within the village.

Verge cutting within the Parishes - The next invoice has been received from the contractor for £327.24 plus VAT. This was approved for payment. The Chairman asked for comments and feedback on the cutting that has taken place this year, in case the contract needs to be amended

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr. Stephen Davies sent his apologies for this evenings meeting and sent the following update by email:

Apologies for not attending your meeting in person but I am away on business.

Clearly activity at Gloucester County Council has slowed a little over the holiday period. In September we are expecting the plan to address the issues raised in the recent Ofsted report on Children and Family Services. I am on the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee so will be involved in this.

More locally there has been an exhibition of the next phase of Hunts Grove and the news that the contractual issues are now resolved so that this can commence including the road improvements that Highways England demanded.

Before the summer there was a Fastershire Update and I would like to understand those areas in the Parish that do not have coverage so we can take this up with them. If you can let me have a list or encourage people to contact me.

Finally I now have regular meetings with Dan Tiffany and if you have any highways issues please let me know.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

2 District Councillors attended the meeting. Cllr. Oxley is now going to be supporting Longney and Epney from now on but Cllr. Mossman will still support all of the work in the parishes.

Waste collection of large items - If there is a collection from Stroud it used to be £15 and it is now £20 for up to 3 items. This is still cheaper in relation to other areas. There is a concern that this will lead to an increase in fly tipping.

Paws on Patrol (POP) encourages dog walkers to report crimes.

Community safety issues free no cold caller stickers for doors, free

home security surveys from Senior Neighborhood warden

SDC is now 19th out of 407 on the list of websites of local government councils in terms of ease of use and accessibility.

SDC local plan, there are a series of consultation events, Hardwicke Village Hall 26th October is our nearest one.

Fire safety team at Stroud have been looking at sheltered housing and community areas and they will be featured on television.

Huge thanks were expressed to Cllr Dave Mossman for not only his attendance at all of our meetings but for all of the support and help that has been given. It has made a huge difference and this has been noted.

VILLAGE PLAN:

- Garden Group/Equipment: No updates this time
- Website: Cllr. Christian is updating this
- Newsletter: To go out this Friday

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE:

Castle Lane has been refurbished

FOOTPATHS:

There was a meeting regarding one of the footpaths recently and a very generous offer was made which could have resolved the situation. However, this offer has now been rejected and therefore the issue still is ongoing. By refusing the offer that was made we are now back to square one. It is very disappointing that this has taken so much time. The Parish Council as a whole object to this footpath being extinguished. The footpath in question is the only safe way for parishioners to get to the canal. Cllr. Godwin commented that the council need to respond to the latest communication from Amey regarding this.

The second footpath currently under discussion involves a footpath that has been blocked up by a garden and a wall. The Parish Council were not at the recent meeting that took place. An update regarding this will also be asked for in the communication sent to Amey. A parishioner mentioned a temporary closure order which can be put in for 6 months, but this does not solve the initial problem. In this case the temporary closure order was not asked for.

There is another footpath that is an issue in the parish. The footpath is currently blocked. Cllr. Harvie will also add this to the list.

Action: Cllr. Harvie to draft an email that will be sent to the Clerk to send to Sarah Macauley-Lowe.

FIBRE OPTIC BROADBAND UPDATE: Cllr. Wingrove attended a Fastershire information evening in Cheltenham in June. The phase 2 contract has been let to another company. By the end of December 2018 anyone with low connection speeds will be added to the new network, a connection fee will be charged. A new fibreoptic cable will be put through the village. This will be a different network and the cable will be brought under the canal. A resident commented that one of the senior managers in charge of the green boxes in the county did not know that there is a microwave link across the canal. It was advised that residents could claim compensation for disruption during the recent

broadband outage if they are with BT.

FINANCIAL UPDATE/ANNUAL RETURN:

Annual Return

The audit is now complete.

Account balances:

Current Account: £2406.54

Deposit Account: £12,848.95

Invoices to approve:

Verge Cutting – £392.69 – approved

Clerks Fees - £309.54 – approved

HMRC Income Tax - £77.40 - approved

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENTS: Take APR off the agenda for future meetings.

Reception year is now 15 which is fully recovered.

Request from the Head regarding moles, they are currently doing some damage to the field and making it dangerous for the children to run on.

Cllr. Godwin said that it is possible to roll.

There is a mole causing some damage to the playing field. Cllr. Godwin will investigate a resolution to this.

CANAL BRIDGES PARKING: Cllr. Christian expressed concerns that the proposed plans are not an acceptable solution. The plans propose that there is to be no parking/waiting in the area on the run up to the bridge which is absolutely unreasonable as people travelling in their cars will not be close enough to the bridge to see the lights. As this is a consultation, Cllr. Godwin suggested that an alternative needs to be put forward.

Clerk to ask what happens next and relay to Councillors. Response on 24th July with the maps – Clerk to follow up. Further consultation proposed for August / September time.

VILLAGE TELEPHONE KIOSK:

One of our residents works with a cardiologist who has been influential in putting defibrillators into the community. She provided the meeting with some extremely useful information.

There are around 30,000 cardiac arrests each year outside of hospitals Gloucestershire ambulance response times are not hitting targets at the moment which could put people in more danger

There are some charities that can support with defibrillator installations.

The defibrillators need electricity supply, through the link with BT they have to offer free electricity for 7 years, after that it is around £30 per year

Training – being a community there is no legal responsibility to offer training. If some people are trained then it may put pressure on them to be asked to be at events within the community

St Johns offer training courses for using defibrillators in the community

Guide prices – community ones need to be kept outside. There are options for ones that not only shock, but also have a 3rd pad to make sure people are applying it correctly. They will also not shock if the person has some cardiac rhythm so the risk of doing further damage is limited.

Top rated machine is £874 plus VAT. This unit self tests every day. Free reminder service when battery life coming to end. Batteries £160 every 4 years, pads £30 every 2 years or if they have been used.

Other machines go up to around £1000. Recommended to speak to local ambulance service to ask if they have any preference

Cabinets, codes, issues

If public access one locked with code, ambulance service can be

informed of the code. If someone calls 999, the ambulance service can advise them of the nearest defibrillator and the code for the cabinet.

Cabinets are around £500 plus VAT

There are companies that can help with the insurance aspects of this. The liability is not on the parish council because the machines are deemed to be used by the untrained.

British Heart Foundation occasionally offer support towards the cost of installation. Sometimes communities do fund raising events.

It is recommended to have an electrician present at the time that the installation takes place to connect in to the BT supply.

There are 72 businesses in Longney alone. It could be possible to ask for donations towards the costs.

It was suggested that one should be placed in both the Longney and Epney telephone kiosks

Cllr. Godwin asked how we find out which is the best make and model to get.

It was agreed to take this further and investigate the possibility of getting 2 defibrillators and ask local businesses to support. Someone should be dedicated to the maintenance and update of the kiosks.

Action: Cllr. Russell has agreed to take on the project and will gather information to move this forward. Cllr. Christian will draft a letter to go to the local businesses regarding sponsorship.

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 updates this meeting

ELECTORS FORUM:

A road race was held in the village the other evening and the Parish Council had not been notified that this was taking place.

Tredworth running club – Tuesday 5th September.

Action: Clerk to write to Tredworth Road Running Club regarding this.

ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

None

THE CHAIRMAN thanked all Councilors and residents for attending the meeting. The meeting was closed at 21.47pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of Longney and Epney Parish Council will take place at Longney Primary Academy on Monday 13th November at 7.30.

