

**Minutes of the Meeting of
LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL
held on Monday 18th January 2016**

PRESENT: Cllrs. C Tilling (Chair), T Barnes, S Stephens, M Phelps, A Toomey, S Collins, L Isko and Mr A Maliphant (Clerk) with County Cllr. Brian Robinson

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. D Attrill and District Cllr. D East
2. There were no declarations of interest
3. The minutes of the meeting on November 16th were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly

4. Public Forum

LI opened the public discussion of traffic issues along the A4136 with a report from an informal meeting with local residents that had reviewed information given by PC Robert Dix to the November parish council meeting. The outcome had been a proposal that there be a 40 mph speed limit from the Blaisdon turning all the way to Mitcheldean, and in addition white lines and cats' eyes on the side of the road through Little London.

The clerk added that while the fee for a road traffic order application could be as high as £10,000, depending on circumstances, County Highways routinely included a number of such applications in the annual Local Transport Plan in order to reduce costs. A traffic consultant in Cheltenham had advised that they could help provide the necessary evidence for a fee between one and two thousand pounds.

A number of points were raised in discussion, including:

- Recent accidents along the Little London stretch had been caused by people exceeding the current 40 mph limit
- A vehicle activated sign could be installed on Hopes Hill by the end of March
- There is a need to push for an achievable solution
- The proposal for a crash barrier at a frequent accident site was being researched

It was agreed that the parish council would write to County Highways asking for:

- A road traffic order changing the speed limit from the Blaisdon turn-off (beyond which many houses front onto the road) to the bottom of the Mitcheldean side of Hopes Hill (beyond the Velthouse Lane turning) to 40 mph
- White lining and cats' eyes along the side of the A4136 through Little London

LI offered to contact County Highways further about the proposed white lining and crash barrier, and gather their views about a longer-term proposal for a pedestrian crossing on the A4136 near Velthouse Lane, as well as contacting the police about a mobile speed camera deployment in Little London. The clerk was asked to contact the residents on the Hopes Hill bend above Velthouse Lane about trimming their trees to help improve visibility.

5. Members' Reports

LI reported she had reviewed the current draft Local Transport Plan but had not found anything of direct relevance to Longhope. She added confirmation that the youth club had started up in the pavilion again as planned, with 12 young people attending in the first week

and 32 in the second. The Recreation Ground Committee were being asked about the possibilities for WiFi and also a new path across the field itself.

CT advised she had been asking County Highways for some time to grit Church Road in icy weather, not least as it is the route for emergency vehicles should there be an accident on the A40 or A4136. She was also concerned that the Two Rovers Housing garages at the back of Rectory Meadow were being regularly flooded, and BR offered to pursue both these issues.

ACTION: BR

6. Committee Reports

(a) Latchen Room Management Committee

SC reported that the Committee were going ahead with Phase 1 of their development plan, improving storage on the ground floor with a tea room above. They had applied to the Big Lottery fund for £10,000 for drop-in facilities downstairs, in the space currently occupied by the parish council office. The Committee has asked SG to research costs for a second phase of car park improvements, draining excess water away towards the brook. The clerk added that a local farmer would be cutting the hedge beyond the Latchen Room play area in February.

(b) Recreation Ground Management Committee

TB reported that the work on recreation ground improvements was going well.

7. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk reported that only one firm had tendered for the allotment hedgeline work, as other firms felt that digger equipment was needed. It was agreed to get a further quote before proceeding.

ACTION: AM

One of the contractors has advised that four trees on May Hill had been affected by the gales, and it was agreed to investigate further.

ACTION: AT

Two requests had come in by email:

- From the local British Legion asking for support for an event commemorating the Battle of the Somme, at which a third of Longhope's Great War fatalities occurred. It was agreed to pay for the associated printing and laminating costs up to a maximum of £150.
- From a local resident asking for permission to carry out an informal wedding ceremony on the top of May Hill. This was agreed, with the keys for access by one vehicle only to be available on the day through contacting AT

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

- Information from the District Council about waste collection arrangements at times of heavy snow
- European LEADER funding was now available for economic projects through the District Council
- The District Council had also circulated further details of 2020 Vision, by which they planned to share more services with councils for Cheltenham, Gloucester and West Oxfordshire.

8. Finance

The clerk reported the following invoices had been approved by himself and the chair in December for payment within budget, in line with financial regulations:

Merlin Waste	33.90	Dog waste collection
Andrew Maliphant	538.04	November salary & expenses

The following new invoices were approved for payment:

PATA (UK)	19.80	Payroll costs
HMRC	23.00	PAYE
Andrew Maliphant	571.01	December salary & expenses

The latest financial report was received with thanks.

The previously circulated draft budget for 2016/17 was approved, keeping the parish precept per household at the same level as the current year. In discussion it was considered that the gradually swelling reserves might be needed to support work in connection with the A4136. The clerk was asked to research potential costs for more street lights elsewhere in the parish.

ACTION: AM

9. Planning

The circulated progress report was received with thanks, it was agreed there were no objections to the current set of proposals, and committee meetings would be convened to consider any future proposals.

ACTION: MP

10. Localism and Neighbourhood Plan

MP reported that the only public comment received so far about the final draft plan had been concern about the District Council's Allocations Plan reference to employment land behind the Richard Read depot. It was noted that the consultation date for the Allocations Plan had passed, and that while efforts were being made to achieve local consensus over the neighbourhood plan, anyone not happy with it would have the opportunity to vote against it during the local referendum.

11. Next Meeting - Monday 15th February at 7.15 pm

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