

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

PRESENT: Cllrs. C Tilling (Chair), M Phelps, S Collins and L Isko

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Maliphant (Clerk), County Cllr. B Robinson and one resident

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. A Toomey, D Attrill, S Stephens, T Barnes and District Cllr. D East

2. There were no declarations of interest

3. Planning

The circulated progress report on planning applications was received with thanks. After discussion, some concerns were expressed about the following new applications:

- P0936/16/FUL - The Old Wheelwrights, Latchen – there was no objection to the proposed development, but concerns were expressed about whether new engineering uses might cause noise and other disturbance to nearby residents
- P0886/16/FUL - Brooklyn, Little London – it was considered that County Highways should be asked to confirm they were happy with vehicular access to the property
- P0971/16/FUL – Dick Whittington Farm Park – it was decided to register an objection to the proposed variation in planning conditions, keeping occupancy to a maximum of four weeks rather than risk any creation of second homes

4. There was no Public Forum discussion

5. The minutes of the meeting on June 20th were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly.

6. Members' Reports

BR advised of three current consultations:

- Around the No 24 bus service in light of the County Council subsidy of late bus services, which were being poorly used
- Around the draft County Minerals Plan to be published the following week
- Around the night-time operation of the Dilke and Lydney hospitals, proposed to close at 8 pm rather than 11 pm

The forthcoming County Highways site visit to a resident's house on the A4136 at Little London was noted, with a proposed visit to the rest of the parish by the new highways officer Rhodri Grey to be arranged for another date. After discussion about the temporary bus stops at Harts Barn, BR agreed to find out who was responsible for deciding such issues.

ACTION: BR

LI noted that the village was still waiting for a response to the proposal for new yellow lines at the corner of Church Road and the Latchen, following a meeting on 15th July 2015.

LI reported on a recent site visit looking at the culvert by Church Road which was regularly becoming blocked and causing local flooding. The outcome was that she had contacted the District Council and been told there was no reason the culvert couldn't have a bigger mesh grille, allowing some rubbish through but maintaining the flow of water, but that the

matter was down to the landowner. It was agreed that residents shouldn't have to be clearing the culvert at times of flood, and MP offered to check the site monthly and also ask the farmer using the land about the land ownership. **ACTION: MP**

LI added that Brian Watkins of County Highways would be chasing the contractors Amey about engineering options for the A4136 at the Velthouse Lane junction.

CT reported there were overgrown hedges up through Hopes Hill which were making it difficult to walk on the pavement, and she would contact the owners. **ACTION: CT**

7. Committee Reports

(a) Latchen Room Management Committee

SC reported that there had been a debate about liability insurance for the trustees, an issue raised by the parish insurers, and that a separate insurance quote was in hand.

Five widely-ranging quotes had come in so far for the proposed new extension, but no decision had yet been made about that or future use of the old play area. After discussion the parish council agreed that any spoil from building works could be put on the parish land beyond the Latchen Room, provided it was clean soil not rubble or builders' waste.

(b) Recreation Ground Management Committee

The clerk reported on progress with the issues raised by the previously-advised post-installation inspection of the relocated play equipment. It was agreed that the equipment should be taped up with a "Do Not Use" sign until the work recommended by the inspector had been completed. **ACTION: AM**

There was no decision to be made yet about the potential for a mobile phone mast on the recreation ground, as the agent who had made the enquiry had yet to find a mobile phone service provider to be interested in such a proposal.

8. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk reported a new request for a memorial seat on the top of May Hill, and it was agreed to keep to the existing policy of only four seats, one at each point of the compass.

The clerk reported there had been car parking issues around the recent visit to the top of the hill by a wedding party, and it was agreed to review such requests in future on a case-by-case basis. He added that the bridleway across May Hill hadn't been instituted yet due to the lack of a parallel agreement by Herefordshire Council, as the route crosses the county boundary. Consultation on the proposed footpath re-alignment across the Wend was also being revisited due to a clerical error the first time around.

There were a number of items of correspondence including:

- The District Council had advised they would be publishing requests for premises licensing in the same way as planning applications
- County Highways had reported they had completed the installation of the vehicle-activated sign for speed monitoring on Hopes Hill
- Following a meeting with the parish insurers in June, they had written to confirm their expectation of up-to-date property valuations in advance of the annual insurance cover renewal, and after discussion it was agreed to accept a quote of £250 for this work from local commercial valuer Kevin Toombs.

9. Finance

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Centigen Facilities Management	66.00	Grass cutting
S A East	120.00	Allotment maintenance
PATA (UK)	22.50	Payroll costs
HMRC	12.20	PAYE
John Hicks	300.00	Post-installation inspection
Merlin Waste	33.90	Dog waste collection
Andrew Maliphant	569.16	Salary - June
Andrew Maliphant	37.33	Expenses – June
Jo Phelps	137.24	Printing for Great War event

The financial report for June was received with thanks.

After discussion it was agreed to set a budget for general improvements in the village of £1,000 per annum. It was further agreed to put out a tender for a call-off contract to carry out such work.

ACTION: AM

10. Localism and Neighbourhood Plan

MP reported that Kate Baugh of GRCC was checking with the District Council on progress with the wildlife habitat assessment and also the Allocations Plan, which in its latest version included some changes to the local settlement boundary. It was agreed to ask the District Council for the parish to be kept in the loop about any such changes.

ACTION: AM

11. Next Meeting - Monday 19th September at 7 pm

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