

**Minutes of the Meeting of
LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL
held on Monday 21st March 2016**

PRESENT: Cllrs. C Tilling (Chair), T Barnes, S Stephens, M Phelps, A Toomey, L Isko and D Attrill

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Maliphant (Clerk), County Cllr. B Robinson, and Les Meadows and Peter Smith from the Recreation Ground Management Committee

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. S Collins and District Cllr. Dave East
2. There were no declarations of interest
3. There was no public forum discussion
4. The minutes of the meeting on February 15th were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly

5. Members' Reports

AT reported a site meeting about the new bridleway on May Hill with representatives from the County Council and the National Trust. There needed to be new gates and signs, and it was agreed to put the question of a parish council contribution on the agenda for the next meeting.

LI had heard from a local resident that they were meeting County Highways officers on site to consider extra barriers on the A4136, but there was no news to report. She expected most of the proposed work on the A4136 to take place after April.

The youth club had now expanded to 73 members, and the leader Gary Sutton wanted to talk about opening for a second night. They were also interested in having WiFi in the pavilion, and a path up to the pavilion and play area. It was agreed to invite them to have a table at the annual parish meeting.

The idea of a revived village fete was on hold this year due to W.I. plans for an event to commemorate the Battle of the Somme, but volunteers were welcome for an event in 2017.

LI added she had received further complaints about a blocked drain in Nupend Lane, and would email County Highways about it – she had also emailed them about previously discussed new road markings near the school on Church Road.

6. Committee Reports

(a) Latchen Room Management Committee

The clerk reported a proposal to buy the Preschool outdoor play area equipment for £1,000 and move it to the Recreation Ground, to be placed somewhere between the memorial stone and the parish notice board. After discussion LI proposed that this purchase be agreed, and it was approved unanimously, with research to be carried out into potential grant aid and also contractors to carry out the move.

ACTION: AM

(b) Recreation Ground Management Committee

Les Meadows reported on behalf of the Recreation Ground Management Committee that the internal work at the pavilion was all finished, and external painting would start the following week. Repairs were also being carried out to the patio and steps, which would make it a great venue for children's parties.

LI raised the question of a path to the pavilion, and a number of points were made in discussion, including:

- Many in the village didn't want a path
- The most valid comment against it was the danger of use by skateboarders
- People could carry a torch or wear wellies
- Putting a path by the school entrance to the field would make sense
- A winding path round the edge of the field could be less attractive to skateboarders than a straight run, so reducing that concern
- On recent experience the cost of the suggested path could be £10–15,000
- Local groups could possibly help with fundraising

Les added that part of the remaining funds from the Roger Kerslake legacy were being reserved for re-marking the tennis courts to create a multi-sports area.

The clerk read a letter from the committee noting that the annual fee for the recreation ground warden had not been increased for inflation since 2000, and it was agreed to consider a revised fee at the next meeting with future increases for inflation.

7. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk reported he had written to County Highways following last month's email about the proposed A3136 traffic regulation order, and BR offered to chase the installation of the planned vehicle activated sign.

ACTION: BR

The clerk added he had heard from the District Council that they were responsible for carrying out Highways England's responsibilities for cleaning the Longhope stretch of the A40, which they did four times each year.

The clerk read out two letters about the Dursley Cross notice board, and suggested that the reported issues could be resolved by having the right hand side freely open for the community to use, while the remaining two-thirds were kept locked for use by the parish council and the local neighbourhood watch. It was agreed to write to the neighbourhood watch contact making this suggestion.

ACTION: AM

Two bids had been received for the grass cutting of three parish council-owned areas as the previous three year contract had run its term. After discussion MP proposed that the cheaper of the two bids be accepted, with unanimous approval.

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

- Details had been received about this year's Pride of the Forest awards
- The District Council had sent details of waste collection times over Easter
- GAPTC had asked for any resolutions for their AGM in July
- Openreach had sent a map of the underground phone lines by the allotments
- A commemorative coin was being minted for the Queen's 90th birthday

8. Finance

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Merlin Waste	33.90	Dog waste collection, March
Nick Thomas Landscapes	612.00	Recreation ground mowing
GAPTC	170.00	2 training course places
Andrew Maliphant	500.51	Salary - February
Andrew Maliphant	37.33	Expenses – February
The Workshop	2304.00	Design & print of NDP
Groundwork UK	2441.00	Repay balance of NDP grant

The latest financial report was received with thanks.

9. Planning

The circulated progress report was received with thanks.

After discussion it was agreed that there were no objections to the most recent planning applications. The clerk and MP gave a brief report on the useful course they had attended about negotiating better outcomes in planning.

10. Localism and Neighbourhood Plan

MP reported that the steering group were double-checking the fine print of the draft neighbourhood development plan since a plan for another parish had been overturned recently on appeal by a developer.

11. Next Meeting - Monday 18th April after the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.15 pm

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