

LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th December 2023 at 7.00pm at The Latchen Rooms, Longhope

Present:

Parish Councillors: Jackie Barker (Chairman), Geoff Bick, Rob Seabrook, Mike Phelps, Roger Acland, and Sian Wyman
Also present: April Seabrook (Clerk)
13 members of the public

The Chairman informed the Council at the beginning of the meeting of the resignation of Cllrs Dave East and Vicky Brobyn, and they were given a round of applause for all the work they had done while Parish Councillors. This item will be officially noted at the January meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

County Councillor Philip Robinson and District Councillor John Francis and Dave Tradgett

2. Members of the public issues (15 minutes Standing Orders suspended)

None

3. County & District Councillor Reports

None

4. Declarations of Interests

Cllr Seabrook declared an interest in the planning application for Coglan Orchard, agenda item 7d as he lives near the property and will therefore not join in the discussion or vote on this item.

5. Requests for Dispensations

None

6. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th November

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting which was held on 20th November 2023 as an accurate record of the meeting and was signed by the Chairman.

7. Planning matters

a) P1467/23/FUL – Land at The Manor House, Church Road, Longhope – Erection of No.2 two bedroom single storey self-build retirement dwellings with associated works.

Decision: No objections

b) P1449/23/FUL – Land at Stepps Farm, Monmouth Road, Longhope – Erection of five dwellings, new landscaping, and associated works. Demolition of Dutch barn.

Decision: Objections as the site is not suitable for 5 dwellings due to poor access onto a narrow lane, there is also inadequate drainage, and it doesn't fit in to the Longhope NDP policies.

c) P1443/23/FUL – Courtfield Barn, Church Road, Longhope – Installation of two heat pumps and associated works.

Decision: No objections

d) P1513/23/FUL – Coglean Orchard, Latchen, Longhope - Removal of Condition 5 (obscure glass to first floor window and roof lights to rear elevation) as roof lights were not fitted and window is not on the first floor level relating to planning permission P1307/17/FUL.

Decision: Objections as privacy for neighbouring properties is important.

e) P1535/23/FUL – The Temple, Old Monmouth Road, Longhope – Erection of one new dwelling with associated parking and landscaping.

Decision: No objections

8. Election of Two members to the GAPTC Executive Committee

Council elected Daniel Starr and Carol Harris to represent the Forest of Dean on the GAPTC Executive Committee. **Action: Clerk**

9. Code of Conduct

Council reviewed and re-adopted the Code of Conduct. **Action: Clerk**

10. Biodiversity Policy

Council agreed to adopt the Biodiversity Policy. **Action: Clerk**

11. Councillor Responsible for VAS & ANPR Cameras

Cllr Roger Acland stated that he would be interested in taking on this responsibility, however, as no one is sure how to operate the cameras and nothing was handed over by the previous Councillors who dealt with the cameras, the Clerk is going to get advice from the County Council Area Highways Manager, and this item will be discussed again at the January meeting. **Action: Clerk**

12. Councillor Responsible for the Council's Social Media Accounts

Council agreed to defer this item until the January meeting. **Action: Clerk**

13. 'Corporate Trustee' on Hobbs Nature Reserve Trust

Council agreed that they would be willing to consider becoming a 'Corporate Trustee' on the Hobbs Nature Reserve Trust when the council has some stability, however the Council would consider attending the meetings. The Clerk will write to Mr Burrows to find out if this will be acceptable. **Action: Clerk**

14. Cost per household for 20% Increase in Precept.

Council noted that the increase for D band households regarding the 20% increase in the Precept is an extra 63p per month.

15. Vexatious Complaints Procedure

Council agreed to adopt the Vexatious Complaints Procedure. **Action: Clerk**

16. Removal of Dog Signs behind the Latchen Rooms

Council agreed to remove the dog signs on the land behind the Latchen rooms as the land is overgrown and not safe for dogs. These will be reinstated once the area has been made safe. **Action: Cllrs Bick & Seabrook**

17. Donation Request from Recreation Ground Management Committee

Council agreed to donate £100 to the Recreation Ground Management Committee which will cover the cost of the annual play area equipment inspection. **Action: Clerk**

18. Councillor Reports

Cllr Phelps informed Council that he and Dave East have been checking the culvert behind Rectory Meadow and kept it clear which has assisted in alleviating any flooding in Church Road.

Cllr Bick stated that a tree had fallen over at Hopes Hill blocking the footpath which has been reported to the County Highways Department and they have confirmed that they are going to remove it.

Cllr Bick also informed Council that some prices had been received to service the defibs in the village and was informed that the WI may still have some spare money left for the village defibs so Cllr Bick will contact them to find out more information.

Cllr Bick stated that he had been informed that the District Council empty the bins around the village twice a week, and all the Council needs to do is get some stickers for the bins which state that they are for rubbish and dog mess, we could then get rid of some of the excess green bins and there would be less bins to empty.

Cllr Acland informed Council that he had attended the last Latchen Room Committee Meeting where the main subject of discussion was the acoustics in the hall.

Cllr Acland also stated that the allotments needed some attention when he took over responsibility for them. He has checked the Tenancy Agreement, there is a waiting list but also some vacant plots which he expects to be taken by 1st April 2024. There are currently 26 plots, and he thinks that the waterlogged plot can be brought back into use which will make 27 plots. The annual rent will be payable from 1st April, and this will not be increased and will therefore stay at £20 and there will be an Allotment Tenants Meeting after Christmas which will be open to members of the public.

19. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that:

A list of the grit bins in Longhope have been sent to the County Council's Area Highways Manager for confirmation that the list is correct and all the bins will be filled by the Highways Department.

20. Accounts/Finance

a) Council agreed the following payments and receipts:

Payments made since last meeting.

Payee	Details	Method	Amount	Power	Budget
Cash	Petty cash	CHQ (25/11/23)	£80.00	LGA 1972 s111	General Admin
April Seabrook	Salary	BACS (30/11/23)	£461.45	LGA 1972 s112(2)	Staff Costs
99 Web	Monthly website maintenance	SO (01/12/23)	£30.00	LGA 1972 s142	Communications
EE	Mobile phone	DD (15/12/23)	£30.19	LG(FP)A 1963 s5	General Admin
		TOTAL	£601.64		

Payments to be agreed at meeting.

Payee	Details	Method	Amount	Power	Budget
Water Plus	Water @ Allotments	BACS (19/12/23)	£20.75	LGA 1972 s111	Estate Management
		TOTAL	£20.75		

Receipts

11/12/23 Interest	£2.90
11/12/23 Interest	£35.26

- b) Council approved the petty cash figures for November 2023
- c) Council received the bank reconciliation for November 2023
- c) Council received the budget vs spend report up to 15th December 2023
- d) Cllr Bick carried out the monthly financial checks of the Council's accounts on 18th December 2023

21. SEPARATE BUSINESS

Pursuant to 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that, because, of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting, during the consideration of:

- a) Council noted that the Parish Clerk had received her annual pay rise, which is a flat rate payment of an extra £416 per annum.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm

SIGNED:

DATE: