

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Maliphant (Clerk), District Cllr. Dave East, County Cllr. B Robinson and 21 residents

1. Planning & Licensing

The circulated progress report on planning applications was received with thanks.

After discussion, it was agreed that the parish council would make no objections to the current planning applications:

P1530/16/FUL barn conversion at The Nest, Chessgrove Lane
P1494 16 FUL new dwelling at Kingford, Napping Lane
P1481/16/TCA fell cherry tree at West View, Church Road
P1472/16/FUL extension to Perry Barn, Mill Lane

The clerk reported that the planned licensing committee meeting that morning had put off any decision on the Hillside Brewery's application, pending a site visit. There was a wide-ranging discussion about the process of dealing with the application, in which the chairman allowed residents to participate. CT concluded that, having raised objections to the application, there was no more the parish council could do.

2. There were no apologies for absence
3. DA declared an interest as a past supplier of the Hillside Brewery. It was confirmed that declarations of interest would come at the beginning of future meetings.
4. There was no other Public Forum discussion
5. The minutes of the meeting on October 17th were agreed as a true record with one minor amendment, and signed accordingly. It was noted that advance minutes would in future be posted on the council website as clearly draft, and therefore subject to approval.

6. Members' Reports

LI gave feedback on the recent site visit by officers from County Highways and their contractor Amey:

- Drains throughout the village would be looked at, including at Nupend Lane
- Concerns about the Latchen pavement had been reported
- Hobbs Lane had been visited, and it had been agreed to ask the "lengthsmen's" team to cut back the vegetation prior to a longer-term review of the roadway
- County Highways would review the procedure for removing the turning markings at Hopes Hill
- BR would contact Highways England about the barrier at Hopeswood Park
- County Highways looked at the vegetation overgrowth at Velthouse Lane junction, and decided nothing needed to be done
- The "lengthsmen's" team would be asked to attend to the potholes in Church Road

Since the site visit there had been an exchange of emails about the flooding of the culvert just off Church Road. The District Council had suggested the issue was the responsibility of the landowners, and it was agreed to write to the church and a local farmer to confirm ownership. It was also agreed to alert the parish council's call-off contractors to the potential for urgent work should there be heavy rain over the Christmas period.

ACTION: AM

7. Committee Reports

(a) Latchen Room Management Committee

SC reported that building work was progressing well, only waiting for a dry day for work on the roof. The reported crack in the outer wall of the Latchen Room had been dealt with. The clerk confirmed that, in the matter of insurance, the parish council were covered in the event of any incident arising out of a room booking, but the trustees of the Latchen Room needed separate insurance to cover the same issue.

(b) Recreation Ground Management Committee

TB said there had been no committee meeting for a while, but another was due in December. DE reported that one of the metal gates into the field had been stolen, and there had also been complaints about young people under age drinking alcohol supplied by an 18 year-old. It was agreed to alert the police to both these concerns. **ACTION: DE**

8. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk read out a letter from Phil Cameron of Longhope Charities Committee about proposals for the future of the field on May Hill, the rent from which had been used for charitable purposes in the parish. The clerk had approached the Land Registry for information as there was nothing about the history of the field's ownership in the council's archives, and AT suggested that Phil be invited to attend the January meeting to discuss the next steps in more detail.

The council had been advised that James Stephens had written to put himself forward for the councillor vacancy caused by the death of his father, Stan. James gave a well-received summary of what he would bring to the council, and was co-opted by unanimous agreement to join the council as its new member.

The clerk reported that as part of his research into a suitable memorial to Stan, the local GP surgery had advised the need for a microsuction machine for people with badly blocked ears, without which there was a long wait to use facilities elsewhere. With the approval of James, it was agreed to write to the surgery confirming the council's willingness to support this for a budget of around £250. **ACTION: AM**

SC raised the issue of what would be done to commemorate the recent legacy from Roger Kerslake, and it was agreed to write to the Latchen Room and Recreation Ground committees to ask for their suggestions. **ACTION: AM**

There were a number of items of correspondence including:

- A letter from a resident asking for more details about the future of Hobbs Lane
- Late night buses on the No. 24 route were being cut back during the week but would be retained at the weekends
- A further grant of £4,580 had been received towards the Neighbourhood Development Plan

- A new forum called Boar Solutions had been created for all parties – for and against – to discuss issues around the expanding boar population
- The District Council had invited suggestions for future use of section 106 monies
- County Highways would be resurfacing Nupend Lane in early December
- The Government had begun consultation on the future of the post office network
- A parish clerk's networking event costing £20 would be taking place in December, organised by GAPTC, and it was agreed that the clerk should attend
- The Forest of Dean Health Forum had written to ask for a contribution towards its voluntary work of enabling local discussion about health services, and it was agreed to support this with a grant of £50

The clerk reported that there had also been a letter of complaint, and suggested that due to its confidential nature, it should be discussed in private session at the end of the meeting.

9. Finance

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Shirley Fowler	85.00	Internal audit
GPFA	50.00	Annual subscription
Grant Thornton UK LLP	510.00	External audit
Merlin Waste	33.90	Dog waste collection
J Rose Tree & Countryside Ltd	480.00	Latchen Room hedge work
Andrew Maliphant	540.20	Salary - October
Andrew Maliphant	37.33	Expenses – October

The latest financial report was received with thanks. The clerk reported that the final two quotes for replacing the fence at the allotments had come in that day. The council reviewed the three bids, and after a discussion in which TB did not participate, agreed to offer the work to Terry Barnes Builders.

The clerk presented the previously circulated budget proposal, noting that the final decision should be made at the next meeting when the council taxbase would be known.

10. Localism and Neighbourhood Plan

MP said there had been good feedback from an external check of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, which after a couple of minor alterations would be ready for submitting formally to the District Council. The steering group had decided that the issue of fracking was outside the remit of the plan. BR advised that the only company with a licence for exploratory work in the Forest of Dean had given its licence back, and that any future proposals would have to satisfy the Environment Agency that there would be no harm to the environment or the water table, as well as meeting health and safety requirements. The County Minerals Plan did not rule out future fracking over the next 25 years, and MP suggested that the matter be kept under review.

11. Next Meeting - Monday 16th January at 7 pm

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