

**Minutes of the Meeting of
LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL
held on Monday 15th February 2016**

PRESENT: Cllrs. C Tilling (Chair), T Barnes, M Phelps, S Collins, L Isko, D Attrill

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Maliphant (Clerk), District Cllr. D East and 8 local residents

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S Stephens and A Toomey, and County Cllr. Brian Robinson

2. There were no declarations of interest

3. Public Forum

A number of concerns were raised about the proposed development at the Wend:

- The proposed alteration in the line of the footpath across the site had not been correctly publicised
- An alternative route during building works had not been identified
- The proposals for discharge of planning conditions around drainage did not appear to offer a viable foul water drainage solution
- A new drain rather than connecting to existing properties would require digging up the road, causing difficulties for registered disabled residents
- Access to the site for plant and equipment would already be difficult, as well as parking for the workmen
- The proposed ditch around the new development would tend to move water away more quickly with less chance of it soaking away, not helping existing properties
- There may also be asbestos buried on the development site

4. The minutes of the meeting on January 18th were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly

5. Members' Reports

An email had been sent by Brian Watkins from County Highways with information about changes on the A4136:

- Expenditure for an edge of carriageway line and red studs to be installed alongside the eastbound lane from the crest to the bottom of Hopes Hill had been approved
- A new pole had been erected to carry a vehicle activated sign
- Gloucestershire Police roads policing team had confirmed they are willing to support the extension of the 40 limit from where it starts on the westbound approach to Little London to a point in near the Blaisdon Turning.
- A brief would be issued in April to consultants to look at engineering options that would encourage those motorists that are travelling at excessive speed on the west side of Hopes Hill to slow down
- The before and after speed surveys for the recent traffic calming measures show a reduction in speed at all three locations.

After discussion about this and other concerns about traffic near the Yew Tree pub, it was agreed to write to Brian thanking him for what had been done, expecting a traffic regulation order process for extending the 40 mph limit, and looking forward to hearing about possible engineering solutions.

ACTION: AM

6. Committee Reports

(a) Latchen Room Management Committee

SC reported he was still working on a long-term drainage plan for the discharge of rain water from the car park. Other plans for the Latchen Room may be affected by the recent closure of the play group, leaving only one pre-school facility in the village.

(b) Recreation Ground Management Committee

LI reported that at the previous week's youth club in the pavilion 30 young people had attended the earlier session, and 55 the later session. There was interest in having more sporting activities, which may link to proposals for relining the hard courts for multi-use. The clerk added that a letter had been received about the date of this year's annual safety inspection.

7. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk reported that information was still to come in from underground suppliers about pipelines under the allotments hedgeline. TB advised that the water supply to the standpipe went straight out towards the road, and underground electrical lines could be found by scanning equipment.

A letter had come in from the WI asking for suggestions for areas to "Clean for the Queen", and expressing concern about the danger of collecting litter on the A40. The clerk was asked to write to Highways England about cleaning the A40. **ACTION: AM**

The clerk reported a number of items of other correspondence including:

- A "Clean for the Queen" campaign would be run locally by an organisation called Hubbub, leading up to the main clean-up day on March 5th
- Mobile CCTV cameras were now available from the District Council
- The District Council had invited parish councils to a "Planning Peer Challenge" event on March 9th
- New audit arrangements from 2017 would mean the council asking for an external audit before the end of that financial year, cost to be £200
- The local council tax support grant from Government would cease in 2019
- The Charity Commission had acknowledged receipt of annual returns from the parish council charities

8. Finance

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Andrew Maliphant	571.01	December salary & expenses (reissued due to cheque lost in post)
Merlin Waste	33.90	Dog waste collection, January
J Rose	150.00	Tree surgery
Merlin Waste	50.85	Dog waste collection, February
Andrew Maliphant	500.51	Salary - January
Andrew Maliphant	37.33	Expenses - January

The latest financial report was received with thanks.

9. Planning

The circulated progress report was received with thanks. After discussion, it was agreed that the clerk would write two letters on behalf of the council:

- To the District Council solicitor about the footpath over the Wend, noting that the correct procedure of placing notices at either end of the footpath appeared not to have been followed, that the proposed path diversion would still go through an area proposed for building work requiring a further alternative route, and suggesting that the process should be started again from the beginning.
- To the District Council planning department (copied to Severn Trent Water) objecting to the proposed discharge of conditions, noting expert advice that the proposal to add the discharge from 16 new dwellings to an existing 100mm diameter sewer would not be adequate at peak times, and that the solution of a new, larger diameter drain to be installed under the Wend roadway would itself raise issues for at least two registered disabled residents who have to walk to their vehicles during the sewer construction – and possibly during other building work as well

10. Localism and Neighbourhood Plan

MP reported that the final draft was mostly completed to go to the District Council for approval, then external examination followed by a local referendum possibly by the end of 2016. The clerk presented a letter offering evidence from local residents concerned about the possibility of fracking in the Forest of Dean, but after discussion it was felt that this was not evidence to include in the neighbourhood plan.

11. Next Meeting - Monday 21st March at 7.15 pm

Signed:.....Chairman. Date:.....