

## LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018

A meeting of **LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL** was held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018

#### **PRESENT:**

Cllr. Godwin (RG)  
Cllr. Russell (AR)  
Cllr. Wingrove (GW)  
Clerk Nikki Leach (NL)  
Cllr. Dave Mossman (DM)  
Nine residents

#### **APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. Harvie (JH)  
Cllr. Gill Oxley (GO)  
District Cllr Stephen Davies/Stroud District Council (SD)  
Hena Mannan-rahman  
PCSO Benjamin Rollins  
PCSO Kevin Lee

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA:** Cllr. Wingrove declared a potential interest in the agenda item School Related issues due to his position as a School Governor.

**THE MINUTES** of the meeting of Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

#### **MATTERS ARISING:**

The hole outside Churchend Barn has been filled but has not yet been resolved, the resident will take this up with Cllr. Wingrove after the meeting. There is a drainage pipe under the road to the Donkey Pool in Longney and this has blocked and is flooding.

Cllr. Wingrove has contacted CART regarding the consultation period to comment on the parking either side of the road on the approach to the canal.

Cllr. Russell has a list of businesses in Epney to approach regarding the defibrillator. Cllr. Russell will contact Gemma Wingrove to discuss the specific defibrillator that should be chosen. It was suggested that business should be contacted regardless of the defibrillator that is chosen although it is challenging to request a sum of money until the cost of the defibrillators is known.

**POLICE REPORT:** Email sent from PCSO Ben Rollins. He would be very keen to conduct some crime prevention advice within the parish.

The community alerts system is now changing, information on how to receive the updates will be posted to the website and the facebook page.

**Action:** Clerk to share details regarding the updated community alert system.

#### **PLANNING:**

One new application has been received since the last meeting:

Astmans Farm, Longney. There were some issues with Councillors accessing the website to review the application. There has been an extension to the timeline for the PC to submit comments due to the technical issues with the website. These comments are with the Clerk to submit to SDC and will be uploaded after the meeting.

Previous Applications:

1 New Buildings . this has been updated following a meeting on Tuesday night, the application has been refused following the District Council planning committee meeting (DCC meeting). Presentations were given on behalf of the neighbouring property, the applicants and the parish council. The decision was predominantly based around the village design statement. The overbearing aspects of the application were also against DCC principles. All of the SDC committee members agreed with the content of the village design statement. The final vote was 5:3. Cllr. Mossman advised that the Longney and Epney village design statement may need updating as there have been some updates that should be included.

Opposite Highgate Epney . received permission with conditions, these include limiting the development to non commercial use. Reference to suitable drainage was also included.

Peglass Cottage . this has been rejected. Enforcement action has not been taken at this time. The application was rejected on the grounds of insufficient information regarding flooding and highways. The applicant has up to 6 months to respond to this and provide additional information. The 6 months expires in March. Enforcement action will not be taken until the 6 months has expired.

Cllr Wingrove met with Cllr. Mossman to discuss the suggestion of GAPTC training for councilors. Cllr. Mossman has kindly offered to provide some training surrounding the national framework. There are 2 main documents that should be referred to, both of which are available online: The SDC Plan (can be purchased from SDC for £20), this is a 210 page document, and also the NPPF. These are the 2 documents that all planning discussions are based around.

Information evening for parishioners . this is being planned for the May meeting as this is the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr. Mossman suggested that someone from Stroud could possibly attend this meeting if we arrange this in advance. Cllr. Mossman suggested that the clerk email Geraldine Le Cointe . head of planning and cc Cllr. Mossman.

A parishioner commented that there is still a level of inconsistency with the decisions made on planning applications which makes it very difficult for people to understand the process and the decisions made. Cllr. Mossman responded to say that all applications are treated in the same way and any complex applications will be put to the DCC (12 members) to listen to the officers and the public, including the applicant. A vote will then be taken. This is a democratic process and is designed to give all applications a fair situation. Some of the process is subjective and this makes it difficult at times. Parish Councils are able to call applications in to the DCC if they feel this is needed. The Chair of the DCC has the ultimate decision as to whether there are planning grounds to bring requests to the meeting. This reinforces the need for someone from SDC to come and speak to the Parish to outline the process and help parishioners understand the requirements. It is imperative that this is a consistent and fair process.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Geraldine Le Cointe and cc Dave Mossman to arrange for a representative of SDC to attend the Annual Meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Email from the Head regarding the pothole in the entrance to the car park. This was discussed and Cllr. Godwin advised that he could source road planings to fill the holes. Cllr. Godwin asked where the pile of bark chippings in the car park had come from. It was not clear if these were for the school or if they had been dumped. There is also a freezer that has been dumped in the car park. Clerk to follow up.

**Action:** Clerk to ask Head about the bark chippings in the car park and advise that Cllr. Godwin will source more road planings to fill the potholes.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Email update received from Cllr. Stephen Davies. I have been involved in 2 activities that have some impact on Longney and Epney.

The first is that I arranged a meeting with Vernon Smith, Cabinet Member for Highways to discuss the Perry Way junction with the A38. This is not an easy problem to solve but we agreed a way forward to look at the impact on the A38 from Hardwicke to Clay Pits and I will be following up on this.

The second is that I have had meetings about the Crosskeys Roundabout. There is a ?3.2m plan to improve this junction. This does not initially include traffic lights but the ducting will be done so these could be added at a cost of ?250k if required at a future date.

County Council is currently consulting on the 2018/19 budget and you can have your say at:

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-december-2016/have-your-say-on-the-county-budget-for-201718/>

The main proposals are:

- 1.99% Increase in Council Tax with an additional 2% Adult Social Care Levy for the County Council component of the Council Tax (District Council, Police and Parishes are included as well.) This increases the budget by ?9.9m to ?397.127m.

- Adult Social Care (?132.326m) - money will be spent on more mental health professionals, supporting those with learning disabilities, meeting the requirement of the Care Act and funding the increase in the National Living Wage.

- Children and Families (?86.654m) - money will be spent on additional social workers, children in care and adoption / fostering services. This is an increase following the changes resulting from the Ofsted results.

- Communities and Infrastructure (?77.759m) - this includes an extra ?0.5m on road repairs.

- Other budget items include Public Health (ring fenced by law) and business support services.

**Action: None**

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Cllr. Dave Mossman advised that Huntsgrove Primary School is now going ahead.

The subscription rooms is now not going to be sold. It will not go into a 30 year lease, on an open tenancy.

Smiths incinerator at Moreton Vallence is in for an extension of its capacity. Meetings with the company are planned for 29th January to discuss further regarding the monitoring systems etc.

**VILLAGE PLAN:**

Garden Group/Equipment: No update

Website: This will be managed by the Clerk in the interim until a permanent administrator is identified. There are some updates that are required to various sections. The councillors will meet to discuss the changes required and feed back to the Clerk to complete the updates. Clerk advised that she now has access to edit and update the website.

Newsletter: This will be managed by the Clerk in the interim until a permanent administrator is identified. The distribution list is being obtained so that the next newsletter can be sent out.

**Action: Councillors to meet and establish what updates to the website are required and advise the Clerk.**

## **HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE:**

Several potholes have been reported to Cllr Wingrove and now to Amey. The water pooling outside Manor Farm has been escalated again. There is an issue with the parking outside The Anchor Inn at times, on the river side right on the apex of the bend. This affects visibility. Cllr. Wingrove asked whether it would be appropriate to discuss road markings to prevent parking. It was agreed that this is on limited occasions and does not necessitate additional road markings.

**Action:** None

## **VERGE MOWING:**

John Shaw and Cllr. Godwin have met with the contractor and set the rates again for next year. Highways are prepared to continue the arrangement. Several new parishes are now joining the scheme. Cllr. Wingrove asked what the saving was financially, Cllr. Godwin advised that it was a significant saving, the exact details of which would not be disclosed in an open forum.

## **FOOTPATHS:**

Cllr. Harvie has had correspondence today regarding footpath 17. Sarah Macawley was asking for a meeting to discuss the footpath. Cllr. Godwin met with the landowners, they have started work to clear the areas and put the stiles in.

Update on footpath EMV1 - the public highways are minded to close. The homeowner asked for details of the landowner as she needs to get their approval to close it.

**Action:** Cllr. Harvie to liaise with Sarah Macawley to advise that the works are in progress on footpath 17.

**FIBRE OPTIC BROADBAND UPDATE:** There are a number of properties in a clutch within the village that have now had the opportunity to connect to the fibre optic broadband. The parishioner concerned thanked Cllr. Wingrove for his support with this. The verge outside Cllr. Wingrove's house has been dug up to connect another parishioner to remedy a problem in the line.

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE:**

The current accounts were circulated for review.

Account balances:

Current Account: £13,465.10

Deposit Account: £2,406.95

There is a balance to come back in from Glos Highways for the verge cutting. The invoice has been sent to GCC. Clerk to follow up if the funds are not received.

## **Invoices to approve:**

None

## **PRECEPT:**

The 2017/2018 precept is due. The figures from 2016/2017 were reviewed, the Chairman suggested that the same figures are requested again. Clerk to precept for £3950.00 as in previous years.

**Action:** Clerk to submit precept request before 01-Feb-18.

**COUNCILLOR VACANCY:** There is a vacancy on the Parish Council. The council have been advised by SDC that the council can co-opt a new parishioner. There are currently 4 parishioners that have put their names forward for the role. The closing date for interested parties will be 7 days time. The Chairman asked if there was agreement that we should co-opt another Councillor. All present were in agreement. The Chairman advised that the

interested parties will be contacted by the Clerk. A parishioner asked what the process for choosing would be. Elmore asked for people to come forward, they asked the interested people to write a short paragraph detailing why they would like to be a councillor and what they can bring to the role. It was agreed that the same process would be used to select the new Councillor for Longney and Epney.

**Action:** Monday (7 days time) will be the closing date for applicants. There will then be a one week window for the clerk to contact applicants. Applicants will have one week to submit a summary paragraph. The council will be allowed 2 weeks to consider applications. Once the successful applicant is chosen, they will be formally co-opted on to the council at the meeting on the 12th March. A decision will be made on the 26th February and communicated to all applicants.

**SCHOOL RELATED ISSUES:** A bid has gone in for the replacement terrapins at the back of the school with a purpose built new extension. The proposal has included detail that the classrooms be relocated to the car park for the duration of the build. DGAT had not consulted with the Parish Council before proposing this.

The playing fields have been inundated with moles.

In the car park there is an issue with parents smoking at drop off and pick up time. Cllr. Wingrove asked if the car park should be made a no smoking area and if signs should go up to suggest this. The parish council would need to agree this in order for the signs could go up. A parishioner suggested that a soft approach could be tried first to request that smoking does not take place outside the school. Another parishioner suggested that several years ago the children made some posters about litter picking. Potentially the children could make signs about smoking and litter and display these.

**Action:** Cllr. Wingrove to discuss the suggestions with the Head.

**CANAL BRIDGES PARKING:**

Discussed previously.

**Action:** None

**VILLAGE TELEPHONE KIOSK:** It has been agreed that 2 defibrillators will be purchased, one for each parish. Cllr. Russell is leading this project and will instigate discussions with Gemma Wingrove to decide which defibrillators will be selected before contacting local businesses for support.

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

**VILLAGE WALK / PARTY:** The date has been agreed as the 19<sup>th</sup> May. A family event will be arranged for the residents of Longney and Epney. Further details to follow.

**Action:** None

**USE OF THE CHAPEL / CHURCH:** No further update on the future of the chapel. The chapel has been closed for some months.

**ELECTORS FORUM:** None

**Action:** None

**ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:** None

**THE CHAIRMAN** thanked all Councillors and residents for attending the meeting. The meeting was closed at 20:57.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018.