

LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19th February 2024 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: District Councillor Dave Tradgett
20 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

County Councillor Philip Robinson
District Councillor John Francis

April Seabrook (Clerk)

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

A member of the public commented on the discharge conditions relating to the affordable homes. The Chairperson explained that this had arrived too late to be added to the agenda but would be discussed later. See comments relating to planning matters (h).

John Moseley gave a report on the Hobbs Nature Reserve Trust, he discussed the fact that Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust had relinquished Hobbs, and a group of trustees was formed to look after this well-known reserve. A site of scientific interest and Geologists from all over the world visit and John explained clearly why.

Adrian Burrows has developed the website and organised the clearance.

Locals of Longhope are looking after this reserve. Lots of scope for geological research.

Adrian referred to the Parish Council being a member Geoff Bick was originally a member, but any member can come along to the meetings. The Chairperson stated that we shall defer to the idea of being a trustee and maybe join later.

John said he would be happy to meet with people up at Hobbs and talk to them about their work.

3. County & District Councillor Reports

Dave Tradgett explained that the District Council budget was to be discussed tomorrow. There had been alterations relating to the proposed carparking fees which had been suggested at £2 for the first hour and this is now altered to the first hour being free. He stressed that this cannot make a loss as the Government will make us sell it if so. Therefore, we need to make it pay.

4. Declarations of Interests

Cllr Wyman declared an interest in agenda item 7c, the planning application for the tree works at Wyvern, Church Road, Longhope, as she owns this property and will therefore neither discuss or vote on this item.

5. Requests for Dispensations

None

6. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th January 2024

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting which was held on 15th January 2024 as an accurate record of the meeting and was signed by the Chairman.

7. Planning matters

a) P1710/23/FUL – Land to the east of Church Road, Longhope – Erection of 18 no. dwellings and associated works including the creation of a new access, open space, landscaping, and drainage infrastructure.

Decision: The Parish Council strongly objects to this proposed development. It is not an exception site and does not comply with NDP or Council Policy.

The majority of the public had concerns re this proposal and it was suggested that they made these concerns known in writing to the District Council.

B Reay cited the Neighbourhood development plan, the application is outside the settlement boundary. This housing does not satisfy the need of Longhope community no housing survey has been done relating to this. The last survey done in 2020 identified need but this has been accomplished with the 12 houses being built along Church Road -work due to start this Spring. There are concerns relating to the impact the build would have on the listed Church building, drainage which would affect the brook further on up the village which has flooded in recent storms, and it was noted that the red brick houses surrounding the development already have flooded gardens due to recent weather.

A member of the public also commented on the impact this build would have on the wildlife in the area especially bats and this has been reflected in recent work done within the listed church.

The site is also not a rural exception site so is not required and the recent development on that part of Church Road still has 12 houses which have not been sold. So therefore, the housing needs of the village have been met.

The Parish Council is very concerned about the lack of facilities within the area to accommodate more housing-lack of space in the school, the doctors are already full and the impact on our small village road of more traffic .We do not have the infrastructure for more houses.

b) P0043/24/TCA – Merlindene, Old Monmouth Road, Longhope – T1 is a twinned stemmed Eucalyptus standing approx. 14m high to the east of the property. One stem overhangs neighbouring property. Applicant would like to fell tree an unsuitable species that will rapidly outgrow available space. T2 and T3 are Willows standing in the garden further back from T1. Applicant would like to pollard T2 at approx. 4-5m and fell T3. This will enable more light to specimen Oak leaved Beech adjacent. T4 is a semi-mature Ash standing to the north of the property having signs of Chalara Ash Die Back infection. Applicant would like to fell tree whilst it still retains structural integrity. T5 is a columnar Cupressaceae growing on the edge of the garage to the rear of the property. Applicant would like to fell as outgrowing available space. Decision: Proposal accepted

c) P0048/24/TCA – Wyvern, Church Road, Longhope – Re-pollard Ash tree to previous pruning points. Reduce height of Silver Birch by approximately one third.

Decision: Proposal accepted

d) DF16324, P0042/24/TE – New Mast, Ross Road, Longhope – Prior notification for the installation of a new sharable 25m lattice mast which is collocated with an existing compound approximately 84m to the southeast of the site. The development will include a base station, 2.4m high palisade fencing, 6 no. operator cabinets, 1 no. meter cabinet, 6 no. antennas and ancillary development thereto.

Decision: Proposal accepted as long as given reassurance that trees will remain. (TPO)

Public concerned re felling of the trees but reassured that trees will remain.

e) P0104/24/FUL – Chase Cottage, Velthouse Lane, Longhope – Variation of Condition 4 (hedge boundary height and location) to amend the area of vegetation to be maintained permanently at 1.8m high relating to planning permission P0913/23/FUL

Decision: Site visit made hedge at top examined re privacy. Panelling could be bought up to correct height as a compromise and hedges /shrubs remove and replant.

Privacy is paramount. Whilst work goes on make a compromise as above and so create a privacy barrier. Parish Council uphold the condition.

f) P0017/24/FUL – Barn at Dick Whittington Farm Park, Blakemore Park, Little London, Longhope – Erection of footpath access trackways.

Decision: No site visit will accept decision of District.

g) P0185/24/TCA – Coglan House, Old Monmouth Road, Longhope – Pollard large mature Horse Chestnut tree adjacent to boundary with Old Monmouth Road at approximately 2 metres above where the main stem branches out to reduce likelihood of future failure. Fell 1 x Cypress tree adjacent to Horse Chestnut due to severe decline in condition and plant an Oak tree as a replacement.

Decision: Proposal accepted no objections.

h) P0008/24/DISCON – Discharge of Condition 3 (Construction Management Plan), 8 (Construction Surface Water Drainage Plan), 9 (Waste Management Plan), 11 (Construction Environmental Management Plan), 13 (Hard and Soft Landscaping Scheme), 15 (Lighting Details and Assessment) and 16 (Bat Mitigation Plan) relating to P1266/21/FUL

Decision: Public present at the meeting expressed deep concern regarding the flow of traffic from Church Road to the old Monmouth Road. Although site traffic is supposed to follow this route during the build of the site. This entails passing industrial site, Primary school, and village shop. The busiest and narrowest part of the village. When the houses in Elm Rise were being constructed, the large vehicles had problems causing difficulties. The District Councillor Dave Tradgett has spoken to District regarding these major traffic issues.

The Public were also concerned about the soil and mud from the site and wanted reassurance that the roads would be kept clear.

i) P0168/24/FUL – Copperfields, Yarleton Lane, May Hill, Longhope – Variation of Condition 3 (Passivhaus Certification criteria) relating to planning permission P0278/23/FUL to amend the wording to adjust the timing relating to this condition.

Decision: No comment to be made as a variation but agree timing should be extended.

8. Scheme of Delegation Policy

Council agreed to rescind the Scheme of Delegation Policy, as all this information can be found in the Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and in the Clerk's Contract. **Action: Clerk**
All in agreement to rescind.

9. VAS/ANPR Signs

There are two types of equipment for speed control one shows actual speed and the other records the speed and logs it and where infringements occur, they can be reported to the Police. Both sets of equipment are not serviceable. Display ones could be made serviceable, but no key still held by Mr Nicholas.

Decision: maintain speed signs and when funds allow buy additional speed sign. Dispose of speed cameras.

10. Grass Cutting Quotes

Council was informed that three quotes were requested and only 2 were received.
AM Groundcare quote was accepted but it was to be made clear that they would remove all grass cuttings and the Recreation ground should pay for their cuts.
Glebe to be informed that they were be unsuccessful on this occasion.

11. Councillor Reports

Roger Acland reported on allotments. 10th February a very successful meeting was held with allotment holders- Tenancy Agreements were revised and are now all signed.
Tenant working party last Saturday was very successful.
Proposed change allotment year from financial to calendar year January to December.
Water supply needs to be improved but as Mr Acland stated this could happen when funds are available. Clive Williams has assisted Roger Acland with this. Both were thanked by the Chair.

Geoff Bick reported that the tree at Hopeshill has been removed and the drains at Station lane have been reported to Highways who have put it on their priority list -it's the pipe between that is blocked.

Sian Wyman discussed Memorial benches expressing concern that if they fall in to disrepair who replaces them. To be discussed at the next meeting.

12. Clerk's Report

Report provided in absence of Clerk:

Booked Cllr Acland on to the Being a Better Councillor course taking place in March.
Received the balance of the defib monies from the Latchen Room Committee, which was a total of £135.85. This has now been paid into the Parish Council bank account.

13. Accounts/Finance

a) Council agreed the following payments and receipts:

Payments made since last meeting.

Payee	Details	Method	Amount	Power	Budget
Glebe Contractors	Grass cutting	BACS (29/12/29)	£316.80	HA 1980 s96	Estate Management
April Seabrook	Salary	BACS (29/12/23)	£568.57	LGA 1972 s112(2)	Staff Costs
Water Plus	Water @ allotments	BACS (29/12/23)	£20.50	LGA 1972 s111	Estate Management
99 Web	Monthly website maintenance	SO (01/01/24)	£30.00	LGA 1972 s142	Communications
EE	Mobile phone	DD (15/01/24)	£30.19	LG(FP)A 1963 s5	General Admin
		TOTAL	£966.06		

Payments to be agreed at meeting.

Payee	Details	Method	Amount	Power	Budget
PATA	Payroll services	BACS (16/01/24)	£35.80	LGA 1972 s111	General Admin
HMRC	PAYE & NI	BACS (16/01/24)	£372.80	LGA 1972 s112(2)	Staff Costs
		TOTAL	£408.60		

Receipts

09/01/24 Interest

£2.63

09/01/24 Interest

£31.99

- b) Council approved the petty cash figures for December 2023
- c) Council received the bank reconciliation for December 2023
- c) Council received the budget vs spend report up to 13th January 2024
- d) Cllr Bick carried out the monthly financial checks of the Council's accounts on 15th January 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.50pm

SIGNED:

DATE: